



IMPORTANCE OF GODLY FEAR

By Bill Subritzky

Godly fear

If we are going to walk in obedience to God and receive His blessing we must have a godly fear within us.

The Scripture says, when speaking of Jesus, "Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." (Hebrews 5:7-8.)

Why God heard Jesus?

This was because of His godly fear. Many Christians pray to God without any godly fear in their heart and as result, God does not hear their prayers. Godly fear produces a reverence of God in our hearts. Without it there will be sin and rebellion in our lives.

Result of sin

Our sin separates us from God. (Isaiah 59:2.)

What is godly fear?

The Bible says that godly fear is to hate evil, i.e. sin. (Proverbs 8:13.) Therefore to receive godly fear into our hearts we must repent from all sin and submit absolutely to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.

This involves daily reading of the Bible, fellowship in a church that proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour – and believes the Bible, obeying the commandments of God to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, to love our neighbour which is to love one another.

Holiness

We must cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1.)

Warnings

There are many warnings in scripture about the failure to fear God.

For example, while Moses went up on the mountain listening to God, the people of Israel made a golden calf saying, "This is your God, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" (Exodus 32:4.)

Anger of God

This was despite the fact that the Lord had been in the desert with them for 40 years revealing Himself in many ways, including the fire by night and a cloud by day and doing many miracles. As a result of this disobedience 3,000 people died in one day. (Exodus 32:28.)

When the tribes of Israel were murmuring against God in the desert, God struck them with a great plague. (Numbers 11:33.)

When the household of Korah rebelled, God opened the earth up and they were swallowed up by the ground, all of the men with their goods. (Numbers 16:30.)

On another occasion when the congregation turned against Moses and Aaron, the Lord sent a plague which killed 14,700. (Numbers 16:49.)

When the people of Israel rebelled against God and Moses, God sent fiery serpents which bit the people and many died. (Numbers 21:6.)

Sexual immorality

When the Israelites began to commit sexual immorality with their neighbours the Moabites, God sent a plague which destroyed 24,000 people. (Numbers 25:9)

Rebellion

Because of the rebellion of the people of Israel, God made them wander in the desert for 40 years until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was gone. (Numbers 32:13.)

Finally, as result of many years of rebellion and their failure fear Him, God delivered the people of Israel to Babylon where they were in bondage for 70 years.

Early church

In the early church, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit and as a result of this they dropped dead. (Acts 5:1-10.)

Warnings

There are further strong warnings in the New Testament against disobedience to God. The apostle Paul tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

(Philippians 2:12.)

We are told that, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." (Hebrews 6:4-6.)

Narrow gate

That is why Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14.)

Jesus speaks of the fear of God

Jesus spoke about the fear of God saying, "And I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!" (Luke 12:5.)

Further warnings

There is a very clear warning in Hebrews to those who do not fear God and sin deliberately.

"For if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgement, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10: 26-31.)

God's sovereignty

Scripture says, "All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless." (Isaiah 40:17.)

Also, "It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
He brings the princes to nothing;
He makes the judges of the earth useless." (Isaiah 40:22-23.)

Blessings from the fear of God

There are many blessings for those who fear God. Here are some of them:

1. He prolongs our life. (Deuteronomy 6:2.)
2. Preserves us. (Deuteronomy 6:24.)
3. Delivers us. (2 Kings 17:39.)
4. Gives wisdom. (Job 28:28.)
5. Will teach us. (Psalm 25:12.)
6. God's protecting angel encamps around us. (Psalm 34:7.)
7. God's mercy is great. (Psalm 96:4.)
8. God pities us. (Psalm 103:13.)
9. He gives us food. (Psalm 111:5)
10. He blesses us. (Psalm 112:1.)
11. He is a help and a shield to us. (Psalm 115:11.)
12. He will fulfil our desires. (Psalm 145:19.)
13. He preserves us. (Proverbs 2:1-8.)
14. It will be health to our flesh. (Proverbs 3:8.)
15. Our days will be multiplied. (Proverbs 9:10-11.)
16. We will walk in uprightness. (Proverbs 14:2.)
17. We will have strong confidence. (Proverbs 14:26.)
18. We will not be visited with evil. (Proverbs 19:23.)
19. We will have riches and honour and life. (Proverbs 22:4.)
20. Our hope will not be cut off. (Proverbs 23:17-18.)
21. It will be well with us. (Ecclesiastes 8:12.)
22. God will be a sanctuary for us. (Isaiah 8:13-14.)
23. It is good for us and our children. (Jeremiah 32:39.)
24. We will be healed. (Malachi 4:2-3.)
25. It will multiply the churches. (Acts 9:31.)
26. God accepts us. (Acts 10:35.)

These are some of the mighty blessings of God that we receive when we fear Him.

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