

## Even Superman Ducked

In the original television series, Superman, my favorite super hero, would confidently posture himself – legs spread, fists on his hips, chest pushed forward – while he stared down the barrel of a gun.

As the bullets bounced off his chest, Superman would smile, with no thought of retreat. Then something would happen that defies explanation. Once the rounds were spent, the bad guy, in desperation, would hurl the gun at Superman, and the caped super hero would duck! Superman, the man who was fearless in the face of oncoming bullets, would dodge to avoid being hit by an empty gun.



Before we cackle at how strange that is, consider this ...

Just like Superman, we may cower and duck at things that should not intimidate us. As believers in Christ, we are perfectly loved and accepted by an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-everything God. And as if this weren't enough, we are promised that "all things will work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28). So, what should cause us to fear? What else matters when compared to the assurance of God's love?

In truth, God has given us every reason to live life boldly, with our legs spread, fists on our hips, chest out. Nevertheless, we duck at small things. We fret over a setback in our plans, or become discouraged at a disappointing turn of events, or we hesitate to speak boldly of our faith for fear of the reaction it might incite. Our fears send us reeling, even though we live in this world with the certainty of God's eternal promises. Life makes us flinch in a thousand little ways. Like Superman, we duck when we should fearlessly stare them all down.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, Peter cowered in fear of being associated with Jesus. "I don't know the man," he claimed. Three times he denied his relationship with Christ. Three times he flinched as the empty gun of man's threats was hurled his way.

But years later, Peter would eventually overcome his fear of empty guns. As a more mature, more courageous follower of Christ, he would write, "If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name" (1 Peter 4:16 NIV).

In other words, Peter is telling us to face life boldly – with our legs spread, fists on hips, chest out, fully assured of God's great love!

– Beecher Hunter