

GRACE FOX

Author • Speaker

Leading Women in Fearless Faith



Winter 2008
Newsletter

Overcoming the Fear of Inadequacy

A woman recently told me that her pastor asked her to take a church leadership role. Her first response was, "Who, me? I can't do that."

"Why not?" asked the pastor.

"Because...uh...because...I...I just can't!" she stammered. "I don't have proper training for that job. Besides, who would respect me as a leader?"

Sounds a little like Moses and his fear of inadequacy, don't you think? "Who, me? Sorry, God – You've got the wrong guy. I can't speak. I can't lead. Uh-uh. No way."

Perhaps you've experienced similar thoughts. Or maybe you've heard others express the same misgivings: "I can't lead a Bible study – I'm not a teacher." "Me – go on a short-term missions trip overseas? No way." "I can't share my testimony in church – I'm not a public speaker!"

The fear of inadequacy is a common struggle. Why? I believe the problem is a misplaced focus. Rather than gazing on God's power and presence, we see the size of the task, compare it to our qualifications or lack thereof, and panic. It's fueled when we compare ourselves to others. We're left feeling less pretty, less productive, and less promising, so we turn down new opportunities lest others see our perceived shortcomings.

Sometimes pride sneaks in and causes us to avoid situations that might cause embarrassment. Rather than simply admit our inadequacy and trust God to equip us, we say "I can't do such-and-such" and run the other way. As author John Ortberg says, we discount and bury the irreplaceable treasure God has given us.

The "who, me?" syndrome is widespread among women, but it can be overcome. The first step is to admit our inadequacies and ask God to equip us for the task He's given us. Then, we need to focus on His greatness rather than on our weaknesses – doing so banishes fear and instills courage and confidence. Finally, we need to withstand the temptation to compare ourselves with others. Doing so frees us to appreciate and develop our unique giftedness and to encourage others to do the same.

The fear of inadequacy can either prevent us from embracing God's purpose for our lives, or it can become a catalyst for personal growth that results in a more intimate friendship with Him. As Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*, says, "When you obey God, He will accomplish through you what He has purposed to do. When God does something through your life that only He can do, you will come to know Him more intimately. If you do not obey, you will miss out on some of the most exciting experiences of your life."

Upcoming Events

Jan. 25-27 – Missions Fest - Vancouver, B.C.

Jan. 29 – Tampa, Florida – TV interview on "It's Time for Herman and Sharron"

www.ctnonline.com/hs04.html

Jan. 30 – South Bend, Indiana – TV interview on "The Harvest Show"

Feb. 1-2 – Century Meadows Baptist Church women's conference - Camrose, Alberta

Feb. 9 – West Vancouver Baptist Church women's conference - West Vancouver, B.C.

Feb. 15-16 – Westwood Mennonite Church women's conference - Prince George, B.C.

Feb. 23 – Women Alive - London, Ontario – www.womenalive.org

Feb. 28-29 – REFRESH leadership conference - Surrey, B.C.

March 3-5 – SHARE missionary conference - Budapest, Hungary

March 8 – International Messengers women's conference - Krakow, Poland

March 12 – Campus Crusade for Christ missionary conference - Warsaw, Poland

March 15 – International Messengers women's conference - Poland

Testimonials

"*Moving From Fear to Freedom* was a great study for our ladies' group. Women of all ages and from all walks of life attended the weekly meetings consistently. As we read through the book, we learned to give our issues to God and to rely on His faithfulness. We'll likely revisit this book again!"

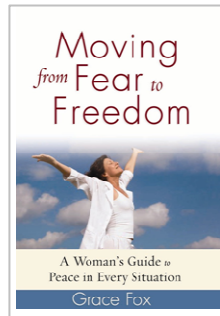
Robin Schatz, Women's Ministries, Hillcrest Church, Medicine Hat, AB

Resources for Women

The fear of inadequacy often hinders women from using their gifts to build God's kingdom. It needn't be this way! Grace's latest book, *Moving From Fear to Freedom*, helps women identify and rise above the fear of inadequacy to embrace new opportunities with confidence. Perfect for group study!

Also, Grace's new retreat package, *Fearless and Free*, provides women with keys to unlock fear's grip. One attendee said, "Grace's material sheds a new light on fear. I've broken through strongholds this weekend." The messages help women:

- * face an uncertain future with courage when finances falter, their marriage fails, health declines, or life seasons change.
- * overcome the fear of inadequacy and feel confident about saying 'yes' to new opportunities at church, at work, or in their community.
- * acknowledge a pain-filled past and utilize it as a tool for expanded ministry.



Invite Grace to share this life-transforming message at your next women's event. To book her, call **604-755-8285** or email grace@gracefox.com. Plan ahead to ensure your preferred date.

What's New?

I graduated to "grandmotherhood" with the birth of Anna Nicole Fox on December 27th! Living in the same city means I'll see her often. What a gift!



As directors of International Messengers Canada, my husband and I

are coordinating ministry teams to teach ESL in Eastern Europe next summer. If you'd like to join us, or if you know of people who are seeking opportunities to serve overseas for two weeks, give us a call at 604-755-8285 or visit:

www.im-canada.ca



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