

FEAR of the LORD Pt 1: NATURAL FEAR, AFRAID, SCARED

There are two kinds of fear that we should have for the Lord. One is what I call natural fear, actually being afraid of God. We shouldn't stay in that state but we need to have that kind of fear of Him, knowing Who He is and what He is capable of and what He expects of us. You probably won't hear satan's ministers of light ever say that. But if you don't have the proper knowledge of God you will not fear Him, that is, be afraid of Him at all, and that will lead to dishonoring Him and disrespecting Him. That is what we see promoted by the world today. Where they show their main character in a movie yelling at God, or giving Him an ultimatum, or taking His name in vain, or saying "Oh my God" continually. These are all examples of disrespect and no natural fear of God. They never show the character in the movie coming back and humbling themselves before God and crying out for forgiveness for acting like that toward Him and thanking Him for His mercy to them even in their rudeness toward Him. I believe the best passages to learn of God and have a natural fear of Him are found in the Old Testament.

The other kind of fear is mostly what the passages of Scripture throughout the Bible are referring to when they mention the "fear of the Lord." It is to reverence, honor and worship Him. To give Him the glory due His name. To magnify Him.

From cover to cover the Bible is filled with passages of Scripture that tell us we need have fear of the Lord. The context of the Scripture will indicate what kind of fear is being spoken of. You could easily do a word study on this subject, get a concordance and look up every occurrence of the word fear and read the context and in the process of doing that you, if you are seeking God, you will draw nearer to Him and have a better understanding of how to serve Him in obedience. I mostly want to focus on natural fear of God today, as in actually being afraid of Him but reverential fear will be mentioned as well. It is very hard to separate the two.

NATURAL FEAR of GOD

Most of the time as we walk with God and serve Him we are not fearful of Him because of the New Covenant under Christ. I will say those that have a right understanding of Who God is and a right relationship with Him, they are not living scared of Him. Like scared for their very life, kind of scared. When we are born again, we are His, and have His Spirit inside of us, and He loves us. Through Christ, we have been brought back into a right relationship with God. **(2 Cor.5:18)** Without Christ, we cannot even approach God.

So many times in the Old Testament God poured His judgement out against sin right on the spot. That is, He took the person's life right on the spot, in an instant. I thank God for the grace we have today under the New Covenant. We don't see God moving like that as much today. But we should always remember we serve the same God, He does not change. **(James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6)**. He is holy and God hates sin. We should hate sin the same way He does. So often we forget just how Holy God is and how we should be mindful of what we do and say as His children.

I think natural fear helps to keep you in check or in line, in your relationship with God. Let's look at a few passages of Scripture about actually being afraid of God. Let these scriptures minister to you now.

This next passage of Scripture is about a time when King David had numbered his military and that was a sin against God. He was always to just trust in God and not in his military might. So God offered him 3 choices or consequences as punishment for his sin. King David chose to fall into the hands of God rather than His enemies. So God began to pour out a plague against the land and sent His angel to carry out this judgement.

1 Chron. 21:15 – And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and He repented Him of the evil (changed His mind), and said to the angel that destroyed, it is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite (Araunah the Jebusite).

God stopped the angel from totally destroying the city and all the people there. When this was happening, King David was crying out to God to spare the people.

1 Chron.21:16-17 - And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders *of Israel, who were* clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. And David said unto God, *Is it not I that* commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but *as for* these sheep, what have they done? let Thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on Thy people, that they should be plagued.

Notice what they did when they realized the severity of God's judgement, they fell upon their faces. This is an humbling and a bowing down in worship and appealing to God for mercy. They were humbled in that they were wearing sackcloth which was an affliction to their person, scratchy, itchy and ugly material and this in itself was an humbling before God as well. They were fearing Him in honor and worship by these actions along with their natural fear of Him. The natural fear immediately drove them to reverential fear.

1 Chron.21:28-30 - At that time when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there. For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt offering, *were* at that season in the high place at Gibeon. But David could not go before it to inquire of God: for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

God told King David to set up an altar there on that threshing floor and so that is exactly what he did. He inquired there of the Lord and God answered Him by fire upon the altar. When God did that, then King David offered sacrifices there which was worship to the Lord. He knew this threshing floor was not the designated place to inquire of God, but he was afraid to go to Gibeon where the altar of the Lord was because of the angel with the drawn sword. He was being very careful to do things the way the Lord required because He had just seen what God had done in judging his sin.

We are always to remember Who God is and who we are in relation to Him. He is God and we are not. He does not owe us anything, our faith, our salvation, the Holy Spirit, it is all a gift to us by His grace and mercy to us. God could have certainly taken us out of this life already. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. **(Romans 3:23)** I am thankful for God's grace and mercy to us. You will not fully understand grace or appreciate it if you have not read the Old Testament and seen how God judged so much sin on the spot by taking the life of the person that sinned against Him.

In this next passage of Scripture, King David was going to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant and bring it to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 6:1-11 - Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah (also known as Kiriath-Jearim) , to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of Hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims. And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark (he walked in the front of it). And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD (were celebrating with all their might) on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it (to catch or to steady it); for the oxen shook *it* (the oxen stumbled). And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God. And David was displeased (angry), because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah (He struck Uzzah): and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day (which means to burst out upon Uzzah). And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me? So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obedom the Gittite.

And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household.



I always felt sorry for Uzzah, that all he did was try to steady the ark. Some research says that he actually caught the ark in the process of the oxen stumbling. What we know for sure is that he touched the ark in the middle of all of this. Abinadab and his sons were Levites and they knew the Ark of the Covenant was never to be moved in this manner. They should have spoken up and not participated in moving the Ark on a cart. God specifically gave instructions that when they moved the Ark of the Covenant it was to be packed a certain way and carried by the Levites only and more specifically by the Kohathites within the Levite tribe (**Numbers 4:1-15**). It was never to be placed on an ox cart. (**Numbers 7:1-9**) It was to be carried on the shoulders of the Kohathites who were Levites. (**1 Chr.15:15**) It was to be covered and packed a certain way and was not to be moved without being properly covered. No one was allowed to touch it or pack it except for the High Priest and his family, the priests who served directly under him.

God struck Uzzah down because of his irreverence. Even if he was a Kohathite Levite, the Ark was not being moved in the proper manner. In the time of transition from King Saul to King David, God's Tabernacle and ministry on the earth was in disarray. The Bible says that King Saul had not inquired at the Ark of

the Covenant, **(1 Chr.13:3)**. King Saul had also ordered to kill all of God's priests at Nob. There were 85 priests that were slain and all their families and animals. **(1 Samuel 22)**. The priests were almost wiped out but Abiathar escaped and made it to King David. When King David began to reign, Abiathar and Zadock were the High Priests, it seems that two High Priests were then accepted. So until that appointment it seems that God allowed them to let the Ark rest within the house of Abinadab and after the Uzzah incident, then at Obed-Edom's house before finally moving it to Jerusalem.

God killing Uzzah seems harsh. But God is holy and He had given them specific instructions. He could not allow disobedience in the holy things that pertain directly to Himself. If He had allowed Uzzah to touch the Ark with no repercussion, then next thing you know any old body could touch it and it would have become a common thing. God would not allow that. He is not common, He is to be obeyed, revered and feared. Even well intentioned sin, is still sin and will be judged by God. Today many only want to believe and hear that God is love. This is what satan's ministers of light preach. They do not mention the wrath of God and the judgement of God. He is a just Judge as well as love. You cannot have the one without the other. His judgement begins at the House of God. **(1 Peter 4:17)**

King David was scared of God that day. Can you imagine witnessing that? Here is King David, who the Bible tells us was a man after God's own heart **(1 Samuel 13:14 & Acts 13:22)** and after this display of God's divine anger and judgement being poured out on the spot, King David was afraid of God.

fear (400x) H3372 (314x)

[Hebrew Strong's]

3372. יָרֵא yare', yaw-ray'; a primitive root; to fear; morally, to revere; caus. to frighten:—affright, be (make) afraid, dread(-ful), (put in) fear(-ful, -fully, -ing), (be had in) reverence(-end), x see, terrible (act, -ness, thing).

Fear – yaw-ray (interesting how close it is to yahwey – a name for satan) a primitive root; to fear; morally, to revere; cause to frighten: - affright, be (make)

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The passages we looked at today mostly focused on natural fear, being afraid of God.



This is probably Elijah here when he had the showdown with the prophets of baal / satan. **(1 Kings 18:17-46)** For God's children, every time God did a miraculous and powerful act, like sending fire down from heaven to show that He received the sacrifice, it brought them to reverential fear. Usually you read that they bowed down, laid prostrate, humbled themselves before Him. Many times the Bible says they fell on their face meaning they put their face toward the ground in worship. When you are truly saved and have natural fear of God, it should naturally lead to a reverential holy fear of God.

CLOSING



If you feel like God is a mean God and He is angry all the time and just waiting to get you, then something is not right with your walk with Him. Either you are not saved, or you need to grow or you just need to understand that He loves you and has good plans for you and wants you to succeed. **(Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 2:10, John 3:16)** He created you and He wants you to obey Him but He is not waiting to beat you down at every turn or every time you make a mistake. If that is you, if you feel that way, pray and ask Him to help you to have a right heart and mindset about who He is, for the Holy Spirit to minister to you as you read His Word and grow in the Lord. Usually, that is satan trying to plant wrong thoughts in your mind to hinder your life in Christ. **(2 Cor.10:5)**

Remember when King David sinned by sleeping with Bath Sheba, God told him about the consequences his sin would have but God forgave him and He was with him still and helped him through the rest of his life. **(2 Samuel 12:10-15)** God would not be “just” if He did not judge sin. We hurt ourselves and others when we sin. Just as parents can relate to this, what kind of parents would we be if we never disciplined our children? Horrible ones, and we’d have spoiled rotten children. This is how the luciferians raise their children, bringing God’s wrath against them. We love our children but at the same time we do correct them and discipline them. That is how God is with us and the Bible says if you are not chastened by God, then you are not His. **(Heb.12:6-11)**

Next week we will talk more of natural fear and move into talking more on reverential, holy fear of the Lord.

PRAYER