

## FEAR of the LORD Pt.3: LYING to the HOLY SPIRIT, TOUCHING GOD'S ANOINTED, REVERENTIAL FEAR

God poured out His judgement against sin many times right on the spot in the Old Testament. You can read in Leviticus 10:1-7 about Nadab and Abihu who were Aaron's sons, priests in the Tabernacle and how they offered strange fire before God and He struck them down dead on the spot. In Numbers chapter 16 how God opened the earth and caused Korah and those that stood with him in his sin against the priesthood, God caused them, their families, and all of their possessions to go down into the earth alive and then He closed the earth back over them. Miriam and Aaron opposed Moses and God struck Miriam with leprosy. **(Numbers 12)** The Israelites, after being freed from Egypt, were out in the wilderness complaining against God. They wanted meat to eat and were tired of the manna that God was providing for them. So God sent them quails and while they were eating them He killed them on the spot by a plague for their sin against Him. They called that place "graves of lust" because the people were lusting for meat and have even said several times they wished they were back in Egypt. **(Numbers 11)** Numbers chapters 13 & 14 tells about when Moses sent the men to spy out the land of Canaan and they came back with a bad report all except for Joshua and Caleb. God took those guys out by a plague except for Caleb and Joshua. And He would not allow the people who listened and believed what they said to enter into the promised land either. Just like God judged those guys who gave a bad report, He judges false prophets and He judges those who have listened to them and believed what they said. **(Jeremiah 20:1-6)** We have a responsibility to test the spirits **(1 John 4:1)** and see if the minister is really speaking by the Holy Spirit or not. Many times Samuel and Moses and various ones interceded and God stopped His wrath against the people which was His judgement against their sin. But there were plenty of times where God poured out His judgement and that was that.

We don't tend to think God moves like that anymore. But let's look at a time God poured out His judgement on sin in the New Testament under the New Covenant:

**Acts 4:29-37 & 5:1-14** - And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy Word, By stretching forth Thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of Thy Holy Child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul (mind): neither said any *of them* that ought (any) of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common (they shared everything they had). And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all (God's grace was powerfully at work in them all). Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. And Joses (That is Joseph), who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession (some property), And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it* (having full knowledge of what was done), and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? 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. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye

have agreed together to tempt (test) the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they (all the believers) were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them (they were highly regarded among the people). And (Nevertheless) believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Look what God can do when we choose to presume upon His grace and lie to Him.

**fear** (400x) G5401 (47x)

[Greek Strong's]

5401. φόβος **phobos**, *fo' -os*; from a primary φόβομαι **phobomai** (to be put in fear); alarm or fright: — be afraid, + exceedingly, fear, terror.

The type of fear that came upon all the church was phobos, to be put in fear; alarm or fright: be afraid, + exceedingly, fear, terror.

It is a serious thing to come against God's ministers. When you come against a true minister of the Lord that serves on His altar and is diligently doing the work He has called and ordained them to, you are coming against God Himself. Not only were they lying to Peter in what they did, but more importantly they were lying to the Holy Spirit. Another example like this one is when the people complained against Moses and Aaron, God's ministers, the Bible says they were complaining against God Himself. **(Exodus 16:8)** It is a very serious thing to come against God's anointed ministers. I would not dare speak against another minister that I knew was doing the Lord's work. Now if I suspect a false teacher, but am not sure, I will not say anything. I will keep it to myself and talk to the Lord about it. I am very careful not to do that and I will caution you against doing

that because God will defend the truth and He will defend His true ministers. He does not want fighting in His church. **(Proverbs 6:18-19)**

After Jesus fulfilled the law, the church was transitioning to the New Covenant. They were all of one heart and mind, meaning they were in agreement and had all things in common. There was no need for Ananias and Sapphira to have lied. They could have given any portion of the money to the church or none at all. But it seems to have been about looking like big givers or being seen as being very generous in the eyes of the church, when really, that was not their true heart. They wanted the praise of men more than the praise of God. **(John 12:43)**

Ananias and Sapphira were hypocrites, pretending to be of the same mind and heart as everyone else. The Holy Spirit revealed to Peter that they had lied. God judged this sin quickly. This was a lesson to the whole church. God is not going to tolerate sin. He hates sin and as His children, we should too.

He affirmed His apostles and they moved in great power and authority from God. Right from the start of the New Covenant, God wanted to make sure things got off on the right foot. God confirming His apostles brought fear and respect, of God first and of His ministers and church. God is concerned about the holiness and pureness of His church still today. Don't play games with God.

## **REVERENCE and HONOR**

**Hebrews 12:28** - Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace (let us be thankful), whereby we may serve God acceptably (and please God by worshipping Him) with reverence and godly fear:

**reverence** (13x) G0127 (2x)

[Greek Strong's]

127. **αἰδώς** **aidos**, *ahée-doce´*; perhaps from 1 (as a negative particle) and 1492 (through the idea of downcast eyes); bashfulness, i.e. (towards men), modesty or (towards God) awe: — reverence, shamefacedness.

[Webster]

**Rev'er·ence**, *n.* [F. *révérence*, L. *reverentia*. See Reverent.] **1.** Profound respect and esteem mingled with fear and affection, as for a holy being or place; the disposition to revere; veneration.

Reverence – aidos – (through the idea of downcast eyes); bashfulness, that is (towards men), modesty or (towards God) awe: - reverence, shamefacedness.

Webster: Reverence – Profound respect and esteem mingled with fear and affection, as for a holy being or place; the disposition to revere; veneration.

**Malachi 3:16-18** – Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a Book of Remembrance (a Scroll of Remembrance) was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name (and that honored His name). And they shall be Mine (And they shall be My own special treasure), saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels (on the day when I act in judgement); and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serves him (as a father spares an obedient child). Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serves God and him that serves Him not.



God keeps records of everything. He has many books. And if they were written and recorded that feared Him then and thought upon His name, then surely we are written and recorded today as well. We want to be God's jewels.

Let's run through some Proverbs that are all speaking of reverential fear of the Lord:

**Proverbs 1:7** - The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge (the foundation of true knowledge): *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 9:10** – The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom (the foundation of wisdom): and the knowledge of the holy (Holy One) *is* understanding.

If you want knowledge and understanding, it comes from seeking God the right way.

**Proverbs 8:13** - The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil (All who fear the Lord will hate evil): pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way (evil behavior), and the froward mouth (perverse speech / opposed to what is right), do I hate.

Some people want to ride the fence but God says that those who are friends with the world are His enemy. (James 4:4) Do you are your friends continually slam other people or smart off continually? When you are baptized into the Holy Spirit these things begin to fall off of your life. You no longer think the same things are cool that you used to do and like.

**Proverbs 14:27** – The fear of the LORD *is* a fountain of life, To turn *one* away from the snares of death.

When you turn and follow and seek after God, He begins to pull your life together and use you to bring Him glory. He changes your plans and goals in life to come into line with what He created you for. In Christ is life, but to continue on in a sinful life only leads to death and damnation for all of eternity.

A Psalm of King David:

**Psalm 22:23** – Ye that fear the Lord, praise Him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him (show Him reverence), all ye the seed of Israel.

Just as they were commanded to fear the Lord, as His redeemed children, we are given the same command. To love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind. Jesus said this is the first and great commandment. **(Matt.22:36-40)**

**Proverbs 15:16** – Better *is* little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

We are not to be a greedy people, trying to get the most money and things and stepping on whomever we have to, to attain it. Godliness with contentment is great gain. **(1 Tim.6:6)** Christ Jesus is our true riches, those who are in Him are the truly rich ones in this world. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and all the gold and silver are His. When you get busy obeying Him and seeking Him in your decisions in life, seeking His Kingdom first, then God will meet all your needs. **(Matt.6:33)**

**Psalms 89:7** - God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all *them that are* about Him.

New Living Translation

**Psalms 89:7** - The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround His throne.

This assembly is speaking of the angels in heaven. Satan did not honor God and that is why he and those that followed him were kicked out of heaven. The holy angels fear God, how much more should we.

## **CLOSING**

**Deuteronomy 10:12, 17** - And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all His ways (live in obedience to Him), and to love Him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, For the LORD your God *is* God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God (the great God), a mighty, and a terrible (awesome), which (Who) regardeth not persons (shows no favoritism), nor taketh reward (and does not accept bribes):

God is great.

**Joshua 4:23-24** - For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

So many wondrous works and miracles are recorded for us to know what God has done and what kind of God we serve. We know Him better through His Word. He longs for a personal relationship with His children. As you walk with Him, you can look back over your own life and see how many miraculous things He has done in your life.

He has spared my life in miraculous ways so many times. And the greatest miracle of all is salvation.

## **PRAYER**