

# FEAR of the LORD Pt. 4: REVERENTIAL, FAST and PRAY, STUDY GOD'S WORD

**\*\*Please forgive me I did not check these Scriptures for Mandela Effects. I will point out if I see anything glaringly obvious.\*\***

King Solomon had been given great wisdom in order to shepherd God's people. In the book of Ecclesiastes he seems to ponder life, the good and the bad, the ups and downs and the purpose of it all. Let's see what he came away with in the end of his ponderings:

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

**Revelation 15:1-4** - And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for *Thou* only *art* holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest.

God is holy. If Daniel could not stand in the presence of one of God's holy angels, what do you think it will be like in the very presence of God Himself? **(Daniel 8:17-18)**

Once God's wrath is complete, those who did not love and serve Him will bow down to Him. That includes the fallen angels as well as wicked and sinful people. As His children, let's be sure to honor and reverence Him now. Bow and humble yourself before Christ Jesus now while there is still time.

**Hebrews 12:9 & 28** - Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? V. 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: V. 29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.

The fear spoken of here is reverence, piety and caution. If we have given reverence and honor to natural men, our parents, how much more should we honor and reverence God Who is above all. He will put us through the fires of testing now while we are in this life so that we will come through as pure gold.

**(Job 23:10)**

**Deuteronomy 13:4** - Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him.

**1 John 4:18** - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

If you are in a constant state of being scared of God then you don't have a right mindset of Who God is or you don't have a right relationship with Him.

Sometimes when we mess up we have that natural fear of God, that should convict us of our sin and cause us to repent and to honor God and make things right with Him. When you are truly His child you do not stay in a state of natural fear of Him. If you are stuck being afraid of God, then you are being tormented by that fear. Check your salvation, and read God's Word and learn and grow and pray for His help to bring you out of that place of constant fear. He will.

## **SOME DO'S**

I can't cover everything here but I can highlight some of the main ones that we should be doing to fear the Lord with Godly reverence and honor.

## **FAST and PRAY**

The Bible tells we are to fast and pray. (**Matt.9:15, Matt.7:14-21, 1 Thess.5:17, Eph.6:18, Matt.26:41**) I did a teaching on fasting, if you are new to fasting, it will benefit you greatly. Many spiritual battles are won through humbling yourself in fasting and prayer. You can keep prayer separate but when you fast, fasting goes with prayer. If you are unable to fast for health reasons, then choose out a day or a few days or a specific time and increase your time in prayer, praise and worship, reading God's Word – increase your time with Jesus.

When you pray, don't just say God I need this or that. Don't just enter into prayer and read a long laundry list off to God and then close the prayer. We talk to God in prayer, but He talks to us too. In your personal prayer time, practice listening for God and give Him time to speak to you also. Remember when God speaks to you it will line up with His Word, He will never be contrary to His Word. If you think you hear Him say something that seems off, if it doesn't match up with the Bible, then throw it out, it wasn't Him.

In Biblical times when kings were approached you approached them with reverence and fear. Remember Esther going before her own husband who was the king and she knew that going before him without being invited could cost her, her life. When the Queen of Sheba came to see King Solomon she came bearing gifts as did the wise men when they came to worship Jesus.

Do not just run up to God's throne and start asking for this or that. Remember Who He is and who you are. He is to be honored, praised, thanked and revered. He is holy and He is God and He is sovereign over all things.

**Psalms 100** – A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

Because Jesus shed His blood for us and He was crucified for us, we can come boldly before the throne of grace (**Heb.4:16**) in prayer any time day or night but when we do, let us be careful to remember to approach God first in thanksgiving and then with praise. Think of entering His Kingdom spiritually in prayer, you are first going through the gates and you should offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, next you are entering His courts and you should offer praise which is worship. Be reverent when you approach God. If you have not been doing this, your walk will change when you begin to put this into action in your life. Do the Word of God.

I see so many tv shows and movies that pretend to be Christian, when they pray they start the prayer like this..God I need this or that etc. Then at the end of the prayer many times they don't even say in Jesus' name. They just end the prayer with an "amen" which we have learned is a name for satan. If you have been praying like that, it needs to change. First thank God and then praise Him and then you can pray your prayer and always close your prayers in Jesus' name. The Bible tells us that we will have what we ask for when we pray in Jesus' name and of course that is if it is in line with God's will for your life.

**Luke 18:1** – And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint (lose heart);

If you read the verses following, Jesus tells a parable about a woman who kept petitioning a wicked judge and finally just to get her to leave him alone, he gave her what she wanted. The lesson in that parable is for us to keep asking God because He will surely answer us also because we are His very own children. Keep asking God in prayer, keep knocking, which is keep asking.

Peter, James and John were in the garden of Gethsemane with Jesus and they kept falling asleep.

**Matt.26:41** – (Jesus said) Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

satan fights prayer. If you are a true Christian, then you know this all too well. satan will try to make you too busy to pray, too tired, you will get sleepy all of a sudden while praying, the kids will start arguing or distractions will come up, the

phone will ring, the dog will start barking, the baby will cry etc. These are all tactics to keep you from praying and drawing nearer to God. This is spiritual warfare against you.

We are to pray without ceasing. **(1 Thess.5:16-18)** Discipline yourself in the things of God. Make prayer a daily habit and it will get easier. Pray for your family, for others, for your nation, and leaders etc. Pray about your needs and desires. Pray for eternal things, salvation of others and for them to grow in the faith. God wants you to lift up your cares to Him because He cares for you. There is nothing too small or too trivial to take before God, if it is on your heart or mind or it is bothering you, take it to God in prayer.

Pray Scripture, stand on God's Word in that way. In your prayer you might say, Lord I know the Bible says I was healed by Jesus' stripes and I am asking and believing for my healing to manifest, or Your Word says if any lacks wisdom let him ask of God, I am asking You for wisdom etc. **(1 Peter 2:24, James 1:5)** When you pray Scripture, you know you are praying in line with God's will. Whatever it is you are praying about, find Scripture to back it up. Also pray for the things you see in Scripture. For example: Jesus said to Peter, James and John to pray that they would not enter into temptation – so you pray that too. Jesus said to love the Lord with all of our hearts, minds and spirits – so pray and ask God to help you to do that. Bring the Word of God into your prayer life.

**DON'T** – be caught without a prayer life.

### **STUDY GOD'S WORD**

**2 Tim.2:15** - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Paul said this to Timothy who was a young pastor just starting out. However, we all have access to God's Word today and we should be reading it for ourselves. What a blessing to have these translations. As you read God's Word, pray for Him to open your spiritual eyes, ears and understanding. Ask Him to help you to understand it and to know how it pertains to your life. Ask Him to help you to do what is written in His Word and required of us still today. Ask Him to give you

more Godly wisdom, knowledge and discernment. Ask for more of His anointing and Holy Spirit in your life.

**2 Tim.3:14-17** – But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

You will learn the things that please God and that will draw you nearer to Him as you read His Word. He will show you things that you need to get out of your life. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and He will use the Word of God to teach you, if you don't read it, you won't learn. He will correct you when you are doing wrong things or understanding God's Word incorrectly. He will use God's Word to bring correction into your life. The Holy Spirit will instruct you in the ways of righteousness. Usually when the Bibles mentions the word "perfect" it is speaking of maturity, growing into a mature Christian. Becoming more and more like Christ.

Remember Christianity is a walk with the Lord and the longer we walk with Him and the more we read His Word the better we understand, the stronger our faith grows in Him, the more we obey and the more of a mature Christian we become. If you don't read God's Word, you are showing Him that you don't care about what He has said and the instructions and guidance that He has given us.

## **CLOSING**

**Deut.17:18-20** – And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of *that which is* before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, *to the right hand,*

or *to* the left: to the end that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

God required this of the king of the whole nation. King David had to write God's law with his own hand, make himself a copy and read it continually throughout his entire reign. That is so that he could lead the nation in the way of righteousness, in God's ways.

Can you really say you are a Christian if you don't care to know what the God you claim to serve, has to say to you. He still speaks to us through His written Word today. It is a great sin against God to claim to be His child and yet not read His Word if you have access to it. If you are watching me, you have access to it. If you have not been reading His Word - start. When I first read the Bible I started in Genesis and Matthew. I read two chapters in the Old Testament and 1 chapter in the New Testament and I kept it up and if you do that, you will read the whole Bible in a year. If you can't read 3 chapters a day, at least read 1. I did a message about reading God's Word, I encourage you to listen to that message. Next week I will finish up about reading God's Word and we'll talk about a few more of the main things we should be doing as Christians.

**DON'T** – be guilty of not reading God's Word. How can God use you effectively for His glory if you don't know His Word? If you have not filled up on His Word it certainly will not flow out of you to have an impact on anyone else's life.

**PRAYER**