

## THE TIME BRO. KORY WAS REALLY AFRAID



Hey kids, this is Bro. Kory, and I want to tell you a story. When I was a kid, my family took a vacation to the Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. I remember being so excited because I thought I might get to see a real live bear! Some kids might be afraid to see a real live bear, but not me. I wasn't scared of anything! Well, almost anything, as you will find out in a moment.

One day on our vacation, my whole family hiked a trail called the Chimney Tops. The reason it's called the Chimney Tops is because the trail ends at the top of a huge mountain. So we got our backpacks and began our hike. The whole time I was looking for a bear to kill with my pocket knife.

After an hour or so, we had made it to the last leg of the hike, which was 50 feet straight up a rock ledge. Here is the part of the story where I need to tell you about the one fear I did have. Not a fear of bears, because I knew I could kill a bear with my pocket knife (don't laugh), but my fear of heights. I was terribly, horribly, absolutely scared of heights! There I was, with my dad, mom, and sister, who were all climbing the rock face at the top of this huge mountain, and I was paralyzed with fear!

I just stopped. My arms and legs were completely frozen. Instead of looking up at the rock face, my family was climbing. I was looking down at the tiny trees that were a billion feet below, imagining myself falling to my certain death. I couldn't move.

In the midst of my fear, I heard a voice. It was the voice of my dad (Bro. Ricky as you know him) and he said, "Kory, stop looking down and look up at me. Son, you know I love you and would never let anything happen to you. Take my hand and keep your eyes focused on me, I will help you climb this mountain and you will not fall. I promise."

At that moment, my fear turned into trust. Rather than looking down and fearing the worst, I looked up at my dad, who I knew loved me and who would also protect me. I grabbed his hand and begin to climb. Within moments, I had conquered the rock face and was now standing on top of a huge mountain! Of course I was still a little scared, but my fear didn't compare to the beauty I was now seeing on top of this enormous mountain!

Did you know in Chapter 6 of Exodus, God's people were scared, too? They were scared of the Egyptians, and they were afraid of the future. Do you know what God did? He did exactly what my dad did. God spoke to them. Here are some of the things God said to them, "I AM THE LORD, "I WILL BRING YOU OUT", "I WILL REDEEM YOU", "I WILL TAKE YOU AS MY PEOPLE", "I WILL BE YOUR GOD", "I WILL BRING YOU INTO THE LAND", "I AM THE LORD" (EXODUS 6:6-8).

Like me, the Israelites were looking down and feeling afraid. They needed to look up at God and remember His past faithfulness and future promises. God was their good Father, who had great things planned for them. They just needed to trust in Him rather than fearing their surroundings.

The point is, when you feel afraid because you are looking down at all your problems, all you need to do is look up and remember God! He is your good Father who has great things planned for you. This week, let's trust in God rather than fearing our circumstances.