



day twelve:

# Walk It Like You Talk It

written by Garland Dunlap

*You will tread on the lion  
and the cobra; you will  
trample the great lion and  
the serpent. Psalm 91: 13*

The Lion King is one of those timeless movies that seems to appeal to all ages. It comes as no surprise that children and adults cite it as one of their favorite films Disney has produced. Between the soundtrack, the humor, and the character relationships, there is something for everyone to enjoy. My favorite part of the film is when Nala reunites with Simba, and the young king puts the fear and shame of the past behind and embraces the role he was born into. The former prince sheds the identity of the care-free vagabond, and takes up the mantle of the king.

One of the interesting things about Biblical Hebrew (the original language of the Psalms) and Biblical Hebrew poetry (which all Psalms in the Bible are) is that when a writer wants to emphasize an idea or point, they will repeat the phrase a second or even third time. In modern terms, it's like the writer wrote the sentence in bold, italics, and underlined—and maybe even increased the font a few sizes. It means this verse is really important!

Moses describes a promise that we will overcome two very powerful enemies: the lion and the cobra. The original readers and hearers of this psalm would have understood the lion as a symbol of strength, power and rule or authority. They would have understood the cobra as a symbol of deceit, poison, and evil. Taken together, that means God will protect us from seemingly powerful harm as well as the more subtle threats that seek to pull us away from our God-given destinies.

What this very important promise means for us today is that there is no problem or issue, no matter how small or big, that can stop us from becoming all that God has called us to be. The scars of the past, the problems of the present, the uncertainty of the future: our Heavenly Father has planned and purposed these to work out for our good as we submit to the power of the Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus. In order to overcome, we must walk in the confidence that God is with us. In order to tread and trample, we must try.

As we posture ourselves for God to release what's inside of us, we have to recognize that we will face things that terrify others. Lion-strong diseases, razor-sharp claws of doubt, poisonous thoughts from the past, sharp fangs of insecurity and all kinds of troubles that might seem impossible to overcome. God's promise to us is that in the power of the Holy Spirit and in line with the Father's will, Jesus will be our constant companion in times of trouble.

## Application

Practice setting expectations. Too often we've faced disappointment in life and we've conditioned ourselves to expect less. Instead, cultivate a spirit of expectancy by spending time in prayer speaking to God and thanking Him in advance for what He is about to do. In times of certainty when you have doubts about what God is doing, write it down on something you can easily take up again. In moments of doubt, return to that journal entry, or card, or whatever you've written down to remind yourself of the certainty you don't feel in the moment.

## Additional Reading

"But if you are careful to obey him, following all my instructions, then I will be an enemy to your enemies, and I will oppose those who oppose you."

*Exodus 23:22 (NLT)*

"When people's lives please the Lord, even their enemies are at peace with them."

*Proverbs 16:7 (NLT)*

"Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us."

*Luke 1:71 (NLT)*

"But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world."

*1 John 4:4 (NLT)*

## Prayer

Father, thank you for being our rock, a safe place we can run to, a provider, our healer, a restorer of broken things, our redeemer and savior. Thank you for being faithful from generation to generation. Show us the places where our words don't align with the truth of who You are. Give us peace in the midst of seasons we don't understand, give us wisdom when we don't know what to do. We want to lean not on our own understanding but stand on Your truth. You are the same yesterday, today and forever and you are a God that never changes so if you have moved mountains, parted seas, miraculously provided, brought dead things back to life, healed the sick and broken we believe that you can do it again. You are not a respecter of persons so we are calling on Your great and mighty name, Father would your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, in Jesus' name, amen.