

# Growing With Grace

## Leading Women In Fearless Faith



## Do It Afraid

Saying yes to God's assignments despite our misgivings is one of my favorite topics. "Do it afraid," I say. "God honors obedience. He'll provide what's needed, and He'll equip you for the task."

**Do it afraid.** These three words resonate with me because I've lived them:

- My husband and I served as undercover missionaries in Nepal for nearly three years when proselytizing was illegal.
- In 1996, we gave up a lucrative career and a new waterfront home to return to career ministry with neither guaranteed salary nor benefits.
- In 1999, I boarded a plane in Seattle and flew to Orlando to attend my first writers' conference. I didn't know a soul there, and I had no idea what God had in store.
- In 2007, a USA-based ministry asked me and my husband to launch their Canadian office. Doing so meant relocating and changing our focus from Christian camping in Canada to using ESL as an evangelism tool in Eastern Europe.
- In 2009, Stonecroft Ministries asked me to produce a teaching DVD and Bible study guide to accompany my book, *Moving from Fear to Freedom: A Woman's Guide to Peace in Every Situation*. I had neither funding nor know-how for such a project.

In each case, God's command struck fear into my core. I could have refused, hoping

to stay safe and secure. Instead, I trusted His promises and moved forward knowing His presence went with me. I'd do it again in a flash because obedience deepened my understanding of God's character and my relationship with Him.

Do it afraid. How do these words apply to you in 2012? Maybe God is asking you to take a new approach to ministry. Perhaps He's nudging you to expand your facility, or to upgrade your studies. Maybe He's asking you to initiate a difficult conversation with someone. Whatever the case, He wants you to trust Him for something new...something far beyond your capability or comfort zone, and the thought unnerves you. Let me encourage you, for your sake and for the sake of those within your sphere of influence, to say yes and do it afraid.

John Maxwell says, "We cannot lead anyone else further than we have been ourselves." If we, as ministry leaders, expect others to obey God's call despite their fears, then we must do the same. We must model a willingness to trust even when the task seems illogical or impossible.

Only God knows what 2012 holds for you and the ministry He's given you. If He asks you to do something new or beyond your capability, please say yes and do it afraid. Your example will bolster the courage of those watching you and encourage them to do the same. Imagine, my friend, the ripple effect of a life of fearless faith!

## COMING EVENTS

- **Jan. 27-29** Missions Fest Vancouver
- **Feb. 3-5** Businesswomen's retreat
- **Feb. 24-26** Missions Fest Alberta
- **Feb. 25** Women's conference – St. Paul, AB
- **Mar. 2-4** Nazarene women's retreat – Camp Squeah, B.C.
- **Mar. 23-25** PAOC women's retreat – Thetis Island, B.C.
- **Mar. 27-April 5** Poland – Missionary Staff Conference
- **Apr. 13-14** Christian singles' conference – Whistler, B.C.
- **Apr. 14** Baptist women's tea – Langley, B.C.
- **Apr. 21** Baptist women's conference – Campbell River, B.C.
- **May 4-5** Morningstar women's conference – Toronto, Ont.
- **May 18-19** Pacific Northwest Christian Writers' Renewal Conference – Seattle, WA.

## SMALL GROUP RESOURCE

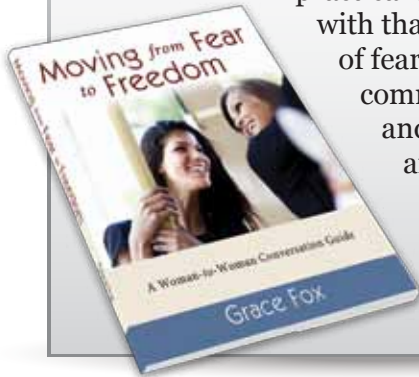
**Small group resource**—*Moving from Fear to Freedom: A Woman-to-Woman Conversation*. The DVD features seven 25-30 minute sessions. The accompanying participants' guide contains Table Talk questions designed to deepen relationships and Treasured Truth questions to delve into God's Word. Leaders' notes included.

Available at Christian bookstores, online, and on my website: [www.gracefox.com](http://www.gracefox.com). Call 604-755-8285 to receive **significant discounts** when ordering 10 or more participants' guides.

**All orders placed before March 1 pay only \$15 for the DVD (a 50% discount).**



## TESTIMONIAL



“Moving From Fear To Freedom is an insightful study that gives participants courage to face their fears, share them with others, and turn to Christ for His healing and peace. Grace's teaching style is warm and personal, and each lesson provides practical steps for dealing with that particular category of fear. She shows how common this struggle is and points to Jesus for answers.” (Meredith Rice—counselor, small group leader—South Carolina)

## NEW RETREAT PACKAGE

“**Made for This: Create an Uncommon Life in a Crazy World**” shows women how to be salt and light in today’s society. This package can be adapted for three or four sessions. Using real-life anecdotes and biblical teaching, it teaches audiences how to...

- extend the uncommon art of forgiveness
- practice the uncommon act of risk-taking
- model the uncommon attitude of positivity no matter what



Book Grace for your next retreat or conference. Plan in advance to ensure your desired date.

## On another note...



God persisted, so I'll *do it afraid* again. February 3-5, I'll host a weekend getaway in beautiful British Columbia for businesswomen. The purpose? To step beyond my comfortable church circles, extend ministry to businesswomen, and provide an informal event for Christian businesswomen to grow friendships with unbelieving coworkers. Please pray! [www.strivingforexcellence.ca](http://www.strivingforexcellence.ca)

Harvest House Publishers has just re-released *10-Minute Time Outs for Busy Women!* Now it's titled *Peaceful Moments to Begin Your Day: Devotions for Busy Women*. The format is new, too—padded hardcover and gift book size. Available online, at bookstores nationwide, and on my website.



## WANTED: Your Input

As a writer and speaker, I want to best serve you and the women in your sphere of influence. Therefore, I'd love to know what topics you want to see addressed in books and small group studies. Please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

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