

## The Fear of God.

We teach grace. And it is easy to get lost in what grace means. But grace is foundational and is the basis in which we have a relationship with God.

- Some say you have to explain the wrath of God to balance the love of God. This is not true.
- Unbelievers will face wrath, but believers will not.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ
  - For a believer to focus on the wrath of God is unbiblical
- So if we are not meant for wrath, is there more to God than love and grace?

**Galatians 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

**Galatians 5:7-9** You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

- These verses indicate that while we are free from sin, we are not free to sin. So if Grace is the power to **set us free** from sin – what is the power to **keep us from** sin?
- Or in other words, If wrath and grace are not equally worthy of our attention, what is?

**Deuteronomy 10:12** “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear the LORD your God**, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

**You cannot love God without the fear of God.**

**Lack of fear**

Millions of people in America departed the faith last year. Why?

- It is not a lack of preaching that God loves everybody.

**I believe it is a lack of Holy fear before God from within the church.**

- Adam & Eve did not fear God.
- Too many pastors lack holy fear. This is where pastors falling comes from. And bad teaching.
- How does a person sit in church for 20 years and find themselves having an affair?
- How does a pastor preach the Word for a lifetime and then embezzle money?
- How does a church move from preaching truth to celebrating sin?

**There is a genuine lack of Holy Fear.**

**What is the fear of the Lord?**

It is not to be scared of God.

**God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt to be brought near to Him.**

**Exodus 19:10-13** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. <sup>11</sup> And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. <sup>12</sup> You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Take heed to yourselves *that* you do *not* go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. <sup>13</sup> Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot *with an arrow*; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

- God tells them to wash their clothes – Get rid of the filth of Egypt
- Consecrate themselves – Have the right mindset
- Obey – show a healthy respect

Basically, God was saying before I come and reveal Myself as a loving God, I will reveal Myself as a Holy God.

**Exodus 20:18-19** Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. <sup>19</sup> Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

- The people encounter God and they are terrified

**Exodus 20:20** And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

- Do not fear – Do not be afraid of God
- That His fear may be before you – His Awe and Reverence

### **There is a difference between fearing God and the fear of God.**

- Afraid of God = something to hide. Sin-based.
  - Grace frees us from this.
- Fear of God = nothing to hide.
  - No shame. No guilt. But deep respect for what made us this way.
  - **Hebrews 10:19** Therefore, brethren, **having boldness** to enter the Holiest **by the blood of Jesus**,
  - Grace and the Fear of the Lord work in tandem.

### **Fear of God begins with being afraid of being away from God.**

- The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. They were beaten. They built another nations inheritance. When they left, they complained that they wanted to return.
- Moses lived in a palace. He was wealthy beyond belief in the richest man in the worlds house with everything he could ever want. Moses never said he wanted to return. Why? Moses encountered God. And he wanted Israel to have the same.

Jim Baker – loved Jesus, did not fear God. (John Bevere)

**Fear of God is to be in awe of Him.** To honor, tremble, revere, esteem, respect, value Him more than anything or anyone else.

**Philippians 2:12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

- The fear of God involves obedience
- **Matthew 15:8** *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*
- **2 Thessalonians 3:13-15** But *as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.* <sup>14</sup> And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. <sup>15</sup> Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.
- **God is our Father. Part of showing respect and honor to a Father when we are children is obedience.**

**Fear of God is to love what He loves and hate what He hates.**

- **Hebrews 1:9** *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."*
- He hates sin. He loves people, that's why He died for them.
- **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
- Learn to love righteousness
- Don't have this attitude: Let me entertain myself with what drove the nails through your hands
- Learn to hate sin the way God hates sin and you will see an anointing on your life.

**Fear of God is to tremble at His presence.**

- **Psalm 89:7** God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all *those* around Him.
- You will never find God in an atmosphere where God is not held with the utmost of respect. (omnipresence vs. manifest presence)
- How do we worship? Is there respect?
- If you have lunch with someone and they are constantly on their phone, looking around, rolling their eyes – do you continue to talk with them?
- If you knock on a door and they answer with Oh, it's you again – do you go in?

### **God will not manifest where He is not wanted. Do we respect the presence of God?**

- **Leviticus 10:3** And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace.
- When we gather to worship, there should be a reverence. An acknowledgement that God is holy, and to be treated as such.

### **We carry His Spirit, but His Spirit is manifest in those who obey Him.**

- **John 14:21** He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."
- If we want to carry the Presence of God – it requires obedience.
- His presence is never to be taken flippantly.

### **The Fear of God is to tremble at His Word.**

- **Isaiah 66:2** For all those *things* My hand has made, And all those *things* exist," Says the LORD. "But on this *one* will I look: On *him* who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.
- Tremble at His Word:
  - Obey Immediately
  - Obey if it makes no sense
  - Even if it hurts
  - Even if you see no benefit
  - Obey all the way to completion

- If we look for the least we can do or the easiest we can do – we have no fear

### **Friendship with God is a reward for those that fear Him**

- **Psalm 25:14** The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.
- God shares His secrets with those who fear Him.
- We share secrets to those closest to us.
- The word secret is sōwd. It means an intimate company of persons.
- **Psalm 25:14 (NLT)** The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.
- **John 15:14-15** You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

### **Story of Abraham negotiating about Sodom and Gomorrah**

- Abraham knows what God is going to do and helps God talk it through.
- Lot is clueless and has to have 2 angels get him out of there.
- Both are called righteous. Only Abraham is called friend. Why? He feared God. (**James 2:23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" And he was called the friend of God.)
- **Genesis 22:12** And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me."
- Abraham obeyed to sacrificing Isaac. He feared God.

How can a man sit in a church for 20 years hearing sermon after sermon and end up in the bed with another man's wife? No fear of God.

How can a preacher preach from the pulpit and embezzle money? No fear of God.

Fear of God protects us from sin.

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Not love and kindness.

**Isaiah 11:2** The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

To ignore the fear of the Lord is to ignore an entire facet of God.

I believe we are seeing a purification of the church right now. And it will begin with the fear of the Lord.