

## The Fear of the Lord

1.6.08

I heard this message by Steve Berger

### Introduction:

1. 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting – focus on personal/family; church; community...daily email updates...many reasons to participate...big one should be that you want to live an excellent life before God...break free from apathy & lethargy & live wholehearted
2. George Whitfield – preaching the new birth; the great actor, David Garrick, said, “The reason the theater is so successful is b/c the church speaks of things that are real as though they aren’t & the stage speaks of things that aren’t real as though they are. I want my life to speak of things that are real as though they are!
3. Character in life has a whole lot to do with the fear of the Lord. Character is who you are when no one is watching. Grateful for all the accountability, tools, filters, that are necessary for oversights; all the safeguards are good. But...
4. Fear of the Lord – will affect what you listen to, how you treat people, how you handle the resources God has given you. If you fear the Lord, you turn the station; don’t minimize sin or compromise.
- 5.
6. Def – reverential respect of God. You stand before the King who can either bless or judge you.

### Scripture

1. Intro – Found throughout the Bible – Gen to Rev. It’s still relevant. God requires it from us.
2. Scriptures:
  - a. Deut.10.12 – what does the Lord require?
  - b. Psalm 111.10 – beginning of wisdom.
  - c. Prov.1.7 – the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

- d. **Ecc.12.13f** – man’s all is to fear of the Lord. Read from Amplified Version.
- e. **Mt.10.28;** – fear the one who can put both body & soul in hell

Importance:

- 1. What will happen when we have the fear of the Lord? God will be in his rightful spot...we will have the character that we long; we will be vessels of honor for the lord’s use; blessings will come our way.
- 2. **Isa.8.13f** – we should tremble
  - a. The tension of fearing & loving God...the reasons to obey God are both love & fear.
  - b. Illustration

**Illust** Jerry Bridges, in his book *The Joy of Fearing God*, describes the healthy tension between loving and fearing God:

In the physical realm there are two opposing forces called "centrifugal" and "centripetal." Centrifugal force tends to pull away from a center of rotation, while centripetal force pulls toward the center.

A stone whirled about on the end of a string exerts centrifugal force on the string, while the string exerts centripetal force on the stone. Take away one and the other immediately disappears.

These two opposing forces can help us understand something of the fear of God. The centrifugal force represents the attributes of God such as his holiness and sovereignty that cause us to bow in awe and self-abasement before him. They hold us reverently distant from the one who, by the simple power of his word, created the universe out of nothing. The centripetal force represents the love of God. It surrounds us with grace and mercy and draws us with cords of love into the Father's warm embrace. To exercise a proper fear of God we must understand and respond to both these forces.

*Jerry Bridges, The Joy of Fearing God (Waterbrook Press, 1997); submitted by Van Morris, Mount Washington, Kentucky*

- c.
- 3. **Prov.8.13** – what the fear of the Lord will produce: you hate evil, corruption, perverse speech
- 4. Prov.16.6 – by fearing the Lord you avoid evil & do what’s right.
  - a. Story of cab driver

Haider Sediqi didn't give much thought to the zippered pouch that a passenger forgot in his taxicab when he got out at Los Angeles International Airport. Sediqi stashed the brown bag in the front, where it remained as he took his cab to the car wash, drove a passenger to Long Beach, and met a fellow cabbie for lunch.

As he walked off to the restroom, Sediqi asked his friend to check the bag for identification. Inside, packed in clear plastic cases, were about 100 diamonds, together worth about \$350,000. Also inside was a cell phone bill.

Sediqi, 40, a father of two with a pregnant wife, called the number and talked to the man, identified as Eric Austein. He had not yet departed for New York, and they arranged to meet at the airport police station. Police inventoried the diamonds and confirmed Austein's identity. Austein took the gems, hugged Sediqi, and promised him a reward.

Sediqi said keeping the loot never entered his mind, even though his wife loves diamonds. "God is up there," he said. "He always watches."

*Star-Telegram, www.dfw.com (11-19-05); submitted by Douglas Schoelles, Keller, Texas*

5. Summary: The fear of the Lord is a choice to hold God in such reverential respect that you hate evil and depart from it; worship is hating evil & depart from it; fearing God is not messing with things that lead us to destruction...not to toy with things that steal, kill & destroy; it's no compromise lifestyle; it also involves doing those things you know you are supposed to do.

Leaders who feared God:

1. Nehemiah – great success, but people problems; **5.9** – \*the nations are mocking God b/c of your behavior; they don't want Jesus b/c of your life;
  - a. there's reproach brought on the gospel b/c of sinful, compromised living...do we think, "I'm going to get forgiven." So I'll just act like whatever. A clear sign that we don't fear God.

**b. 5.15** – I didn't do what others did; I won't steal from others; this was for Nehemiah. His life was a reflection of the truth to fear God.

c. The familiar pattern of Neh's day – to abuse people; start thinking how will other's be affected by my decisions; how are my choices & lifestyle going to effect them. The fear of the Lord is a part of our life; it's the grid that we run everything through

- ? – d. Are you doing the things you know you should do?

2. Heb.11.7 – Hall of fear. He feared God; He hated evil & he obeyed God. Irregardless of it having not rained. He moved with fear.

3. Gen.22.12 – Abr to sacrifice Isaac. You fear God. After your willingness to give up, I'll bless you. Abrah's decision was costly. It's risky & costly.

4. Summary – The fear of the Lord: how does it affect those around me; the things I'm doing; am I moving in reverential obedience.

a. \*\*If it isn't there, you'll be on the treadmill of failure, frustration & forgiveness. We won't depart from evil when we don't fear God. We have to get off of it; You'll keep repeating the cycle.

b. Prov.1.23–31 – Do you what this passage to describe your life? are you heeding & starting & stopping the things of God.

c. If you're here today & there's habitual ungodliness, sin & you continuing to do your own thing...you are in a scary place...don't fool around...it's not okay...it weakens your gifting..it will be exposed...not throwing stones...it's truth.

### Benefits of fearing the Lord

1. Ps.112.1 – blessing of fearing the Lord

2. Pr.14.26 – fear leads to security...

a. Oswald Chamber quote:

The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else.

3. Pr.14.27 – turns us away from the snares. You see that what God did is so good & everything else is a step down. Drawing near to him is a whole lot more appealing than other things.

4. Ps.145.19 – He will hear your desires...enough of Christian witchcraft of trying to get our way &...

5. Prov.10.27– prolonged days
6. Prov.19.23 – you will abide in satisfaction
7. 2 Cor.7.1 – Therefore having these promises let's clean our lives up

Invitation:

God says: I've laid out for you joy, hope, purity, cleansing...get rid of all the junk by fearing me.

Is God speaking to you today about something you need to stop doing or something that you need to start that you haven't said yes to.

Go before the throne of grace in confidence – Heb.4.