

Great Fear - Part 2

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The Journey, Becoming a Disciple / The Fear of the Lord; Reverence; God-fearer / Acts 5:1–11

As the Holy Spirit was given and the early church was being formed and multiplied, God made sure the church knew the importance of fearing Him. A healthy church fears God and experiences great benefits of doing so.

› INTRO

LOST FEAR

Living in a US culture filled with sarcasm, individualism, entrepreneurship, and democracy, reverence does not come naturally.

To compound things, our news agencies gladly highlight every time a pastor or servant in the church falls, but they ignore the faithful service so many of them and churches do within communities every day.

Think about it—how many of you have ever read in the local news about the FBC Youth Conference that brings in 1,500 teenagers from around the country to encourage them to live with love for God and others?

Bus ministry

Rescue Mission

City Baptist School

Youth Programs

Satan has sown distrust, disillusionment, and discord within our society.

Nothing new...he has been hammering at that same tactic since Genesis 3.

We have fallen for the deception and lost our trust and fear of God and God's ordained institutions.

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES OF ABANDONING THE FEAR OF GOD

1. God killed Nadab and Abihu for trying to present "false fire" to the Lord (Lev. 10).
2. He also had Achan killed for disobeying orders after Israel had entered the Promised Land (Josh. 7).
3. Our text—Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-12

It is very unwise and damaging for our society as a whole to abandon fear of God.

"The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else." ~ Oswald Chambers

"I don't fear God- I fear His believers." ~ Stephen Hawking

"I believe in God. I don't fear man, I fear God." ~ Denzel Washington

The demonstrative examples of God striking fear into the hearts of His people should serve as examples and lessons to us of the importance of fearing Him.

1 Corinthians 10:11–12 KJV

¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

The character of God still demands sacred fear and glory.

Isaiah 42:8 KJV

⁸ I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: And my glory will I not give to another, Neither my praise to graven images.

Sure, an individual might experience success in this life without fearing God, but a society will not.

"When men no longer fear God, they transgress His laws without hesitation. The fear of consequences is no deterrent when the fear of God is gone." ~ Aiden Wilson Tozer

"You are as much serving God in looking after your own children, & training them up in God's fear, & minding the house, & making your household a church for God, as you would be if you had been called to lead an army to battle for the Lord of hosts." ~ Charles Spurgeon

"It is alleged by men of loose principles, or defective views of the subject, that religion and morality are not necessary or important qualifications for political stations. But the Scriptures teach a different doctrine. They direct that rulers should be men who rule in the fear of God, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness. But if we had no divine instruction on the subject, our own interest would demand of us a strict observance of the principle of these injunctions. . . ." ~ Noah Webster

"We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand, which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us." ~ Abraham Lincoln

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible." ~ George Washington

"We recognize no sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus!" ~ John Adams

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the whole of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the commandments of God. The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded." ~ James Madison

Deceivers in higher learning and entertainment institutions work hard to undermine the heritage we have of biblical principles. Don't fall for their scorning!

Proverbs 9:10–12 KJV

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: And the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

¹¹ For by me thy days shall be multiplied, And the years of thy life shall be increased.

¹² If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: But *if* thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear *it*.

PROPOSITION: FEARING GOD MUST BEGIN WITH US

1 Peter 4:17 KJV

¹⁷ For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Hebrews 12:28–29 KJV

²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire.

THREE RESULTS OF FEARING GOD

This is but three of many.

We cannot in one setting exhaust the benefits of fearing God as a church, but let's look at three of them.

#1 Valuing God's Word

Deuteronomy 4:2 KJV

²Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Proverbs 30:5-6 KJV

⁵ Every word of God *is* pure: He *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

⁶ Add thou not unto his words, Lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Invest in a Bible you love.

Read, study, and meditate on it.

Live it.

Respect it.

#2 Supporting God's Servants

Remember Ananias and Sapphires:

Acts 5:4-5 KJV

⁴ Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

⁵ And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

When we don't fear God, we disrespect both man and God in the process.

No doubt the people feared God and His servant, Peter, after this happened.

| Consider how Aaron and Hur supported Moses:

Exodus 17:8–16 KJV

⁸ Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

⁹ And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

¹¹ And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

¹² But Moses' hands *were* heavy; and they took a stone, and put *it* under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

¹³ And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

¹⁴ And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this *for* a memorial in a book, and rehearse *it* in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

¹⁶ For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn *that* the LORD *will have* war with Amalek from generation to generation.

We must consider: pastor are humans too.

Similar time limitations.

Similar life challenges.

Similar spiritual attacks, and more.

Your follow-ship as a church is absolutely crucial to the health of our church.

Moses is considered one of the greatest leaders of all time, yet he was not able to lead the people of Israel into the Promise Land because the “church in the wilderness” would not follow.

Acts 7:35-41 KJV

³⁵ This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send *to be* a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

³⁶ He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

³⁷ This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

³⁸ This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

³⁹ To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust *him* from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

⁴⁰ Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for *as for* this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

⁴¹ And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

Your visibility and participation is vital!

Consider some verses about the church's relationship with those who labor in love on their behalf:

1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 KJV

¹² And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

¹³ And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

1 Timothy 5:17–18 KJV

¹⁷ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

¹⁸ For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer *is* worthy of his reward.

Hebrews 13:17 KJV

¹⁷ Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

Let me just conclude this point by saying . . . I greatly appreciate when I know we are all pulling on the rope together.

Seven Ways to Pull on the Rope Together:

1. Attendance
2. Discipleship
3. Giving
4. Evangelism

5. Prayer
6. Communication
7. Service

#3 Living with Holiness

“Christian” people who live ongoing immoral, immodest, and unholy lives are either ignorant or defiant of God and His ways.

There is really no middle ground there.

Exodus 20:20 KJV

²⁰ And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

Proverbs 16:6 KJV

⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: And by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.

1 Peter 1:14–17 KJV

¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

¹⁷ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

| **10,000 Sermon Illustrations: True Faith = True Godliness**

| You will never find true faith unattended by true godliness; nor will you ever discover a truly holy life which does not have at its root a living faith based upon the righteousness of Christ.

Woe to those who seek one without the other! There are some who cultivate faith and forget holiness. These may be very high in orthodoxy, but they shall be very deep in condemnation, for they hold the truth in unrighteousness. There are others who have strained after holiness of life, but have denied the faith, like the Pharisees whom the Master said were 'whitewashed sepulchers.'

We must have faith, for this is the foundation; we must have holiness of life, for this is the superstructure. We need the superstructure of spiritual life if we would have comfort in the day of doubt. But do not seek a holy life without faith, for that would be to erect a house which can afford no permanent shelter, because it is not founded on a rock.

Charles Spurgeon

GREAT GRACE. GREAT POWER. GREAT FEAR.

A healthy church has: great grace, great power, **great fear**.

As the Holy Spirit was given and the early church was being formed and multiplied, God made sure the church knew the importance of fearing Him.

God wants a healthy church.

Let's be a healthy church.

Let's fear God and:

1. Value God's Word
2. Support God's Servants
3. Live Holy Lives

God loves you.

If you don't know God's love and forgiveness, believe on Christ today.