

WORLD WIDE MINISTRIES

**FEAR OF GOD:  
Holiness**

PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE

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*"...SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE..." EPH.4:11-16*

# **FEAR OF GOD**

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# THE FEAR OF GOD

## CHAPTER 1

I had been seeking the Lord for a lot of years, trying to find out really what the problem is in the church, and then one day as I was praying, the Lord began to show me something. The real problem with the church is that they **DO NOT FEAR GOD**. The fear of the Lord is reverence. It is not just coming before the Lord and being quiet and being timid, but it is knowing that God is a terrible God, though He is a loving God. **THE REVERENCE WE SHOULD HAVE FOR HIM IS A REVERENCE THAT WE WOULD RATHER PLEASE GOD AT ANY COST THAN TO PLEASE MEN.**

We are entering into a time when everyone of us can be used mightily by God, but we need to move in the fear of God; not in the way that we think that it ought to be, but in the way that fear really operates. Not the fear of men, not the spirit of fear, but the reverence of the living God. You will know when you have come into the fear of God. You will no longer be a respecter of persons (**James 2:1**). You will no longer have your opinion above that of God's. You will no longer counsel out of what you see, hear, or feel, or your wisdom, but you will counsel out of the word of God. You will live according to the word of God.

Man's fear brings anxiety. It brings ulcers. It brings sickness. The fear of the Lord brings health, and joy, and peace. It brings long life. Whenever you fear men, whenever you are afraid of what men can do to you, whenever you are trying to please men, you are always in a state of being anxious. You try to please somebody, but you are afraid you will never please them. You do everything in the world to please them, but you never make it.

I like what the Apostle Peter said when they commanded him in **Acts 5:28**, "**You're not going to preach anymore in the name of Jesus.**" He said in verse 29, "**It is better for us to obey God rather than men.**" You can be in prison if you are pleasing God, and be at peace. You can be in hard conditions if you are pleasing God, and you can be at peace. But if you fear what men can do to you, if you fear what men's approval or disapproval of you is, you are never going to be at peace. You try to please one guy and another guy gets up and says, "That doesn't please me," so you are torn. But God has already given us the ground rules on how to please Him, through the fear of the Lord.

Notice in **Proverbs 29:25** what God is saying. "**The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.**" The fear of man brings a snare, or it brings a way to catch you. When you fear what man can say about you or his opinion, you are not going to really please God, because you are afraid you

are going to offend somebody. I have news for you; when you serve God, you **ARE** going to offend a lot of people, because of the word's sake. You can't help it. You cannot please man and please God, so you might as well make up your mind which side you want to be on, the fear of man or the fear of God. For me, I have decided that I want to be in the Kingdom of God. **The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Rom 14:17).** The fear of man brings a snare to me. It doesn't set me free.

So if I'm going to fear man, I might as well know that I'm making a snare for myself. If I'm going to fear man, if I'm going to allow man's heart in me, I will fear also. Anything about you, if you are walking in the fear of man, or in fear, always brings distress to your heart; but when you walk in the fear of God, you don't fear anything. You see, **fear has torment (I John 4:18). FEAR HATH TORMENT.** If I walk in that kind of fear, I am full of anxiety, I am full of fear, I am full of doubt, I am full of distrust, I am full of envy.

Let's look at **Luke 21:25-26.**

***Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;***

***Luke 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.***

Nobody wants to go to hell. Nobody really wants to be lost, so now there is a doctrine that has been out for years and they have done away with hell. There are many people today that don't want to believe in hell, so they have blinded their conscience to it. There are not just one or two people; there are denominations that minister that there is no hell. But you can't do away with hell, because God said there is one (**Rev 1:18, Rev 20:12-15**). You and I don't have to argue with these people to try to prove God's word. Either you believe it, or you disbelieve it. Either you accept it or reject it.

If I am trying to please every man I meet, then I'll no longer preach the gospel. I will no longer bring the truth, but I will bring what men want to hear. But what will happen to me in the end? I'm going to hell (**Gal. 1:7-10**). If I do make it, I will be called the least in the Kingdom of God, according to the word of the Lord (**Matt 5:17-19**), so why should I care about pleasing you? Not one of us will stand and be able to justify the other in the day of the Lord (**Rom 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10**).

Don't try to please me. If I do something wrong, in love tell me. But if you fear me, you're going to have a problem telling me. If you are afraid you are going to hurt my little feelings if you see me do something wrong, you are never going to tell me the truth. You are going to be in anxiety, you are going to be in doubt and fear, because

you will always go along trying to please somebody, and you will never enjoy the freedom that the fear of God brings. When a man fears the Lord, he can stand against a lion's den (**Dan 6th chap**). When a man fears the Lord, he can stand in the fiery furnace (**Dan 3rd chap**). When a man fears the Lord, he can stand at the Red Sea, knowing that God will deliver him (**Exo 14th chap**). When we begin to fear the Lord, we are going to quit laying a snare for ourselves and quit having heart failure. Amen! Do you believe the word of God is true? **Rom 3:4** says, "**Let God be true and every man a liar.**"

***Prov 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

Here the Lord tells me that the fear of the Lord is the beginning. It's got to be the beginning of knowledge. We are not going to learn anything really about the Lord by fearing men, but when we fear God, and want to please God, we're going to become just like the apostle Paul (**1 Cor 2:3-4**). **He said he came to them not in the enticing words of men's wisdom (speech), but he came in the power and demonstration of the Spirit of God.** He said, "I stand before you in weakness and in trembling, and in fear."

The great apostle Paul came to them in weakness, and in trembling, and in fear. Do you know why? Because he looked on their faces, and these was that temptation to please them. But he came in the fear of God. Amen! Trembling in the awesome presence of the Lord. I don't think we know who is with us wherever we are. We would never come into church just lightly. We would come with that awesome knowledge that God is there, not because He abides in the building, but because He is dwelling in us; and we would begin to walk a little more in the very fear of God. They didn't just sit there and start thinking about baseball games and what time they're getting out, but they realized that God was speaking to them through Paul. God wants us to begin to receive the word with fear and trembling (**2 Cor. 7:15**). The word of the Lord tells us that we are to **work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12)**.

I am just a vessel. I am nothing more. As I teach this study, I am also hearing what He is saying. I'm hearing that God is talking to my heart, and the only way He is going to be pleased with me, is when I walk in the reverent fear of God. An awesome fear. An awesome reverence. A terrible reverence, knowing that any moment God could annihilate me. Amen? We'll find that out a little later on too.

I want to show you what this will do for you. It's the beginning of wisdom. You don't have any wisdom if you don't fear God. It's the beginning of knowledge. You don't have any knowledge unless you fear God. Not in your heart, you don't. You may have all the scripture in the world stuck in your mind and be able to preach the most seemingly anointed sermon in the world, but do you know the difference between whether it comes from God or man? It gets in here, in your heart, and never leaves you. When the word of God is anointed from the Holy Spirit, it comes into your spirit, and it stays in there. It doesn't leave you. It never goes away from you. It comes

through a vessel and it comes into your heart, and it stays in there. But when a man preaches out of his head, you can hardly remember any of the messages he ever preached. You can remember how excited he got, you can remember how red he turned in the face, you can remember how much he jumped and shouted and screamed and hollered, but you can't remember much of anything he ever said. Why? Because it did not come from a fearful heart, a heart that was afraid it would not please God.

When we handle the word of the Lord, he said not to handle it deceitfully, but to handle it honestly and truthfully (**2 Cor 4:2**). The pulpit in Nehemiah (the only place the word pulpit appears) was made for the reading of the word of God (**Neh 8:1-9**). It was not made for foolishness. It was not made for men to come up and tear the word apart, and give us what we want to hear, but the pulpit was made so the priests of God could stand and read; the scribes could read the word of the Lord to the nation of Israel.

We must return back to the fear of the Lord, where when we see something going contrary to the word of God, we will stand against it. Paul said, "**Having done all to stand, stand therefore**"(**Eph. 6:10-18**). Stand against evil. **Proverbs 8:13** says "**The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.**" When a man no longer hates evil, it means he has not the fear of God in him. When he can allow any evil thing to dwell in him, he does not have the fear of God. He may be religious, he may be a good tither, he may be a lot of things, but when the fear of God is not there, he won't hate evil. Well, Brother Krider, what is evil?" Evil is backbiting, devouring, gossip, jealousy, envy, strife; any of the works of the flesh (**Gal 5:19-26**). You will hate them. We condone backbiting. We condone gossiping. We condone so many things in our life, and God said, "You don't fear Me. You want Me to bless you, and you won't FEAR ME." Let me tell you something: when you begin to fear God, you will praise God from inward, not -outward. Hallelujah! The praises will come out of your lips, but they'll come from your heart. You're going to hate evil.

You say, "But Brother Krider, I'm only flesh, you see." That's another excuse that we make not to hate evil, and that is in God's sight an abomination (**Luke 16:15; Rev 21:27**). In His nostrils it is a stench. You say, "Well, I'm only human you know; I only.." NO, NO, NO! When you really fear God, you're going to hate evil in your life first. You are going to hate that condemning spirit that comes out of you. You are going to hate that jealous word. You are going to hate the backbiting, murmuring, complaining that comes out of you. Why? Because God said that you are going to hate evil. "Boy, I can't stand that person. They are just rotten to the core." Did you ever look in the mirror? That guy you wear every day is full of rottenness. He's dead because of sin. God couldn't even live with him. The Lord said through Paul the apostle "**Reckon yourself dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord**"(**Romans 6:11**). God said, "I can't even live with your stinking flesh. I am going to dwell in your spirit. I am going to dwell in that body, but I'm not going to communicate with flesh."

"Well, Brother Krider, it's my opinion." You see, that is evil too. Your opinion is evil. Vain thoughts, vanity. "Well, I saw what I saw. I heard what I heard, and this is

what I think." And God said, **"Be careful. Begin to fear the Lord. Begin to be quick to hear but slow to speak" (James 1:19)**. I love it! I love how God has changed my attitude. I didn't change it; God did. I began to see that God was a loving God, but He was a God to be revered. He was a God that you bowed down before, and you wanted no evil communications to corrupt you.

"But, Brother Krider, if I go this way, I won't have much to talk about." Oh, you'll have a lot to talk about, but it won't be people. It'll be God and the things of God. That's what the church ought to be talking about today, not this person or that person (**Malachi 3:16; Romans 14:19; Thess 5:11**). We ought to be in love with Jesus, fearing Him, fearing that we will not please Him, **knowing that in the flesh there dwelleth no good thing (Romans 7:18)**. I don't care how many showers you took this morning, I don't care how well you did your hair, I don't care how many times you shaved, it's still rotten. There is still no good thing in it, and whenever we communicate with it, trying to bring the things of God, my friend, we are walking with evil. We need to hate evil.

You say, "Well, Brother Krider, ..." No! I'm telling you what the word says. You aren't studying this to hear what I have to say. You need to hear what the Spirit has to say, and the Spirit of God is going to change us if it kills us. Amen! **GOD IS GOING TO CHANGE US**. Do you know why? God is getting ready for the Kingdom of God to be made manifest upon the earth, and He is not going to make it with people that love to have evil in their flesh. He is going to have a people that are dead to self, but alive to Him, and who no longer say, "This is my opinion", or, "This is what I think." **THAT IS EVIL**.

You know, God's word is so good. God is so good to us. In **Prov 9:10**, He said, **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."** Without the fear of the Lord, you don't have any true wisdom. As long as your wisdom is based on how you feel, or how people react to you, you have sensual wisdom; you have wisdom of this world that is devilish (**James 3:14-15**). You say, "Well, Brother Krider, I've gone to college for twenty years. I paid all that money to get the wisdom that I've got." It is still devilish. It is still sensual. I don't care where you've been; unless you've been with Jesus and have the mind of Christ (**Phil. 2:5**), you don't have any wisdom that will work in the Kingdom of God. If you take the wisdom that God will offer you that cometh from above, that wisdom is pure and peaceable, that wisdom is sent from Him (**James 3:17**); but you are not going to get that wisdom until you fear God.

You say, "But Brother Krider, ..." No, don't tell Brother Krider. **READ THE WORD!** The word tells you that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. So a man can come to church, he can sit in church, and he can do all manner of things, but until he begins to fear God, he has neither knowledge nor understanding. You say, "Well, I've been in church a hundred years, and have never been used of God." That's because you don't fear Him.

I like what I heard Oral Roberts say. He said that when God told him to start the school, not the City of Faith, but the school on that grounds, he walked over it, and he said, "God, I don't know how to do it. I don't know which way to turn. I don't know what to do. You're going to have to do it." That was showing me the fear of God. He knew that God had called him, but he wasn't going to try to figure out how to build it. As soon as God tells us to do something, we revert back to evil, and we go to flesh to try to build the program of God. Amen? We begin to see how much money we've got, or how many people are with us. That is evil. He said, "Lean not to the arm of flesh. Trust not in flesh" (**Proverbs 3:5-7**). That means my flesh. **HATE EVIL!**

I don't know how to do anything. I don't know how to start. I don't even know how to get up in the morning, but when God says to do something, I'm going to do it. God spoke to me at Oral Roberts University, right there in that little camera room while we were watching this picture. Oral was telling how things had begun and how they were being done in his life, and the Lord said to me: "**NOW!**" Just like that. "**Go to all the world and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.**" Three or four years before that, in Casper, Wyoming, God forbid me. I had the money to go to India, and God said, "You cannot go to India. You must stay here and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God, lest I bypass this nation and give it to another." I'll tell you, the fear of God came into my heart. And the fear of God came into my heart when He said, "NOW!" I didn't know how to do the "NOW", but when God says, "Now," He will furnish the "How". Amen!

So here the Lord is saying, "I don't want you to have to have it worked out for you. I want you to believe Me, and when you believe Me, you're going to begin to understand or have knowledge that it is Me speaking, and then I'm going to give you some wisdom on how to do it." Amen? He says, "That is the beginning of knowledge; the beginning of wisdom." You can sit in a Bible class all your life and never learn anything, except scriptures into your head. But when you sit there with fear and trembling, pray "Lord, don't let me miss anything. Lord, let my spirit be open that you can just put into my spirit what you want in there, Lord. Put into my spirit, Oh God. Feed me with food that is convenient for me. Feed me with the word of God. Feed me that I would live."

Don't come into church and say, "Well, we're going to be there for an hour, and I might as well get myself set now." Have you ever done that? You come into church, and try to get comfortable for an hour. You already had in your mind that whoever the preacher is, if he is a long-winded preacher, that you will get adjusted to it. If he is a short-winded preacher, you'll get adjusted to that too. So we get adjusted to it, instead of open to it. You see, the fear of the Lord has to come into our heart, and when it begins to come into our heart, it doesn't make any difference if we're here a hundred hours, because the fear of the Lord is moving in us, and we are saying, "Lord, feed me. Feed me, Lord. Feed me with food, not of men, but of the Spirit of God." Amen! We begin to see then that is the way it operates.

You have a choice today. Everything about God is choices. Amen? I can come into a class and choose to listen, or choose to endure. I can go out ignorant or in wisdom. I can go out changed, or I can go out in an attitude of, "I don't care anymore." But you will go out changed, either for the worse or for the better and I'll show you why.

***Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.***

You have the choice today. You have the choice to open your heart, and let the word of God come into it in such power that it brings fear when you start to speak evil of somebody. It brings fear when you try to make it work your way. It brings fear when you try to cause God's program to bring attention to you. In other words, sooner or later you'll come to a place, if you choose to reject the knowledge of God, that you will no longer come; or if you do come, it's no longer a joy.

***Pro 1:30 They would none of my counsel:...***

You see, that is the first thing that begins to happen. When you reject the fear of God, you reject His counsel, and you begin to operate in your counsel. I think the thing that hurts me the most is to hear people counsel out of their own minds, because I know that if that person's heart is open that they are talking to, they are going to destroy him if he believes it, and they are going to stand before God one day and give account for all of that foolish counsel they gave.

Now here the Lord is saying to me, "Son, when you counsel, counsel My word. You can't go wrong. They may reject you. They may become angry with you, but **I will be behind you.** Amen.! **I will stand with you.** But if you give your counsel, Son, you will pay for it." See, we want a temporary solution. The word of God gives eternal solutions. It takes a little longer to work it out in our life. It's a little harder on us. It kills us. The temporary solution lets us do what we want to. "Well, if I don't like you, I'll leave you." No, no! The Bible says you can't do that. You love one another. Even if you've got to die loving one another, you've got to love one another (**John 13:34; John 15:12**). Isn't that the truth? You see, the counsel of God says you are not your own. You are bought with a price (**I Cor 6:19-20**). You'll lay down your life for your friend (**John 15:13; I John 3:16**).

I used to do a lot of marriage counseling; not much anymore because they won't come to me. That's true. If you want to cut your counseling hours down, start telling the truth. If they don't like it, let them walk out. I tell them the truth. They are not rejecting me; they are rejecting God and His word. When a man rejects that word, he is not rejecting Don Krider. He is saying to God, "Ah, phooey. I don't want your counsel. I'll go find me another preacher." If you look around long enough, you'll find somebody that will hang their shingle out, Dr. So and So, and give you the counsel that you want. But when you wake up in hell, don't blame the word of God, because the word of God hath been declared.

***Pro 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.***

***Pro 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.***

***Pro 1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.***

***PRO 1:33 BUT WHOSO HEARKENETH UNTO ME SHALL DWELL SAFELY, AND SHALL BE QUIET FROM FEAR OF EVIL.***

I am either going to walk in one fear or another. I am either going to walk in the fear of man, which is the fear of evil, or I am going to walk in the fear of the Lord. Now, if I walk in the fear of the Lord, my natural man may not like it when he can't have his way every time he wants to have a fit, but I know something: I'M SAFE. **"But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."** It is up to us!

Get this into your heart. **You are making a choice today, either for evil or for God.** That's all. There are only two choices. **You are making a choice against God or for God.** You are making a choice in God's counsel or against God's counsel, but be very sure the following verses tell you the price you pay for which way you go.

***Pro 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.***

It seemed right. It looked good. "I thought if we could bring these people in, they weren't exactly dedicated to God, but they had money, position, and prestige." None of you ever tried it but me, I'm sure! The end of everything I ever did that way turned out to be junk! I asked God to send the men that He wanted to work with me, and He sent men that were men of God. They were men that had a heart for the work, and they didn't come around saying, "Now what does it profit me if I do it?" They were saying, "What can I do?" You see, there is a difference.

**We need to spend more time in prayer. We need to spend more time in making right choices, and quit choosing the easy way, a way that seemeth right unto man, but let us choose today the way of the Lord. Let us move into a place where we can dwell safely, and not in the fear of evil.**

**Proverbs 2:5** begins to let us know something else that I like. When we begin to understand, things begin to happen. We take one scripture out of its setting, and we never really get the full meaning, so we need to read verses 1 through 5.

***Pro 2:1 My son, IF...***

Underline IF. It's a small word; it couldn't be too important. It's only two letters long. "If". Do you know how many "ifs" there are in the Bible? "If thou shall do this, thou shall be blessed. If thou shall do this..."

***Pro 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;***

***Pro 2:2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;***

***Pro 2:3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding,***

***Pro 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures:***

How many of us spend time really seeking all of these things? How many of us really cry out for this? Most of us say, "Lord, give me a better way of life. God, give me a new car. God, give me better clothes. God, give me a better wife. Give me a better husband." Those are dead things.

**Matt. 6:33 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all of these things shall be added unto you.** I honestly haven't heard too many people crying out to give them understanding, and knowledge, and wisdom. They do a lot of crying, "Gimme, gimme, gimme." We need to get down like old Solomon did, when the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "What do you want Me to do, Solomon? What would you like me to give you?" Solomon said to God, "Lord, grant me wisdom, and knowledge, that I might guide such a great people, for I am but a child." And God was so pleased with that, **He said, "Because you have not asked for long life, and neither have you asked riches of me, these things shall be given unto thee in abundance"** (I Kings 3:9-14). Do you want long life? I'll tell you how to get it in just a moment.

***Pro 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.***

You see, we need to come to a place today where we begin to understand the fear of the Lord. Amen! How do we get it? By reading a lot of books? By going out and getting more earthly things? No! We cry unto the Lord. We seek the Lord. We get a heart that has a single purpose, and that is not to please men, but to please God. When we get down with a heart like Solomon had, "Lord, I don't even care if they never see me, Lord. I don't care if I never have a nice robe to wear, or a beautiful crown, or a palace to sit in. Oh, God, just give me wisdom and understanding. Give me knowledge, Lord, that I can lead such a great people."

I think all the ministries of God, especially the ministries that are teaching the word of God, ought to be down before the Lord. The elders ought to be seeking God for a way that is right for them, as Ezra and Nehemiah cried out, "We declared a fast." **He said, "We declared a fast there, that we might find a way that was right for our children" (Ezra 8:21; Nehemiah 1:4-6).** Amen! You declare a fast now and everybody runs from you. You have a million reasons not to fast anymore, you know. "I'm walking by faith." No you're not. If fasting is not in faith, then you are not walking in faith. "Well, I'm walking in a better covenant." Yeah? Well, fasting is in a better covenant. Amen! A lot of our lives are so powerless today, we have no victory that is consistent. We no longer walk by faith, we walk by sight (**2 Cor. 5:7**). We no longer hate evil, but we want to have everything our way. That is evil, friends. When we have to have things our way, it is evil. We'd better start getting them God's way.

God loves you, and I love you too, but I want to tell you the truth; because I don't want you saying, "Oh, boy, that man prophesied me rich." I want you to have known that the sword of the Spirit of the Lord has been applied to your life, has cut away the flesh man, has cut away self, has cut away all the desires for the world, and has put in the desire to serve the Lord. In **Proverbs 10:27** I'll show you what happens when you begin to understand what the fear of the Lord is: **"The fear of the Lord prolongeth days:.."** The **FEAR of the Lord** prolongeth days. What did Solomon come before the Lord with? He came before the Lord with the fear of the Lord. He was afraid that he would not lead those people right. He knew he couldn't do it. He feared God. He had been given the responsibility of leading a nation. Amen!

I think before we get in pulpits, before we start teaching and preaching, before we start saying we are elders, or before we start even identifying as Christians, having people follow us, we had better begin to realize something, friend: we had better begin to walk in the fear of the Lord, that we are not speaking our own thoughts, but what "saith the Lord."

***Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.***

So I have a promise of long life, haven't I? **Ephesians 6:1-3 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy Father and thy Mother; which is the first commandment with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."** Isn't that great? There is a promise in the Old Testament that is made whole in Ephesians. Now God is saying to you and me, that we need to begin to trust the Lord; to fear God. You say, "Well, Brother Krider." No, no! There is no need to argue with it. Friend, it either says that and means it, or it doesn't mean anything at all. If you can write that one out, then write the rest of them out. If you take one scripture and change it to a way that pleases you, you can change them all to a way that pleases you.

You don't realize, and I don't realize really, the depth of what we are coming into: a people that are going to be like Jesus in their existence in natural flesh. They are

going to walk forth not having any confidence in that flesh, but walking forth in the power of the Holy Spirit, and saying, "Father, whatever you want to do today, you do it. I am available, Lord. **Here am I, send me. (Isaiah 6:8)** I know that in myself, I can do nothing, but Father, you can do all things through me. **(Phil. 4:13)** You can do anything you want to do through me, Father, if I walk in the fear of the Lord." **(II Cor. 2:14)**

I find out then that it is going to prolong life. In **Proverbs 8:13**, it says that I will hate evil. You say, "Boy, I can't stand these pornography shops. I can't stand these filthy books. I can't stand the filth that is going on on television." Yet we can let the same filth reign in us. Worse than that, because when you hate your brother, you are a murderer. **(I John 3:15)** The Lord wrote it. We talk about what the world is doing, and yet the church is doing nothing but wallowing in hatred, and jealousy, and envy, and strife, and trying to be one better than the other. "I've got to get one up on you; they won't remember me." No, I don't think you have to get in the pulpit to be remembered. I think that if we live a life among the body of Christ, hating evil, my friend, people will remember you. Some of the greatest people that will be in the kingdom of God will not be preachers. They will be the widows. They will be the people that have taken their place in the body of Christ, hating evil, praying continually that God will drive afar off from-the body the wicked things that defiled the house of the living God. Don't talk about the pornography of the world when you hate somebody in your heart. Don't talk about the filthy films that are going on when you have jealousy and envy and strife abiding in you.

So here the Lord is saying, "I want you to have a long life. I want you to enjoy life. I want you to have the maximum that life offers, but it only offers it when you walk in the fear of the Lord." We need to come to a place where we hate evil; hate evil in our flesh. HATE! That's why Paul said, **"I die daily. (I Cor. 15:31)**. I can't even stand this thing. I can't stand the rotten thing. I've got to wear it. I wish somebody would kill it, so I could be **absent from it and be present with the Lord, (II Cor. 5:1-6)**, but it is needful for you that I remain. **(Phil. 1:21-24)**." You see, his own flesh was a place where he knew that no good thing dwelt. **(Romans 7:18-25)**. Do you want a long life? Fear the Lord. Do you want to really grow up in God? Fear the Lord, and hate evil.

I love the word of God. It is a sword. It cuts me away all the time. It just cuts the old flesh man away, and starts revealing Christ more and more and more. Amen! That is what I want. I don't want you to remember my name. I don't care about that. What I want you to remember is Jesus, and I want to be a vessel that can imprint Jesus into your heart, until you are just so in love with Him, that you begin to fear Him. You will fear displeasing Him. You will want to do that which is good in the sight of the Lord.

Let's go to **Proverbs 14:26**. The Lord is so good to us, isn't He. **"In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge."** I want you to get ahold of that. "The fear of the Lord is strong confidence." What does that mean? It simply means this: when I want to please

God more than I want to please man? I can come to Him any time, and ask Him what I have need of, and know that He will give it to me. I can be confident today that He will meet all of my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. **(Phil. 4:19)**. I can come to Him, knowing that I fear Him. I reverence Him. I don't want to displease Him. I don't want to displease my Saviour, and my Lord, and my King, but I want to PLEASE HIM. Now when you have that attitude in your heart, people can kill you, people can curse you, people can revile against you, and you can say, "Praise the Lord! Father, have mercy upon them."

Confidence! Not just A confidence, but notice: in the fear of the Lord is STRONG confidence. **Hebrews 3:6 and 14** gives us examples of that kind of confidence. In **Hebrews 10:35** it says, "**Casting not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.**" You can come boldly to the throne of grace, being confident that your life is pleasing the Lord. You say, "Well, Brother Krider, you know right down in my heart I have this real hatred, and I'm justified to have it." Well if you think you are, you don't have any of these either. You don't have confidence toward God. You might pray for six days a week, twenty-four hours a day, but if you have no confidence you're going to get it, you can pray until you are blue in the face, and you aren't going to get it. If you know that there is something separating you from that divine fellowship with God - hatred, jealousy, envy, strife, complaining, murmuring, backbiting - **(Gal. 5:15-21)** - they separate you from God, because you don't fear God. Amen? You become like the scribes and the Pharisees. They had a form of godliness, but they denied the power of it. They became religious. **(Matt. chap. 23)**. They joined the synagogue. Man, they were really into it, weren't they, but God had departed from them.

God took a man named John the Baptist into the wilderness, and showed him the things of God, and sent him forth to preach the kingdom of God. Do you want to be used of God? You may feel like you are in a wilderness today, but let me tell you something - there is a great sound on the horizon. There is a moving of the Holy Spirit. I am not worrying about the move of the devil. I am not worried about the move of the Anti-Christ. Man, I can hear the shout of victory. I can hear the song of victory. I can HEAR, praise God, the RUSTLING OF THE MULBERRY TREES. **(II Sam. 5:24)**. I can have CONFIDENCE that I WILL TRIUMPH IN CHRIST JESUS. **(II Cor. 2:143)**.

Brother Krider, I want that kind of confidence, but you know, I have a right to feel like I feel. No, you don't. Dead men don't have any rights. Amen! Dead men are just dead men. The living man, the living man of Christ, the only rights he has is to love and forgive and to cherish, and to be like Jesus. I want a long life. I'm planning on living until Jesus comes back, to tell you the truth, but I know how to have it. All I have to do is to get into this thing called, "The Fear of the Lord," for I fear Him more than I fear men. **"What shall man do to me," says David. (Ps. 27:1)**. **"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)**. If the Lord be for us! God, by Himself is a majority.

I'm so tired of hearing about Christians saying, "Well, we're a little old poor church. We're a little old minority. We're a little old..." God said, "Wait just a minute. I made heaven and earth. How great is that? And if that is not good enough for you, **the earth is mine and the fulness thereof and all they that dwell therein. (Ps. 24:1).** I RULE in the kingdom of men, and I give it to whomsoever I please. It pleases me to give it to this man. I give it to him, so that I might work my purpose out in your life." The things that are happening upon the earth today are not happening because of the earth. They are happening for you and me, so that we can draw into Jesus, and quit fighting, and backbiting, and murmuring, and complaining, but begin to walk in the reverence of God and the fear of the Lord, making our decisions based solely on, "Would it please the Lord."

As far as I can understand, one of the greatest sins that David had recorded in his life, was not Bathsheba. That didn't please God either, but it only caused death to happen to his offspring; course he had to get Uriah, the Hittite, killed, but I am saying to that there were only two lives lost in that. **(II Sam. chap. 11 & 12).** But do you know that when David began to number Israel, it displeased God. **(I Chron. chap. 21).** He'd lost that total complete confidence that God was his source, and he got older so he said, "We'd better see who is for us. Let's go out and number the armies of Israel." They told him, "David, this will not please God." David said, "Go ahead and do it." They did it, didn't they, and God appeared to him and began to destroy Israel. He appeared to him at the threshing floor of Ornan, and gave him three choices, and the choice he made cost the lives of seventy thousand men.

Don't you understand today that you are making choices for victory in your life, or you are causing disaster to fall in others. When you choose to do your own thing, to preach your own word, to counsel your own way, or to live like people think God is, my friend, you are killing people. You are feeding them rotten food; you are destroying them. Get up and preach the word of God like it is written. It is good enough. It scared the devil. Amen? Jesus didn't preach him a long sermon either, did you know that. He said, "It is written," three times; that is good enough. Do you want to rebuke the devourer? Just give him a little word. I heard a preacher say one time that somebody came to him and said, "The devil keeps telling me about my past, and I just can't get victory." And he said, "Why don't you remind him of his future?" I've heard several preachers use that since, but it is good.

Now here the Lord is saying, "Do you want to have long life? Do you really want to have a strong confidence that I hear you, that I am with you, that I will deliver you all the days of your life? Do you want that? Just fear me. When I say, "Do it," just do it; don't argue about it. Don't figure out how to do it, but do it. When I tell you to love one another, love one another. When I tell you to get rid

of murmuring and complaining and divisions and all of that, get rid of them. Don't debate about having a right to keep it. Get rid of it."

Look at **Proverbs 14:27**. I love this. This is what it will do for you. **"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life to depart from the snares of death."** All right, we found out, didn't we, in **Prov. 29:25**, that when we fear men, that is when we lay a snare for ourselves, but when we have the fear of God, it gives us long life, it gives us a fountain of life. Jesus said in **John 10:10**, **"The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."** That's what He said: "Not only do I want to give you strong confidence, but I want a living well of water springing up within you." (**John 7:37-39**). That is what He said is a fountain of life, didn't He. (**Rev. 21:6**). He said, **"The water that I shall give unto you, it shall be a well springing up within your souls."** (**John 4:10-14**). He said it will be a well, a fountain bubbling forth.

Somebody said to me one time, "Brother Krider, I'm just not getting all from God that I need to be getting from God." I said, "You got it all, but you keep denying it by having the fear of the wrong things. Instead of fearing God, you fear people." Amen? In **Luke 1:50**, I want to show you something else that God wants to give you today. **"And his mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation."** I certainly want the mercy of God in my life, but it is not going to come to me if I fear men. It's not going to come to me if I know that something is wrong, and I'm afraid to preach against that which is wrong, by bringing the truth of God to bear. The mercy is not going to be there.

You see, if I love you, I will be merciful and tell you the truth; but if I am afraid of you, and you won't help me anymore because you won't finance my program, I'm not going to be merciful to you. I'm not going to tell you the truth. There is only one problem with that: **"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."** (**Matt. 5:7**). If I do not have the love for you to care and tell you the truth, then forget about mercy being in my life. I'm not going to have any. See, THE FEAR OF THE LORD. That's where the mercy of God abides. **"And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation."** I want the mercy of God to be on my children, and that is how they get it. If I continue to tell them the truth and raise them up in the way that is right, the way that they should go, when they are old, they will not depart from it. (**Prov. 22:6**). The mercy of God, the mercy of my Father, will be upon them.

You know, when you receive a child, that baby's head is empty. That mind doesn't know anything, and I've seen people set their children in front of television for hours, and what they are doing is saying to that ungodly thing, "Feed my child. Put in my child's mind the thing it ought to hear." What ought to be played in that house, are tapes of praise and worship. The word of the Lord should be played continually in that house, and that little mind is being saturated, and the mercy of God is being dumped on it daily. I know where His mercy is

today. If I am not enjoying the mercy of the Lord, I had better look to see who I am fearing. I had better look and see who I am respecting. I had better look and see if I am really telling you the truth.

You see, as soon as David trusted in flesh, the mercy of God departed immediately; the mercy that had given him victory upon victory. The judgment of God came, and began to destroy Israel, and when David repented, the mercy of God returned to him again, the mercy that had given him victory upon victory. The judgment of God came, and began to destroy Israel, and when David repented, the mercy of God returned to him again, because he feared the Lord. One thing about old David, he feared God. Amen! And when he got out of line with God, he didn't stay out of line very long. He went right back and got ahold of God, and said, **Lord! Have mercy on me. Have mercy on me, Lord." (I Chron. 21:13; Psalms 4:1; 6:2).** The first thing he starts crying for when he blows it, is mercy. WE START WILLING GOD HOW MUCH WE DESERVE IT. Amen? "Well, you know that Sister So-and-so had it coming. Look at how she treated me. You know I had the right, God, to let her have it. I'll forgive her, but I'm not going to forget it." And God said, "OK! Turn up the fire there, boys. Sift him a little more." Grind, grind, crank, crank, sift, sift. When I go through the sifter enough, I'm going to love her. I'm not going to care what she does or doesn't do, and I'm going to forget everything she has ever done.

I want mercy in my life, but it is up to me. I have to make a choice, don't I. I have to really come right back to this: I either choose right or I choose wrong. I EITHER CHOOSE RIGHT OR I CHOOSE WRONG. Look at how many years though, you have had to educate this thing, on wrong choices that seemed right; then you tried to indoctrinate it overnight, and you wonder why you failed. You shouldn't get discouraged. Just get up and choose again. When you have made a wrong choice, don't lay there in it. Just get up and say, "Wow! I blew it! Have mercy on me, Lord. I want to learn to fear you. I'm going to start making right choices."

You see, the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, because they are spiritual and must be spiritually discerned. **(I Cor. 2:14).** My natural man cannot go out here without being educated through the Spirit of the Lord, and conduct itself godly. It's going to go out and blow it. Is there anybody in this room that can honestly say you never blew it? Any body here that can say they never blew it more than once, twice, three, four, five times. We could count on, couldn't we. But because we had a heart to fear the Lord, and reverence Him, we could come back to Him, and say, "Lord, I blew it. Another dumb choice. I thought that if I got that guy in church, he'd be the one." "Lord, why did you send me an old drunk just like I used to be? Sent me an old drunk. What do you mean, God? I can't use HIM." God said, "Good. I can' You see, you use the wrong one. I will use the right one." Amen!

So God is saying to my heart, that there is a place to walk in the joy and the peace of God, when we begin to walk in the fear of the Lord. When you

begin to become anxious and full of anxiety, you have the wrong fear; you fear what men are going to do to you. You fear what you are going to do. I would rather walk in the fear of God, knowing that He will deal with me with mercy, where the flesh man won't. The natural man will shoot me the first time I make a mistake. No matter how good I have been to him, let me make one mistake, and I've had it. Isn't that the truth. You've got a perfect example in our president. I love that man. He stood up and said, "This is the year of the Bible," and read out of **II Chron. 7:14** in public. He said our problem is that we need to get back to Jesus. So what happens? The people that voted him in, want to get him out. He became religious. I've got news for you: all the powers of hell can't remove him until God is ready. I'm not a Republican. I'm not a Democrat. I'M A CHRISTIAN!

You might as well just rest in the fear of God, knowing that everything is in control, and begin to get some wisdom and knowledge. Amen!

# THE FEAR OF GOD

## CHAPTER 2

I don't know how often in the Bible that the subject of the fear of the Lord is taught, but there is a tremendous amount of scripture that implies and contains factors of scripture, speaking about the fear of the Lord. We found out that His mercy would abide upon those that feared the Lord, and upon their seed from generation to generation. So if you want to begin to let the mercy of God be imparted to your children, then begin to walk in the fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord simply means that you are not going to operate any more in what you think, what you see, what you hear, what you feel, and you are not going to be a respecter of persons. You are not going to take a man's opinion over God's word. If God's word says it, that's the way it is, regardless of how many people tell you it can be different. God's word declares it; that's the way it is. The church must return to that. The church must come back to that place where, "It says it; that's it!" I don't care what anybody else says about it, when God says it, that's going to be the way it is in my life. So mercy begins to dwell in our hearts when we fear the Lord. Amen!

Let's look at **2 Cor 7:1**, but we will begin with **6:17**.

***2 Cor 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,***

***2 Cor 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.***

***2 Cor 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

The word "therefore" means that there is something that precedes that statement. It's a continuing thought. In **2 Cor. 6:14**, Paul has told God's people that they cannot walk in light and have communion with darkness. There is no way! You can't be in light and darkness at the same time. But in the **17th verse**, he tells them: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate..."

The big problem with Israel is that they wanted to be like everybody else. What really got them into trouble with God, is that they wanted a king (**1 Sam chap. 8**). They wanted someone so they could be just like other nations. They wanted a king that people could see, so they picked the largest man they could find. He stood head and shoulders above everybody else (**1 Sam 9:2**).

When we substitute another god, we don't want some weak little thing. We want a big one, don't we. We want some thing great and powerful. So they substituted; they did not come out and be separate. Every time they would go in to take a nation or a country, they would take on their customs. They would intermarry. They would take on their gods, and pretty soon you couldn't tell one from the other, and the fear of God departed from them.

That is what has happened to the church. We have allowed everything to mix among us. We have lived in the flesh, and thought in the flesh, and dwelt in the flesh, and we thought that it was all right. We've encouraged people to prophesy in the flesh. We have said, "If you feel like you've got something from God, just get up and prophesy it." NO, NO! When you say, "Thus saith the Lord," you had better be sure that it is, "Thus saith the Lord," that has said it, because God doesn't change. He tells us in these listed scriptures what will happen to the man that saith, "thus saith the Lord, and the Lord hath not spoken it" (**Jer 14:14,15; 23:31,32; 29:9; Eze 13:1-9; Deut 18:20**). We need to get back to a holiness in God where we fear the Lord, that when we open our mouth it is not what we think, it is not our opinion of it, but **"IT IS WRITTEN."** You are always safe there where "it is written," for the scripture is of no private interpretation.

So we find out, **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."** He is not going to be that until you separate yourself from the fleshly things of this world. God wants to be your Father; He wants to be your God. He wanted to be the God of Israel. He wanted to be their leader, but they wanted a man. They wanted flesh, and the church today wants somebody they can see. They want somebody that can speak eloquent words that can really tickle their ears, and make them think they are something in the flesh. Let me tell you right now, you are nothing in the flesh, and without God you are annihilated.

God is building a spiritual people that have separated themselves from the sensual realms of sight, hearing, tasting, smelling, and feeling. The word of God tells us that we are to bring every thought subject to Christ (**2 Cor 10:5**). Every thought you have should be analyzed in the light of God, being made subject to Christ. He will be a Father unto you when you come out and separate yourself. When you will lay aside the things of the flesh, and begin to fear God, He will be your Father. "You shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Now notice this in the **7th chapter verse 1: "Having therefore these promises..."** That HE WILL be our Father. That HE WILL be our God. That HE WILL

lead us. That HE WILL cause us to triumph. That HE WILL cause us to be more than conquerors. Let us fear the Lord. **"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit..."** There has to be a renewing of your spirit. There has to be a washing away of the old nature. There has to be a putting away of the works of the flesh. There has to be a new creature born inside of us, and we have to cleanse ourselves. How do we cleanse ourselves? By the washing of the water of the word. **" Jesus said, "Now ye are clean through the word, which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).** We need to continually bathe in the word of God.

What happens? We become like Israel. We start following God, and God begins to really bless us, and then we take the blessing of God and transfer it over into a natural realm, and begin to again join ourselves to the realms of flesh. But now we know that we can't go out and drink and run with others who do, but we want to join ourselves to religious flesh. Flesh that can prophesy. Flesh that can act like it knows God. Flesh that can do it's own thing, and yet justify itself, even though it is not what God wants.

An abomination in the sight of God, is flesh that tries to glory in the presence of God. "I can do this! We will do this!" **(1 Cor 1:29; Rom 8:7-8; Luke 16:15).** We are not going to do anything unless God allows it. Boast not on tomorrow. You have no assurance of it **(Luke 12:16-21).** Say, "If the Lord be willing, we shall do this." **We ought to begin to judge everything in our life through the fear of God, not seeing how it pleases flesh.**

Now notice this: **"...perfecting holiness in the fear of God."** Amen! When you start bragging on what you don't do, you are in trouble. Did you know that? I used to do it. I'd say, "Why do you do that? I don't do that. God gave me power over that. I don't do that anymore." And the first thing you knew, I was having trouble with that. Anybody know what I am talking about? You tell somebody else that you didn't do it, and you were delivered from that, and praise God, you had victory over that, and all of a sudden, the first thing you knew, you were back there having trouble with that thing. **That's religious flesh.**

That's why the law came, so that God could retain some kind of godliness, because their hearts were far from Him. Their lips praised Him, but their hearts were far from Him **(Isa. 29:13,14; Matt. 15:8,9; Mark 7:6,7).** How many times do we come into a service, and we endure it. We praise the Lord out of our lips, but our hearts are far from it. We would rather be somewhere else; our minds and our hearts are a million miles from the service. We're no different then, are we? Only by the grace of God are we here today. Only by the grace of God are we any different than those that are lost. Only by the grace of God are we any different than Israel. Israel would not fear God; they feared men.

King Saul was a mighty warrior who had led captive and began to set the nation of Israel free time after time; yet one day God spoke to him, and said, **"I want you to**

**go and destroy all the enemy, even the sheep and the children, and the king."** And he brought back King Agag, didn't he (**1 Sam. chap. 15**). You see, he had respect of persons. He wanted to save him. He had already judged what was good, when God had told him that there was no good thing among them; slay them all. Amen? Samuel came to him, and chopped Agag to pieces, because Samuel feared the Lord. And because Samuel feared the Lord, not one word he ever spoke fell to the ground (**1 Sam. 3:19**). Think about that for a moment. Every word that Samuel spoke had power. But Saul deteriorated and lost the kingdom. Why? Because he did not fear God. When God told him to do something, he said, "I can reason this out. It will be better if I listen to the people. The people want me to bring the king back, so we can offer this ungodly, unclean thing to God."

A lot of times all God wants from us is just us, and for us to separate ourselves from everything else. We come around trying to give God an offering that is unclean. It's not going to work. We need to fear the Lord, and when God says to get rid of something, just get rid of it. Don't stand around and give him a dozen reasons why you ought to keep it. "It looks good. It sounds good. It smells good. It will be able to do a mighty work in the kingdom of God." NO!

When I was a pastor, I used to pray that God would save the best musicians in the bars. I said, "Boy, if God could only get hold of those guys, He could bring them into church, and they could do a mighty work for God." NO, NO! God has people that He will send into the church, but He wants us first of all to walk in the fear of the Lord, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.

You are not going to perfect holiness until you fear God. You are going to keep what you want to keep. You are going to hold onto what you want to hold onto. You are going to talk like you want to talk. You are going to live like you want to live until you begin to fear God, and when you begin to fear God, you are going to get rid of King Agag. You are not going to keep the old stuff anymore. You are going to separate yourself unto God, and you are going to become a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto the Lord (**Romans 12:1**), and you are going to begin to perfect holiness. You will never perfect holiness by the way you wear your hair, or by the way you dress. Perfecting holiness comes from the spirit. When we walk in the fear of the Lord, we shall begin to see God bless us like we've never been blessed.

Israel never got the real fulness of God's blessing because they never feared him. The only fear they had of God was that He would kill them. They feared that God would come down out of that mountain of smoke, and fire, and zap everyone of them. They didn't serve Him because they feared Him, or had any reverence for Him. Every time a godly king would die off, the nation would become corrupt. That's what happens when you follow men. That's what happens when you follow the flesh. They are going to die sooner or later, and if your life is only being holy because of some man having to tell you what to do, my friend, there is no fear of God in you. The fear of God doesn't come and go. It abides in you, and you know what holiness is. You know what is right. You know what is wrong, and you are able to hate evil. You are able to have your life

prolonged. You are able to have strong confidence. You are able to have a fountain of life springing up in you.

"Brother Krider, you know, I fear God. I'm afraid He is going to zap me if I do anything wrong." That is not the fear of God. The fear of God is an awesome reverence of Him, and you do it because you love Him, and you fear displeasing Him that it might bring a reproach on Jesus. Moses was a perfect example of the fear of God. When God wanted to kill Israel, and destroy them and start all over again, Moses, because he feared God and loved God, said to the Lord, "Don't do it, because the Egyptians will say that You were able to bring them out, but You were not able to bring them in, and how will this look on You" (**Exo 32:7-14; Num 14:11-20**). That is the fear of God. You are not worried about how it looks on you, but you are concerned on how it is going to reflect on God. Amen?

I remember when I was a young Christian, I was always worried about how it was going to look on me. "What about my reputation? If I am seen there, if I do this, or if I do that, how is it going to look on me?" **And God said, "What is it going to look like on Me?"** We never consider that, you see. But the fear of God brings us into that place of reverence, until we don't want to do anything that might bring a reproach on God. As long as you don't care, then the fear is not there. You will never have holiness in your life. You will never perfect it. I want perfected holiness in my life, but it will never come by me being religious. It will only come as I walk in the fear of the Lord.

Someone asked me one time, "Why don't you drink anymore." I said, "Well, how would that look on God." I don't want to drink anymore, anyway. God took that from me. Thank you, Lord.

Amen! I was in jail, I was everything else, but God set me free from all of that stuff. I don't want to even do anything anymore that might reflect on Jesus. I don't like jokes that are tainted. I don't like these tainted little sayings, you know, and so often we join right in.

A brother and I were talking about this, hearing these guys around us talk, and somebody said, "Well, you know, this and that", and I said, "God has blessed me. I don't have to listen to this stuff. I don't have to listen to this garbage." "Oh, you're a holy Joe." "You bet, brother. You bet I'm holy, praise God, and I'm going to perfect that holiness. I don't care what YOU call me, it's what GOD is calling me that counts. You see, your opinion of me isn't going to stand at the judgment seat, but God's opinion of me will stand at the judgment seat" (**2 Cor 5:10; Rev 14:7**).

So we need to begin to have the fear that will perfect holiness in our hearts. I don't want to do certain things anymore because they don't glorify God. Amen? I don't go where I used to go, because it doesn't glorify God. I've got a new language (**Zeph. 3:9**). I've got a new tongue (**Mark 16:17**). I've got a new desire (**Psalms 37:4**). I've got a new heart (**Eze 36:26**). That's what I want to be led into. That's what I want to grow up in, that new desire to glorify the Lord. That new desire to talk of heavenly things. That new desire to be like Jesus. But I am never going to do it until I have an awesome

reverence for the living God; until I have the attitude in my heart that Moses had: "How is this going to look on you, God. This isn't going to look good at all." Moses didn't care what it looked like on him, but he was worried about God's reputation. Think about that for a little bit.

**2 Cor 7:1** "...perfecting holiness in the fear of God." The only way we are ever going to do it is when we begin to perfect holiness. We are going to find out something in **Hebrews 11:7**, that really stirs my heart. You know, we talk about a lot of things happening, but we never read the full context. Why did Noah really build that ark because we know that by building that ark he condemned the world. The world was condemned when he built the ark. It meant that he believed God, and therefore God would pour out His judgment upon the earth. Now, when the church gets right with God, and begins to walk in the fear of God, God is going to cause some things to happen around you. Amen!

***Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.***

He believed God. Faith was there, but faith was not what really moved him. He was moved with fear. He did not want to fail God (**Gen. chap. 6 & 7**). Can you imagine what happened when he began to build that ark? Can you just imagine the scoffers, the laughers. Here he was building and working and building and working; season after season, year after year had gone by. It had never rained before. "A flood? What's a flood, Noah? What do you mean, God told you? What do you mean, God said? HA! HA! HA! This is crazy, Noah. You flipped out this time. You think you can talk to God?" Hmm? But one man, Noah, feared God. **He feared God.** He had an awesome reverence that when God said it, it was going to happen, and he had better get busy. He knew that if he did not believe God, someone else would, and he would drown.

Do you realize now many Christians miss their calling because they are not moved with fear? They think, "Well, God has got me now. I am something real special, so God can't do the work without me. God can't move His program now, so I don't have to do anything. I'll just kinda kick back, and I'll wait for Jesus to come, and I'll be all right." You'd better read the word of God, because it doesn't tell you that at all. My friend, we need to have the fear of God, that when He says something, that's the way it's going to be. Amen! Some people might think He is fooling around, but **He is not fooling around.** Praise God!

Let's look at **Rev. 3:11**. I'll show you what would have happened to Noah if he hadn't feared God, and been moved with that fear.

***Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.***

Do you think God wouldn't have gotten that ark built without Noah? He would have found somebody. But Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord (**Gen 6:8**). You and I have found grace in the sight of the Lord, haven't we? God has given us faith, but why are we not doing anything with faith? Why is faith not being made manifest? Faith has works, and faith without works is dead. A man can say he has faith, but let me see your faith with out your works, and I will show you my faith by my works (**James 2:17-18**).

Noah could have set around and said, "Hey, I've heard from God. God is going to destroy the world with a flood, but that's it." No, no, no. He had something else going. He FEARED GOD. He knew that when God said He was going to do it, He was going to do it. How many of us in our lives know that God wants us to do something, know that God wants to really move in our lives, and we have faith that God has told us, but we don't FEAR Him. We don't really believe that He will do what He said He will do, and therefore when He tells us to do something, we don't do it. Somebody else gets up and does it, and takes our crown, and moves on into the place that we could have had. You can talk about faith teaching; we need some FEAR teaching. "No! I don't want to hear about that kind of stuff." Well, I'm going to tell you what will make faith work, is when a man fears the one that gave him faith. When one of these days you've got to present that faith back to Jesus, and that faith hasn't accomplished one thing, God is not going to be pleased.

Now look at it with me, please. It's here in the word. If it's in the word you ought to believe it. **Hebrews 11:7 "By faith, Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."** What happened? God spoke to him. God was tired of sin. God was tired of foolishness. God was tired of men that would not serve him, so what does He do? He sees Noah, and He said, "I am going to visit with Noah. I am going to speak to Noah, and I am going to give him the plan." So He spoke to Noah, and Noah didn't just kick back and say, "Well, I think I'll get started in about six years." No! He began to do what God told him to do, be cause he knew. He had the righteous fear of God, he had the awesome fear of the Lord that God would do exactly what He said He would do.

If you don't think that you will lose your crown, then you don't believe the word. If you don't think that somebody else can take your place, then you don't believe the word. Make your calling and your election sure (**2 Peter 1:10**). With fear and trembling, work out your own salvation (**Phil. 2:12**). That is how he worked out his salvation to keep from dying in that flood. It was with fear and trembling that he built the ark. He couldn't just sit there and say, "Well, God told me. I believe God spoke to me." No! He was moved with fear, and he began to put his faith to work, and he built the ark. When he did, he condemned the world.

When the church begins to walk in it's rightful place, the darkness will be condemned by the light, and you won't have a thing to do with it. Amen! We say, "Oh,

Lord, we are overcomers. We are more than conquerors. We always triumph in Christ." We believe that but we never live that, so what we are taught to do, is mouth it. MOUTH IT, and if you MOUTH it enough, it will work. No! He could have mouthed all day long that there was going to be a flood. He had to pick up a nail and a hammer, if they had such things then, and he had to start building something. The Kingdom of God is to be literally built in our lives. We are to lay hold of the promises God gave us (**2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Peter 1:4**). Through these promises, by fear, we are to perfect holiness in the sight of God.

When he built the ark, he saved his family, didn't he. Do you know why more children are not in church today? Because they don't see any fear of God in their Moms and Dads and other people's lives. What do they hear? They hear, "All we have to do now is go to church," and then they come home, and they murmur and complain, gripe, and grumble. Do you know why they murmur, complain, gripe and grumble? It's because they are not moved by fear. If they feared God, they would not murmur or complain, because they would realize that God cut Israel off because they would not come before him with joy (**Deut 28:47-48**). Murmuring and complaining was found in their hearts, wasn't it, and God cut them off.

"Well, you know, we're under grace." Let me tell you something, grace demands a lot more. Grace demands your whole being, 100%, spirit, soul, and body, that when God talks to you, my friend, you are going to be a lot more accountable than they ever were, because you and I have the Holy Ghost given to us. So when God says "I want you to do something," don't stand there and look at it. DO IT! "Well, God hasn't ever told me to do anything." Oh, I'm sure He has, because He said, "Praise Him in all things. Give thanks unto God in all things" (**1 Thess 5:16-18**).

We turn around and say, "I wonder why this happened to me? I give my tithes. I go to church all week, every week." Yes, but the fear of God is not there, because if the fear of God was there, you would no longer murmur, or complain, but you would shout the victory. Though you were pressed beyond measure, you would learn to be content in whatsoever state you found yourself (**Phil 4:11**).

We're looking to build a physical building, and God is wanting you to build the Kingdom of God in your life. The Lord has spoken to the church just as surely as He spoke that day to that man back then to build that ark. Just as surely as He spoke to Noah, and warned him and told him, "Noah, I am going to destroy the world. I want you to build an ark." Just as surely as He has said to the church, "Prepare yourself. Make ready for the return of the Lord. Be ready for our return in an hour that you think not. Watch and pray" (**Mark 13:32,33**).

Since this got into my heart, I'm afraid to murmur because it doesn't look good on God. I'm afraid to complain because it doesn't look good on God. You see, when people see me complaining, they think I've got a God that is not able. When they see me doubting, they think that I have a God that is not able. Why would they want to join the kind of God that most Christians represent? , and I have read this and I have heard

it by other preachers, that Mohammed said, "I would have been a Christian had I never seen one." Can you imagine the force that man would have been, if he had seen a believer that was living in holiness through the fear of God.

You see, because we would not perfect holiness in the fear of God, we had to begin to make people look like a certain thing. We had to put topknots on the women, and we had to put long dresses on the women, and we had to make men wear dark, ugly suits, and dark ugly ties, so they could be holy. I have news for you. The word of God is full of color. The word of God is full of fashion. The word of God is full of the goodness and the mercy of the Lord, but we are going to have to come back to the FEAR of the Lord in order to perfect that holiness.

Mohammed would have become a Christian had he never seen one. That is kinda like the accusation that Paul laid to the church at Corinth, wasn't it. He said, "Many around you have never heard about Jesus. Never heard about God. This is to your shame" (**1 Cor. 15:33,34**). Amen! Think about it when you go into a market and you have to wait in line, and you just want to yell, and scream, holler, or gripe, or complain. People are looking at you and watching you, and here you blow your cool. You just blow it all to pieces, and then you say, "Jesus is good." How do they know Jesus is good? You aren't. How do they know Jesus will save? You don't act like you are. How do they know Jesus is holy? You don't act like you are holy. Don't tell people what God is if they can't see it in your life; if they can't see the representation of the fear of God in your life, perfecting holiness, and you are moving by fear.

The Lord's return is at hand. He's not coming for those who just believe He is coming back. He is coming for those that love and watch for His appearing. He is coming for those that have made themselves ready, moved by fear (**Rev 19:7; Heb 9:28**). I know Jesus is coming. I know the Lord is returning. My friend, if you think I am going to sit in a church in a lukewarm state, and say, "I believe. I believe. I believe;" well, the devils believe and they tremble (**James 2:19**). Amen? They know He is coming back, but there isn't a thing they can do about it. The church sits around and says, "I believe. I believe." Show me you are believing by what you are doing. Show me how you are doing the works of God because you fear the Lord.

Noah didn't have to stand up there and say, "I believe God is coming." He said he would begin to show his faith. He began to show forth his fear of God. Amen! I don't know how many people were saved before the flood came. There could have been some that believed what he said, and died and went on. The record doesn't say anything about it. But what the record shows me is that unless we move by fear, we are not going to build anything. As long as we are moved by what we see, what we feel, what we hear, as long as we say we've got faith, as long as we say we believe, that is not going to do anything. It's when we get out and begin to do the works of God because we want to glorify the Lord (**James 2:17**).

The sick are going to be healed, not by you standing around and saying "I believe it," but you're going to have to pray for them. There's no need to go to a sick

man, and say, "My God can heal you. I believe my God can heal you." Why don't you go in and say, "God is going to heal you today. I want to glorify Jesus. I want to glorify the Lord, so I want you to be healed in the name of Jesus." You are going to have to pray and lay hands on them, and they are going to be healed.

Peter and John walked up to the gate Beautiful and there was a man laying there. He had been lame from his mother's womb, for over forty years. Others carried him daily to the gate and laid him there, and he had begged and cried out (**Acts 3:1-11; 4:22**). That's all religion will ever do, is carry you to the door of the church. It will never bring you in. It will carry you, but it will never make you whole. Peter and John came by and they were moved by fear. They did not want to walk by a man, and leave him in that state. Religion had done that all of his life. They believed. They had faith, and they said, "Silver and gold have I none, but we've got something better than that for you. In the name of Jesus, be made whole" (**Acts 3:6**). Peter lifted him up and **IMMEDIATELY** his feet and ankle bones received strength, and he went leaping and dancing and praising God. They didn't just walk by and say "Well, someday we believe the Lord is going to heal you."

The church has to get back to that place where it is "NOW" people. "NOW" faith, where it is a faith that operates through the fear of God because we want to glorify God. It's not going to happen until we fear the Lord. It's not going to happen until we are moved with fear. If we really believed Jesus was coming back as quickly as we feel like, or we think, or we hope He's coming back, don't you believe we would be witnessing to somebody somewhere once in awhile. Don't you believe we would be living a godly life that was separated, and people wouldn't have to say, by looking at a button on us, that we are Christians. They could look and know. They could look and know by the life that we live; a holy life perfected in Christ. Amen!

Somebody said, "You scare me." I don't want to scare you. I want you to get out of just saying, "I believe." I want you to get out of just quoting scripture. I want you to begin to live scripture. I want you to begin to live the word. I want you to begin to move in the word of God, being moved by fear, and knowing that the Lord's return is eminent. Amen?

God has a remnant throughout the world, who are waking up and saying, "Lord, I have been in this state for years, and I've confessed and I've done every thing, and yet nothing is happening in my life." And God said, "It won't until you are moved by fear. Until you begin to want to glorify me, it will never happen."

***Acts 9:31: "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.***

How about this? "...walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." You cannot walk in the Holy Ghost until you learn how to walk in the fear of the Lord. You can live in the Holy Ghost. You can live in the Spirit. But

God's desire is not only for you to live in the spirit, but to **WALK** in the spirit (**Gal. 5:16**), then you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. Why? Because the fear of God is there, and you know that when you fulfil the lusts of your flesh, it doesn't glorify God, and it doesn't make it look good on Him.

You need to quit thinking about what the life you are living is going to look like on you, and begin to consider what it is going to look like on Him. "Well, Brother Krider, I don't smoke, and I don't drink, and I don't curse, and I don't chew, and I don't run around, and all that kind of stuff." There are a lot of people that don't do that and they are not even saved. They don't even profess to be Christians. They just don't do those things. What God wants is those who aren't worried about all that stuff, but who are worried about the words they speak. They consider the words out of their mouth as bringing a reproach or glory to God, bringing life or death (**Prov. 18:21**), bringing honor to the Lord, or bringing defilement. He said, "It is not what goeth into a man that defileth him, but what cometh out" (**Matt. 15:11**).

People are standing around and listening to Christians talking, and the Christians are talking about everything in the world, and talking just like the world. They are living like the world, doing everything the world is doing, and then all of a sudden they expect and hope that the Lord is going to snatch them out. No! He isn't going to. Noah found grace was not enough. Noah had faith and it wasn't enough. He had to be moved with fear.

If you get hold of this with me, you will want to glorify the Lord in everything you do, every business transaction, everything you conduct in your lifetime. If a man says, "I want \$110.00 for this," give him \$110.00. Don't say, "Now wait a minute." God is just as able to give you \$110.00 as he is \$109.00. Did you know that wherever the Israelite nation went, when they bought something, they paid the full price for it unless they found favour in such a way that it was given to them.

David was told to set up an altar unto the Lord in the threshingfloor of Ornan, a place to make a sacrifice to God, to show the Lord his love for Him (**1 Chron. Chap 21**). Ornan had his oxen and he was trampling out some corn, and David came to him, and he said, "I want your threshing floor. I want your oxen, so I can make a sacrifice to God." David was moved with fear. He knew that God was going to slay Israel. He knew that unless he humbled himself, unless he repented, unless he offered a sacrifice to the Lord, Israel was going to be destroyed and David loved Israel. Ornan said, "OK. Take whatever you want. Just take it. I want to GIVE it to you." And David said, "No, I will not offer unto the Lord that which has cost me nothing" (**Vs. 23,24**). We want to give God an offering that doesn't cost us anything. We want to be a living sacrifice without any cost to us. We want to be acceptable in the sight of the Lord, without anything in our life having to be changed. The new creature man doesn't care about the things in this world, but he desires to please the Lord.

"They walked in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." It was not because they were in the Holy Ghost, but because they were

walking in the fear of the Lord; then the Holy Ghost gave them comfort, and then they were multiplied. Do you want your church to be multiplied? Begin to walk in the fear of the Lord. Do you want your life to be multiplied and be full of the comfort of the Holy Ghost? Walk in the fear of the Lord.

"Well, Brother Krider, I don't want my kids to be taught that kind of stuff, cause God is a God of love." Absolutely! And a portion of the love of God is the fear of God, the awesome reverence of God, that He means what He says. What would you do to your kid if he said, "OK, Dad, I am going to cross the street right here." And you say, "No. You go down to the stop light, and you wait until the right light comes on, and then you look both ways, and then you walk across the street." Isn't that what you would do, or you would walk him across the street. Right? I don't believe there is any parent who wouldn't do that; be that concerned about their child.

But if you saw the little rascal run out between cars and almost get hit, do you know what you would do when you got him home if you loved him. You would bust him good. Do you know what he would begin to do? He would begin to fear you, but it wouldn't be a physical fear. It would be a reverent fear, knowing that "Dad is going to bust me if I don't go over there, and go through the right way. Not because he hates me; I know my Daddy loves me. It doesn't make sense to me right now; it hurts too much to make sense, but I know one thing: he loves me enough to correct me and chastise me if I don't do it the way that is safe for me." Now that's the fear of God. That is His love for you. He wants you to reverence Him.

When He says "This is the way it is," why do we question it? We've found a better way? No, it's this way because it is a safe way. It's this way because it prolongs your life. It's this way so you can be comforted. It's this way so you can be multiplied. It's this way so you can know that He loves you. How would you like to have a God who says "Make it on your own. Find the best way that you can, but it isn't going to be good enough." He loves you enough to instill the fear of God in your heart, if you will let him. Don't rebel when He chastens you. Don't get mad at Him. It's just like us with our children: we're going to bust their little bottoms, because they didn't take the safe way, and we love them and don't want anything to happen to them.

That's why God told Israel, "Stay away from the Amalekites. Stay away from the Hittites. Stay away from the Philistines. You won't win them over. They will defile you." That's why when people get married they ought to be either two Christians, or two sinners. Very seldom does it happen that the Christian mate wins the other to Christ. If you've done it, then it is a blessing from God, but I've had my office filled with women and men that have cried, and cried over my desk, and said, "I was a Christian when I married that person, and they told me that if I would marry them, they would serve the Lord." My friend, let them serve the Lord first. Amen? If they love you that much, let them serve God. Let them be a true and proven Christian.

God is not in a hurry. Why do you think that God does the things that He does in your life? He loves you, and He wants you to reverence Him with the awesome fear of

God, so He can comfort you and multiply you. Isn't that what He told Abraham? He said, "With blessing I will bless you, and I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sands of the seashore. That is how I am going to multiply you, Abraham" (**Gen. 22:17**). Why? Because Abraham feared God. If you want to be used of God, you are going to have to fear Him.

Don't go around telling God how much you love Him, and breaking His word. No! He said, "If you love Me, you will keep My words." We talk about keeping His commandments. Did you know that the word of God declares that if we love Him, we will keep His words (**John 14:23**). How much does He love us? Would any of you allow your only begotten Son to die on a cross for others? I can't begin to comprehend that love. All I know is that He is always there; He never leaves me nor forsakes me (**Heb. 13:5**). I don't think we can even begin to understand the total depth of that love of God. We can walk and comprehend the width and the depth and the breadth and the height, but we can't understand it all (**Eph. 3:17-19**). He said, "The peace of God that passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (**Phil. 4:7**). Amen?

Let's look at **Malachi 3:16**.

***Mal 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.***

That is how you know that people fear God. They are not just out in the world, not just conversationalists, not out joining themselves to the world, but they are talking to one another. They have a fellowship, don't they. They have a communication between one another. **"...and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name."** I want to be written down in that book of remembrance. I want Him to put a check mark behind my name at least 150 times a day. I want Him to write it down, because when He remembers, He remembers. When He forgets, He forgets.

Let me tell you something about that book of remembrance: whenever you are in need, and you've remembered the Lord, He will remember you. Whenever you really fear the Lord, you are going to begin to talk to one another; fellowship with one another. You are going to begin to think on His name. You are going to begin to love His name. You are going to begin to praise Him, and God is going to write it down where it will count. So read that scripture again. **"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. (Vs. 17) And they shall be mine..."** **THOSE THAT FEARED THE LORD.**

***Mal 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels (or precious stones); and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.***

***Mal 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.***

Are you going to serve God if you don't fear Him? Not much. Are you really going to talk much about the Lord if you don't fear Him? Not much. But they that feared the Lord, they spake often to one another, and the Lord hearkened, and there was a book of remembrance written for them. Amen! For them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. I want to be remembered. It is important to me to be remembered. It is important that when I am in trouble, there is someone who remembers me because I have thought upon Him. I have remembered Him.

You see, it is like giving, also found in **Malachi 3:10**. You are the one that causes God to open the windows of heaven, through the giving of your life, through the giving of your substance, through the giving of all that you have. You will only do this when you fear God. When you believe that God will bless you only according to His word, then you are going to fear, or reverence God and believe Him, and then you are going to do it. You can say, "I believe," all day, and never do anything about it, but when you are moved with fear, when you are moved with the fear of God, something wonderful is going to happen in your life.

Do you want to be remembered by the Lord when you have a problem? YOU have to cause it to be done. Do you want the windows of heaven opened for you? YOU have to cause it to be done. Would you like to see the saving of your family? YOU have to be the one that does it. Noah and his family would have died in the flood if he had not built the ark.

The Lord's return is at hand. I believe that, but it is not enough for me to sit around and say, "I believe that." I have to be moved with fear. I have to be warning others. I have to be telling my family. I have to be sharing with them. I have to be living a godly life, that they will believe that I believe what I am saying. Amen? A man could be in a hotel that is on fire, and the man can see the fire, and he says, "Yeah, I believe it. It is really on fire. I've got to get out of here pretty soon. I REALLY believe it is on fire." The fire is getting closer and closer and closer, and all of a sudden the only door out is engulfed with flames. He believed it was on fire, but he was lost in the fire because he never moved out of the fire. When you see that a thing doesn't glorify God in your life, you need to move out of it because you fear the Lord; because you don't want to be a reproach on the Lord. Amen?

You have a lot to lose in this thing, friends. You've got a crown to lose, you've got the windows of heaven to stay closed, you've got a book of remembrance never to have your name written in. It's only going to happen when you fear the Lord, and when

you fear the Lord, you are going to serve the Lord. When you fear the Lord, you're going to be obedient. When you fear the Lord, you are going to separate yourself from sin, and from ungodliness, and from darkness.

You are going to perfect holiness in the sight of the Lord. Is that too hard? I think it is pretty simple, don't you. I mean, it just says what it says, and means what it means.

The church has lived in a lackadaisical state, and when it got too lazy, they just decided they would confess it, and that would be good enough. Just say it, and you've got it. No! You don't just say it, and you've got it. You've got to get up and get it. God is not your servant nor my servant, just to bring it to us. God didn't build the ark. Noah built the ark. God didn't build the temple. Solomon built the temple. God did not appear in the fiery furnace until those three men believed and walked into it. They feared God more than they feared a physical king. They FEARED God because they knew that God could destroy both their body and their soul in hell.

The best that king could ever do was give them a quick exit to the presence of the Lord. They could have stood around out there, and said, "Yeah, I think it is pretty hot, king. You're right. That thing is pretty hot. I had better be reasonable and sensible about this. I mean, I-I- had better, I'd better bow down, and worship you today so I can live to serve God tomorrow." Isn't that what we do? "I had better not offend this person, or they're not going to give anymore. They are not going to like me anymore, but I'll just compromise today, so that tomorrow I can win them." No, no, no! They will always remember your compromise, never your faith.

See, we want God to give it to us. God said, "I've already given it to you, but you have to get up and get it now. You've got to get up out of your bed of do-nothing, and lackadaisical confession of faith. Don't you realize that faith without works is dead? (**James 2:20**)." When we really believe that Jesus is coming at any moment, we are going to start fearing God. When we start fearing God, we are going to see our life prolonged. We are going to hate evil. We are going to have a strong confidence. We are going to have a fountain of life. We are going to see His mercy. We are going to begin to perfect holiness. We are going to be moved with fear, and we are going to be comforted and multiplied. Our church wouldn't be big enough in a month to hold all the people in it, if we were fearful. I'm not talking about the fear of men. I'm not talking about the spirit of fear. I'm talking about fearing God. Amen!

Men ought to be men, and quit being panty-waisted knuckle-nothings. Maybe your wife says, "Where are you going tonight?" "I'm going to church." "Oh, come on, you've been down there three nights this week already. If you go down there, I'm going to leave you." "OK. Bye honey." Do you say that, or do you say "OK, baby, I'll stay home with you tonight, if you'll go to church with me tomorrow." Tomorrow comes, and "Oh, I don't feel like going to church." "No, I don't either. I think we'll just stay home tonight." I mean, men ought to stand up and say, "Listen honey, we're going down to the house of God because I love you, and because I love God, and I fear God. We are going to raise up our children in the way of the Lord. We are going to the house of God." Amen!

If you start compromising, friend, it's like a rip in the inseam of pants: it can be just 1/4 inch long, but if you don't take care of that pretty soon, the whole bottom is gone. Any seamstress knows that. That's the way it is with us when we compromise just a little bit. Pretty soon it is easier to compromise and the first thing you know, the whole thing has unraveled and come apart on us. Don't compromise. Fear God. How would you like the Lord to come in the middle of your compromise? That scares me to think about it. That cost me when that happened to me. My family always had family reunions, and I would even take off on a Sunday. Instead of going to church, I would take off and go to a heathen reunion. "My family is not heathen!" If they are not saved, they are. I don't care what their name is, I don't care what relation they are in the flesh, they are heathen. "I'm not coming back anymore. Call my family heathen." No, I didn't call them that. That is what the Lord says.

I'd go down there, and every year I'd keep talking about Jesus, but I kept noticing that pretty soon we didn't have any fellowship at all. I was way over there and they were way over here. Had plenty of room. I woke up one day, and God said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "Well, it's a family reunion." He said, "This isn't your family. Your family is over there, praising Me." From that moment on, God changed my life. My relatives don't call me much anymore, but that is no problem. I've got a family. Wherever I go in the world, I've got a family; and we fear the Lord and we can talk about the same Father. We never exhaust Him. We never exhaust the goodness of God. We never exhaust the things of the Lord.

Here is what He is trying to tell us: "You've got to separate yourself. You've got to begin to perfect holiness in the sight of the Lord. You've got to be moved with fear, and you have to realize that when this happens, I am going to comfort you with the presence of the Holy Ghost, and I am going to multiply you. I am going to bless you. I am going to strengthen you."

Let's be honest! If God gave most of us a million dollars today, we would go out and buy a brand new car or something. Now, God is going to do it. He is going to turn the wealth of the heathen and the unrighteous over to the church (**Prov. 13:22**), but they are going to look at it, and say, "Well, Lord, there it is. What do you want me to do with it? It isn't mine; it is yours." Quick as you give it away, it will be pouring back through you, multiplied to you. Amen!

# THE FEAR OF GOD

## CHAPTER 3

The fear of God is a beautiful subject, isn't it. Do you know that eight times in Genesis, the Lord said, "Fear not." The same God that spoke that, spoke it also to us. The same God that said, "Fear not" to Moses and Abraham, and to all of these men of God, said it through another man named Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. But He has a fear that He wants us to understand, called **the fear of God, the fear of the Lord.**

You might say, "Man, I'm scared to death." No, no. **You have the fear of God UNTO LIFE.** When people say they are scared to death, say, "I have the fear of God unto life, because He promised me that I would have a fountain of life; that I would have a prolonged life, and that life upon the earth would be strong."

I want to show you that if you only have a dime to give, or only a nickel, or only one loaf of bread; or if you are like the little widow that came to give an offering with the others that had multitudes and she gave her two mites (**Mark 12:41-44**), or the little boy with the two fish and the five loaves, they found out that through the fear of the Lord, it was enough (**John 6:5-13**).

Let's look at **Proverbs 15:16**. This is exciting.

***Prov 15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.***

It doesn't mean that you can't have great wealth, but if you can't handle great wealth, it is better to have a little bit, in the fear of the Lord, because in the fear of the Lord, He will teach you how to invest it wisely. I know many people that have what I call **great wealth**, but they are in trouble continually.

An insurance executive called me a few years ago, and he was in continual trouble. He had much wealth, but he was always troubled with it. He was a Christian, but he began to be lackadaisical and no longer press into the things of God, but began to follow the stream of money. It led him away from home, and he began to commit adultery. He began to get into all kinds of trouble, and his wife found out about it. She came to my office, and I said, "You have the grounds to divorce him, you have the legal right to do something, but do you have the heart of the Lord to keep him?" She was a Christian, and God gave her grace in her heart.

So I went down to his office, into this big plush office. I mean it was beautiful, and his secretary spoke on the intercom, and said, "Pastor Krider is here to see you." He said, "Send him right in." He met me at the door with tears in his eyes, and he said, "I am in trouble. All the wealth that I have cannot buy me peace. I am losing the only thing of value. I am losing my family. I have been troubled day and night." So I got him down on his knees in front of the couch, and began to pray, and the peace of God came. I said to him, "Brother, look at it. Today you have learned something that is a lesson beyond the value of men. You have learned that wealth without God is trouble."

He said, "I'd give everything I've got, Brother Krider, I would give it all today if I could have the peace that I used to have with my wife." Then I told him, "Your wife has come to see me. She has the right to get rid of you, but she has the heart to keep you." Today they have three children. They are happy. You see, he learned something out of that. It would probably have been better for him to have never had any wealth, and yet had the fear of the Lord to love his wife, to cherish her.

This has worked the other way in reverse many times, but what I am simply saying to you is don't pray to be wealthy. Don't pray to have great wealth. You think that you would use it wisely. You think that maybe you'll use it to glorify the Lord, but if you can't glorify the Lord with a little, you'll never glorify the Lord with much. When you learn how to live contentedly with whatever you have, knowing that the fear of the Lord is in your heart, then God will be able to trust you with more.

Somebody asked me one time, "Don't you ever pray to get rich?" I said, "No." They said, "Well, look at how much more you could do if you had a lot of money." I said, "Listen, my Father has all the money. When He knows He can trust me with it, He'll give it to me." I would rather never have anything, but I'd rather be this way: **"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than much riches with trouble."** This is why David said, "Don't envy those that are wealthy" (**Ps. 49:6-10**).

***1 Tim. 6: 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.***

***1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.***

That is why I don't care to know what a person's position in life is. I love them regardless of whether they are poor or whether they are rich, and so does God. What God wants us to realize is it's the fear of the Lord that makes us be good stewards. It's the fear of the Lord that causes us to take whether it's little or much and invest it wisely, so that the Kingdom of God can be preached.

God isn't impressed on whether you are a millionaire, or whether you have twenty dollars in your pocket. God could make you wealthy overnight, but could He trust you with it? Just think about it for a minute. Think how many more friends you would have if you had a million dollars, but think of the trouble you would have with them because you would know when they came to your house, it wasn't because of you. They were coming for your bucks. Now when a man comes to visit my house, he has to be coming to see me, because when I get it, I don't keep it. I invest it in the Kingdom of God.

That's why Paul said, "**I don't want to know anything among you, except Christ and him crucified**" (I Cor. 2:2). That is all I want to know. I don't want to know if you are rich or poor. I don't want to know anything about you. I just want to know Christ, that's all, because if I know Him, I'm not going to be influenced by anything you have or don't have. I'm going to love you as the Lord loves you.

So it is better then, isn't it, to have a little with the fear of the Lord, than to have great wealth with trouble. I don't stay up at nights worrying if I am going to lose it. I haven't any to lose. I receive many phone calls, and the people that I talk to that seemingly should have it made, have all the trouble in the world; and the person that doesn't seem to have it made, has all the peace in the world. So don't pray to be wealthy. Don't pray to have a lot, because you are going to be a lot more responsible for much than you would be for little.

What we are looking for then is that whatever we have, it is better with the fear of the Lord than without it, because we all have to give an account someday. The books will be opened, and the record is there of what we have done with what we had. If we have ten talents, we have to give a record for ten talents. If we have five talents, we have to give a record for five talents. If we only have one talent, all we have to do is give a record for one talent (**Matt. 25:14-30**). So if I don't have a lot of money in this world, I don't have a lot to take care of, praise God. I can just go on my way and keep trusting the Lord to supply my needs, because the Lord said, "I am going to teach you how to begin to live now and enjoy it. Don't pray to be rich."

**Prov. 15:33** is a tremendous scripture:

***Prov 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.***

Wisdom instructs us to fear the Lord, doesn't it. The first thing that a man that really has wisdom is instructed to do by wisdom is to fear the Lord, to take whatever you have, whether great or small, and give it to the Lord, so He can discreetly tell you how to invest it.

I like the stories of Kraft, J.C. Penny, Mr. Le Tourneau, and men like that. I happen to know Mr. Le Tourneau's niece. I was on her radio broadcasting station, and we used to sit around and talk, and she told me about her uncle. I don't think he would

mind my sharing this because he is in heaven reaping the rewards now. He went bankrupt twice trying to make it. He turned to alcohol and lost everything, and one day just before the second World War, he somehow was shown of God how to make a piece of earth-moving equipment. In the meantime he had given his life to Jesus Christ and God gave him the money to put this machine together, and he built this huge machine. Everything he had he invested in that piece of equipment.

He was completely bankrupt again as far as money went, but he had this one piece of equipment. Mr. Kaiser came along and he said, "I want to buy this from you. This thing has great potential." Mr. Kaiser couldn't build it. He couldn't duplicate it, because God had told Mr. Le Tourneau to get it patented, so he had the rights on it.

He said, "I will pray about it." Thank God! He had failed twice in his own strength, so now the fear of the Lord was on him. Instead of saying, "Yeah, man, I'm going to make money now," he said, "I had trouble with money before. This time it is better to have one piece of equipment with the fear of the Lord than anything else. I am going to pray about this." So he began to pray, and the Lord said, "Do not sell it to him, but lease it to him." Since Kaiser could not build more of them, Kaiser used this one, and he said, "Build me 200 more that I can get from you," and he gave him the money to build the 200.

Mr. Le Tourneau was a multi-millionaire when he died, but he gave 90% of all that he had to the Lord from that day on. It is recorded that he could not, he COULD NOT spend the 10% that he had. With the 10% he sent men to Bible college. At his own expense on his own 10% in his own personal airplane, he flew men and women around the world to preach the gospel. You see, he experienced what a lot of money with trouble was like, and he became wise. He found that he had only one possession. A little with the fear of God was much better, you see. So I am saying to you that we need to realize that the first thing that wisdom instructs us to do, is to fear the Lord. Begin to use wisdom. Begin to understand that every transaction we make, we are accountable for it.

**Isaiah 8:13** tells us something that will change your life. It will change your attitude, your altitude, and everything.

***Isaiah 8:13 Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.***

In other words, the Lord is simply saying here, "Don't fear men. Let all of your fear be to the Lord." The fear of the Lord! Let Him be the one. Don't fear men. Don't fear what people can do to you. Don't be afraid of seemingly the power that they possess.

***Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear HIM which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***

That is God, isn't it. We are not to fear men, but we are to fear the Lord, because if we fear the Lord, things will begin to happen in our life. So all that we should fear is the Lord. We let a lot of things come into our lives and cause distress in our heart, cause discouragement, cause a lot of things in our being, but if we would learn to fear the Lord, my friend, we would be afraid of nothing else. We would be like Daniel; we could care less about the lions. We would be like the three Hebrew children; we wouldn't fear the kings of the earth anymore. We would be like Moses; we wouldn't fear Pharaoh anymore.

Once you walk in the fear of the Lord, all of the other fear leaves. Why? Because you are walking in a perfected holiness, and when you walk in holiness that is perfected or mature in your life, you don't have to be afraid of anything that is unholy. You see, God promised you that if you would walk in the fear of the Lord, He would prolong your life; that He would cause you to hate evil; that He would give you a strong confidence; that He would give you a fountain of life. The fear of the Lord is mighty. It is an absolute factor in the life of every Christian that wants to please God. We must fear the Lord, not the natural normal fear that men have, but an awesome reverence of God. If God says, "Do it!" we do it. We get like Noah; we are moved with fear.

Let's look now at **Genesis 42:18**. Joseph had a little problem going on here, but nevertheless he feared the Lord. He is talking to his brothers who didn't know him. He gave them a commandment, but look at the reason that he gave them.

***Gen 42:18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, this do, and live; for I FEAR GOD.***

No man or woman has ever been used of God that did not fear Him. Joseph said, "I FEAR GOD. That is why I am telling you to do this." Why do we command people? Why do we want people to do things? The reason I am sharing this with you, is because I fear God. I'm not out preaching and teaching because I want to build something for myself, but I want the fear of God to be instilled in our hearts. When we learn to fear God, we are going to find out that we are going to live. You can say, "I love God." You can say, "I believe." You can say all manner of things, but until the fear of God comes into your heart, you are never really going to do anything for God. You are not going to warn other people to flee the wrath to come until you fear God.

Paul feared God, and he told the church, "Flee the wrath that is to come. Get away from it. Forsake this evil generation. Get away from it" (**I Thess. 5:1-10; Eph. 5:5-7**). Why? Because he feared the Lord, didn't he. He feared God. He knew that God said, "I am returning, and every man that is lost is lost eternally; therefore go out and warn them."

The Lord says to us, "Go preach the Kingdom of God. Go into all the world, and preach it." (**Matt. 10:7; Luke 9:2,60; Matt.24:14**). And what do we do? We sit down and wait until next Sunday comes. We sit down and watch our favorite TV program.

We sit down and read our favorite newspaper. And we just sit down and do nothing. We don't really fear God. If we feared God, then we would know that if God said it, He's going to do it.

Joseph knew that he was going to have to put the fear of God in their hearts; that they were going to die in their own might if they did not do what he told them. Now I am not going to listen to a man or woman who doesn't fear God, because it becomes a joke to them. They begin to make funny little comments from the pulpit about salvation, about the things of God. But a man that fears God brings the word of the Lord like it is, whether you like it or not, whether I like it or not.

I had a pastor that used to preach me under the chair every Sunday. I mean, that man would preach the love of God into me, because he had the fear of God in his heart, and he knew that if he let me do what I wanted to, I wouldn't serve God, and neither would you. We have to begin to let the Lord develop a desire in our heart to serve Him, and the fear of God does that.

I want to show you how important it is in your life today if you ever expect to really be used of God. In **Exodus 18:21-22** he begins to talk to them about being able to judge and to rule.

***Exo 18:21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:***

***Exo 18:22(Vs. 22) And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.***

Out of all the people, out of all the church, when they chose the deacons they did not choose lukewarm, lackadaisical people. They chose seven men of good report, full of wisdom and the Holy Ghost; men that feared God. And the church was born in power and in authority, and they had men to look up to. They had men that feared God.

We talk about how we are kings and priests (**1 Peter 2:9; Rev 5:10**) but I don't see too many kings and priests in the body of Christ doing much. They are having a hard time ruling their own lives, let alone ruling anybody else. Very few churches have real elders and deacons in the body. Most of them are just going in all directions, and the only thing that is holding them together is a piece of paper on a program. We need some strong leadership. We need men and women that have given themselves over to the Lord, and said, "Lord, here am I. Send me, Lord (**Isa 6:8**). But first of all Lord, teach me to fear you. Teach me to believe that when you say something, I will BELIEVE it to be true, and will act upon it."

I hope the account of Noah gets **INTO** your heart today. You can say you believe, but friends, that doesn't mean you fear God. When you begin to do the works of God, when you begin to really believe on Him that the Father has sent, and begin to be used of the Lord like these men were, then you are going to know that the fear of God is in your heart. Any person that God is raising up to minister, the **FIRST** thing that I would admonish him to have, is the fear of God. When God says, "Listen! You cannot allow lying, cheating, hating, and whoremongering in the body," you will stand against it and say, "God said He will kill you if you don't repent."

If I am going to follow a preacher, I want somebody that will stand up to me and say, "If you lie, God is going to kill you if you don't straighten up. If you have covetousness in your heart, God is going to destroy you if you don't straighten up." How do you know? Because God's word declares it. He destroyed Israel because of it. They did not fear God. They came before Him with murmuring and complaining, and He killed them all. He just absolutely let them die in the wilderness. (**Numbers 14:27-37**). Amen?

"Well yes, Brother Krider, but I'm under grace." Grace demands a whole lot more than those that were not under it. Grace doesn't mean that you can do anything you want to and get away with it. You that have the Holy Ghost, you that are born of God, really born of God, are much more accountable than Israel ever was. They did not have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in them. He spoke to them in times past in divers manners.

***Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,***

***Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...***

Look what **Heb. 12:25** says:

***Heb 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escape not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven.***

It is a fearful thing to walk in God's sight. You don't just say, "Hallelujah! I'm doing my own thing, and God is okaying it." NO, NO! You had better begin to read all the scriptures. You had better read Phil 2:12.

***Phil 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.***

You had better begin to walk in the fear and trembling of God when you receive the word of the Lord, and the fear and trembling when you present the word of God. I

love to teach, but I'll tell you something: I fear that I would give an injection of myself, rather than totally the Holy Spirit of God.

Do you want to be a judge for God? Do you want to be a king and a priest? Then you are going to have to qualify, and it tells me right here that the only way to qualify, is for people to fear God. That was the first thing they had to have: **they had to fear God**. Then he went on to tell them that they would be a people that would have truth in their hearts, and they would not be covetous. These men, and ONLY THESE MEN, would you take and make judges over Israel.

The priests that were supposed to administrate the very presence of God to Israel, soon defiled themselves and began to offer sacrifices that were not acceptable in God's sight (**Num. 3:4; 2 Kings chap.23; 2 Chron 36:14-17; Ezra 2:61-62; Neh 7:63-64**). They polluted the sanctuary. In the last book of the Old Testament God said:

***Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.***

***Mal 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.***

God said, "I've had enough. You have robbed Me. You have cheated Me. You have lied to Me. You have given Me false sacrifices. I want no more from you."

***In Matt. 21:43 Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof"***

It was demanded of the men that would judge Israel, that they would be men that would fear God. How much more you and I should fear the Lord.

***Exo 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.***

***Exo 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die."***

You see, this is what had already happened. Sin had separated them from their God. These were God's people, friends, but they did not fear God. They did not have the reverent fear for God. The only fear they had of God was that He would kill them. That is not the kind of fear that He wants. He wants a reverent, awesome fear, that when He says something, that is the way it is going to be done.

***Exo 20:20 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.***

***Exo 20:21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.***

Here was a man that feared God. He could come into the presence of the Lord, couldn't he, but those that did not fear God, of the same lineage, of the same tribe, had to back off. They could not get near to God. They could not come into His presence. They had a natural fear of God, not the spiritual, reverent fear of God, so they separated from God. But Moses said, "Wait a minute. Let the fear of God be among you, for He has come to prove you."

**The fear of God is what proves you.** When you do things just because you want to do them, and just because it feels right, and because it sounds right, many times you are being motivated by your own flesh. But when the fear of God is there, you are careful how you do things. You are careful what you say. You are careful what you think. You are careful how you live. Why? Because we know that where there is no fear of God, then sin will abound. You won't hate evil. It takes the fear of God to make you hate evil (**Pro 8:13**). Where the fear of God is, you hate evil.

These people didn't hate evil, but they hated God. "Wait a minute, Brother Krider, they were the called people of the Lord. They were delivered out of the bondage of Egypt." Yes, and many Christians today are delivered out of the bondage of sin, but they do not reverence God, and they think, "Well, I'm all right. I'll make it." No, they won't make it, because the fear of God is what separates you and continually makes you hate sin. No wonder the apostle would write and say to abstain from the very appearance of evil (**1 Thess 5:22**), to hate the very context of the stuff. Don't even have it around you. Amen!

"Well, Brother Krider, I hate these people that are making pornography, and I hate these people that have all this ugly stuff going on." How about the ugly stuff going on in us? How about when we hate a brother? How about jealousy and envy and strife? That is worse than all that, because those people are in darkness, and you and I are supposed to be in light. We are the temple of the Holy Ghost. They certainly aren't. They are walking in darkness, doing what dark people do. We are in light, and we are children of the light. We are the light of the world (**Matt. 5:14**). We are supposed to be without spot, without blemish, without wrinkle in the sight of the Lord (**Eph 5:27**). The only way that is going to happen is when we fear Him and present ourselves to Him, and allow Him to cleanse us by the blood of Jesus (**1 John 1:7**), and by the washing of the water of the word (**Eph 5:26**).

No matter how hard this seems to you, it is washing you. You can cover a little thing up with dirt and you can't see it; all you see is the dirt. Right? But when the water comes, the washing of the water of the word, it washes away the dirt and reveals the spot; and then you say, "Oh, my! I've been uncovered." Well, it is better to be uncovered now, and get rid of it now, than to stand as the Laodicean Church stood.

***Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.***

***Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:***

***Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.***

***Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.***

The fear of the Lord showed me a long time ago that without Jesus I am nothing. When I start operating on my own strength, I am absolutely an abomination in that work. That's right. The fear of God causes sin to cease.

During the second World War there was only a small group of people that ruled Germany. They were called Nazis. But thousands of men went to war because they feared what that small group could do to them. They feared that their families could be killed. They feared that they themselves could be destroyed by this group of assassins hired by Hitler. Most people in communist countries today are not communists. They are ruled by a little select group. They are there and they are under bondage, and they do what they do because they fear for their lives. But Jesus set us free from the bondage of death and sin and of hell, and brought us out above that (**Rom 8:15**). He said, "The only thing that you should have any fear of is of Me." Amen!

I don't fear that a man can kill me. I don't fear whether he tries to starve me to death, or what he does to me, or speaks evil of me. It doesn't make any difference. I fear the Lord, because I won't stand before these men of the world on the day of judgment. I will stand before the Lord God Almighty, and He will say to me, "Where is the talent that I gave you?" "But, Lord, I was afraid. I wasn't afraid of you, Lord, but I was afraid, and I went and hid it in the earth. It's still there, Lord. Look at it; bright and shiny just like you gave it to me. I never used it up." God said, "You didn't do anything with it. Wicked servant. Throw him out" (**Matt. 25:24-30**).

We play with God like He is some little toy. We play with God like He is just sitting up there, all smiles and buddy-buddy, chummy chummy, and we are running around in sin thinking it is going to be all right. NO, NO! The fear of God will cause you to **know the Lord**, and cause you to **love Him** and **hate evil**.

I'm tired of people saying, "Jesus is my good old buddy." **JESUS IS THE LORD!** He is your friend, but He will be your judge one day. Do you think that a lackadaisical life and being unjust stewards will all be forgotten when you stand before the throne,

and you smile and say, "Lord, you know how it is. You're my good old buddy, Lord. I was a good old boy." The Lord will say, "Where is what I gave you?" He isn't going to smile. "Well, Lord, it is..." The Lord said, "Take it from him. Give it to the one who has been faithful over much. Take him away. I don't even want to see him."

I don't think we know what it cost God to ransom us. We don't really comprehend the price that Jesus paid on the earth as a man, and the price that He paid in hell by the torment that He went through to set you and me free. **HE IS GOD. SOVEREIGN GOD!** When God says something, we had better hear it and say, "Lord, You said it. That is enough for me. God, You told me to do something, and I am not going to ask You why You want me to do it. I'm not going to try to reason You out. Lord, You said do it, and I'm going to do it." Amen!

I want you to have the reverent fear of God, not the fear of men, not the fear of sickness, not the fear of dying, but the fear of God in your heart. When you start to speak evil about a brother, you'll say, "Whoa! Wait a minute! Hold it! That is worse than prostitution. That is worse than all the filthy garbage that is going on in the world, because I'm the light of the world. I am the temple of the Holy Ghost, and I am allowing hatred, I'm allowing lying, I'm allowing cheating and covetousness to be in me. Oh God, give me the fear of God." The Lord is going to wake you up at night and tell you again and again and again, until it gets deep into your heart.

You see, God is raising up some people today, both male and female, that can be examples to the body, to the flock of the living God. He is getting rid of religion. He is tearing down the walls and the strongholds, and He is bringing forth a pure people that fear the Lord. Men and women can follow them as they follow the Lord (**1 Cor 11:1**). They will know what the Lord is like, and the fear of God will surround them day and night. They that feared the Lord spake often to one another, didn't they, but Moses feared God and spoke **TO God**. You and I that fear the Lord can speak to the Lord. Sin ceases when the fear of God comes.

All through Leviticus the fear of the Lord is taught. The New Testament also is filled with the fear of God. Now that is an amazing thing when you try to reckon grace and love with fear, but it is not the fear of man. The fear of man brings anxiety, brings sickness, brings poverty, brings us down to nothing, brings a snare, and it causes our heart to fail us. But in **Leviticus 19**, the Lord begins to show us some things, and I want to begin with the **14th verse**.

***Lev 19:14 Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the Lord.***

**I AM THE LORD!** Now look at the 32nd verse.

***Lev 19:32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord!***

**I AM THE LORD!** You would think that if God told us that, we wouldn't have any problem believing it. Now let's look at **Lev 25:17** and **Lev 25:36**.

***Lev 25:17 Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.***

***Lev 25:36 Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.***

The thing that is really going to bond us together and make the unity of the spirit evident, is when we all fear God together. We are not going to oppress one another. We are not going to take more than is rightful. We are not going to put down, but we are going to fear the Lord. We are going to be careful how we speak to one another, because when we begin to realize that if I say something about you or to you, I am saying it directly to the Lord. Don't ever kid yourself, you don't love God any more than you love the least member in the body of Christ, and what you say about a brother or sister, you say about God.

The Lord really upbraided me one night. I was murmuring and complaining, and just downright hateful, and telling God all about this brother. All of a sudden the Lord brought a scripture back to my mind (**Num 12th chap**). Moses was entertaining the presence of the Lord, and Miriam and Aaron went where nobody saw them, and they were murmuring and complaining about the choice that Moses made for a wife. Can you imagine that? Gripping about someone's choice for a wife. Moses didn't hear them, but the Bible said that God heard **GOD HEARD!**

If you think that God will not justify the smallest member in the body of Christ, you are mistaken. Miriam became leprous, and Moses cried unto God to heal her; but God required her to be leprous and shut out of the camp for seven days. They had no fear of God. They didn't mind talking bad about the man that God had sent to lead Israel out of Egypt. They didn't think any thing bad about it. They had no fear of God in their heart, did they. Thank God for the mercy and the love that He had, because He could have annihilated them.

You see, when you talk evil even to yourself about a brother or sister, you had better be careful, because God may let you be a leper at best or dead. I am saying to you that it is a dangerous thing to think that you can put your tongue to one of God's people. We quote, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (**Ps. 105:15**), but we don't realize that every member of the body of Christ is anointed. They are all sealed by the Spirit of God (**Eph. 1:13-14**), and when you speak evil of one of them, it is not going to go well with you.

Can you imagine what is going to happen when the church starts fearing God together? They will not dare say bad things. They are not even going to sit in the church and think bad things like Sapphira and Ananias did (**Acts 5:1-11**) or they'll fall over dead in their seats. It's going to happen. You see, that is when the fear of the

Lord is going to be really multiplied, is when somebody walks in the church, and says, "I don't like that preacher. I think he is full of baloney." All of a sudden they just carry him out. "I don't like that sister. Who does she think she is?" They are sitting there, and CLUNK! They'll sweep them up with the rest of the trash. They didn't have a big funeral ceremony for them. They carried old Sapphira and Ananias out and put them in a hole in the ground, and said, "That is the end of them." **Great fear** came upon all the church, and upon all who heard this, and no man dared join himself to the church for the fear of the Lord was upon them.

I hear people praying all the time, "Oh, Lord, let us walk in unity. Let us walk in unity, only keep this brother out. Lord, don't let that brother in this church. Get rid of that sister, Lord." God will say, "I'm going to get rid of you, then we will have unity." Amen! That is why you need to die to self, you see. The natural man has no fear of God. The only fear that he has of God is that one day he is going to die. But we that are born of God ought to have such a reverence for God that we would **NOT DARE** bring an accusation against the least member in the body of Christ. Do you want unity? There are going to be some people in the body of Christ pay for it. Don't weep and lament over them. Leave them alone. They are gone. Amen! Let fear come into your heart, and say, "Praise God! I'm going to be careful how I talk about old so-and-so. I'm going to watch my mouth. Lord, I want that fear of God to take control of my life, that when I would even THINK a thing wrong, let me bring it captive and subject to Christ." Amen.

**Lev 25:43** *Thou shalt not rule over him with rigor (or harshness); but shalt fear thy God.*

Be fair in your ruling. If God puts you in a place of authority, if God puts you in a place of eldership in a church, you will rule with righteousness. You will rule with love and compassion. If you see a brother taken in a fault, you that are spiritual will go to him, in a spirit of meekness, considering yourself, lest you also be over taken (**Gal. 6:1**). "... **but shalt fear thy God.**" You would think that if the Lord would say once to fear the Lord, it would be enough, wouldn't you. No, it's not really. All through the word of God, God tells us to fear the Lord.

**YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO FEAR GOD. YOU HAVE TO BE TAUGHT TO FEAR GOD.** A child when he is born has no fear in him. It is whatever you put in that child that makes him, and a child doesn't know that a car will kill him if he runs out in the street. There is no fear in him. That's why when they get fighter pilots in the service, they want young men. Do you notice that the older you get, the more fear you have. You are more careful crossing streets. The older you get, it seems like the more common sense you've got, even if you are not saved. You just know that staying up past one o'clock in the morning is going to wear you out. But a young guy stays up until two or three o'clock in the morning, and doesn't think anything about it, and gets up and goes again. Oh, the grace of God is beyond me.

**Deut. 4:10** *Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people*

***together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.***

How many of us have ever really taught our children to fear God? I'm not talking about the fear of men, please understand me. I'm talking about the awesome reverence of the Lord. I'm talking about how many have really been taught to reverence God, that whatever God said was true. There are no gray areas in God. There is no fence in God. It is either in or out, black or white; it is either written or not written. It doesn't make any difference what man says to you, what man may teach you. What we need to teach our children is to reverence the Lord. In all their decisions, in all that they do, to reverence the Lord; to always do that which will glorify Him, and not bring shame and reproach to His name. Amen?

We have to be taught that lesson, and some of us learn it a lot later than others, because we started the game a lot later. I was 33 years old before God ever gave me salvation. 33 years old and I didn't fear anything, God or man or anybody. But I want to tell you, I began to find out through the word of God that I needed to have a fear in my heart, the fear of God, that God meant exactly what He said. That every man can be a liar, but God's word is true (**Rom 3:4**). I had to learn that. I had to be taught that, and the only way it came was through the word of God. As I put the word of God into my heart, it always continued to build up Jesus. It always continued to glorify the Lord until He became the great judge over my life, and that **HE** would not only command of me, but DEMAND of me, that I do those things that are right in the sight of the Lord.

To be a Christian is a great honor, not something that we just say, "Well, I'm a Christian." You ought to cherish the thought every time you say it: "I'm a Christian." The grace of God amazes me, but I am a Christian, not by anything I've ever done, but because He loved me. "Now the thing that I can do in return for you, Lord, is to fear you. To reverence you. To do that which is right in the sight of the Lord. To do that which is good in the sight of God." We need to have that in our hearts, don't we?

Do you feel a little depth of the fear of God being built in your heart today? By the end of this study, I want you to realize how beautiful the fear of the Lord is; how it will prolong your life. How it will make you hate evil. How it will give you strong confidence. How it will give you a fountain of life. How His mercy will be upon you from generation to generations. Isn't it wonderful to know that you can leave your children with a good inheritance. You say, "That means to be sure that they have a trust account." No, no! That means you have left them with an inheritance that money could not buy, position could not buy, but you have left them with the knowledge of the fear of God. Knowledge that you were a godly person; that you lived and sought the Lord in all your decisions, and that you lived a godly life in the fear of the Lord.

Do you want to learn more about the fear of the Lord? Praise God! Let's seek the Lord. Let's pray. Prayer will unlock your heart. "Father, we thank you today. I thank you for the love of God, and I thank you, Lord, that you are teaching us the fear of the Lord. Lord, it is right. God, it is right that if we fear you, we don't have to fear men. If we fear you, Lord, and know that whatever you have said, if we walk in the reverence, that awesome reverence of God, we will do what we are told because we love you and know that your word has said it, and that's the way it is going to be. Lord, we will begin to be more dedicated and committed as the fear of God begins to work in our lives. Lord, bless these who are studying this, that the word of God has found a good lodging ground in their hearts, that they truly might move on into greater things, being able to be set in places that they can be used in judgments of God. In Jesus name, Amen!"

# THE FEAR OF GOD

## CHAPTER 4

We are learning that we need to be taught the fear of the Lord. We are taught everything else. We're taught miracles, we're taught prosperity, we're taught faith, we're taught healing, but I cannot remember one sermon that I ever heard preached on the fear of God. I've been preached to on almost every subject that there is, but this is one subject that seems not to have been touched a whole lot. Yet it was the one thing that God instructed the children of Israel: to fear the Lord their God, that it would be well with them; that their days could be prolonged; that God could be honored among them when they feared Him.

Let's look at **Deut. 4:10**:

***Deut. 4:10 Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.***

God commanded that we should begin to teach the word of the Lord, so men and women would learn to fear God. I'm sorry to say that there is not a lot of fear of God in the body of Christ, because you can go into an assembly and people will prophesy and say, "Thus saith the Lord," and God has not said it. They will get up and preach out of the vain imaginations of their own hearts, and God has not spoken it. The word of God will come in power, and they will reject it.

We need again to return to the fear of the Lord, and there is a reason for it: God wants to bless you. God wants to pour out a blessing on you, in such a way that the world will see it, and it comes when we begin to have the reverence that is due God; that when He says a thing, that's the way it is. No matter how many people of theology say, "No, No, No", no matter what preacher says, "No, it doesn't mean that anymore," when it is written, it means what it says.

We are warned by God to diligently seek the Lord (**Heb 11:6**), to earnestly contend for the faith (**Jude 3**). The way to do that is to begin to fear the Lord, because in that you are going to perfect holiness (**2 Cor. 7:1**), without which no man shall see God. I don't care how much you prophesy, I don't care how much you speak in tongues, if there is no fear of God in your life, you are missing something. You are missing the joy that really belongs to you.

These are the words of God. This isn't just some man babbling on; it is the word of the Lord. Let's look at the places where it is written.

***Deut. 14:23 And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.***

He said, "I am going to appoint you a place to come before Me to eat in. You are going to bring to Me the first offering. You are going to bring a tithe to Me." **When people say, "I don't believe in tithing," they don't reverence God.** They say, "Well, tithing is under the law." **No, it is not under the law, it is IN the law. Tithing was in Abraham, the father of the faithful, 430 years before the law (Rom 4:16).** The tithe is that which is due to Him, but the offering is that of the love of a heart that wants to reverence God. Amen!

He said, "I want you to do this. I want you to bring all of this before Me that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God. If you will give this to Me, I will cause a blessing to be **ON** you. If you will reverence Me, if you will just be obedient to do what I command you, I am going to show you something. You are going to learn something. You are going to be blessed." Why do you think God wants you to tithe and give offerings? Because He needs it? Because He is in the poor-house? **NO!** So He can bless you. You are the ones that unlock the windows of heaven, in your giving. **Mal. 3:10** tells the way that **YOU** unlock the windows of heaven.

Most Christians are standing in a crack, just barely getting enough to get by on. Why? Because they never give to God. They never really tithe. They give of abundance, or they give a little, or they give some, but they never really tithe, and beyond that they never give an offering. God said, "If you do this, you'll learn something from me. If you'll give to Me as I tell you to give, you are going to learn that the blessing of God is going to be upon you." Amen! That's why God wants you to be obedient today, so He can bless you; so He can teach you some things.

***Deut. 17:19 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:***

In **John 14:15** the Lord said, **"If you love me, keep my commandments."** But here in Deut He says, "If you love me, you will keep My **WORDS**, and if you love Me, My Father will honour you" (**Psalms 91:14-16**). The Lord wants you to keep His word, and love Him, so the Father will honour you.

If we would learn the reverence of God, when God says to do something, instead of arguing about it or even praying about it, we would do it. What do you need to pray about when God says, "Give." What do you need to pray about when He says, "Love."

What do you have to pray about when God says, "Love one another, even as I have loved you" (**John 13:34**). When God says, "I want you to give your tithes and offerings to the storehouse of God, that there may be meat in mine house, saith the Lord, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts"(**Mal.3:10**), you mean you have to pray about that? You mean to tell me that when the Lord said to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, you have to pray about that? We're spending more time praying about things that God says to do, than we are doing them. Now listen! God wants us to learn the reverent fear of God, so we will become obedient and He can turn a blessing into our lives. We are the ones that lock it up. He has nothing to do with opening or closing it; you do that. He gives you the rules how to get it.

***Deut 31:12 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:***

***Deut 31:13 And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.***

Our children should be brought up in the way of God. Whatever you are letting them watch or hear, or whatever you are putting into their little minds, is what they are going to learn and trust in and fear in. But if we put Christ into their mind, put the word of the Lord into their hearts all the days of their life, they can fear God, and when a man fears God, he will hate evil.

The church doesn't hate evil like it should. We hate pornography, and we hate all the dirty magazines, and all the dirty films, and all the dirty guys, and all the dirty things, but how about in our own lives; how about this body that is the temple of the Holy Ghost. How about **Romans 12:1-2**.

***Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

***Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

Your body is supposed to be a holy place. "Well, it's ok; I just hate a little bit, you know." No! That means you let evil abide in your heart. "Well, I've just got a little jealousy." That means you let evil abide there, and yet you criticize the world for doing what their natural man does because he walks in darkness. We need to come up to the thing and face it head on and say, "Lord, I want to HATE evil, and the way for me to

hate evil, is I have to learn to reverence you. I have to learn the fear of God in my heart, Lord."

I suppose He put all these places in here to fill up space. He didn't have anything else to write here, so He just wrote that to them. NO, NO, NO! Study and see how many times the fear of the Lord and the fear of God is in the Holy Bible. We keep praying for God to bless us, and we don't hate evil. We keep praying for God to do something mighty in our midst, and we don't hate evil. We are kidding our selves. That's why the church is living in a trickle instead of the river. That's why they are barely surviving, instead of having the abundant life. It's not because they don't prophesy, it's not because they don't quote scripture, it's not because they don't jump or shout or praise God, but they don't fear the Lord. Do you want to turn this nation around? When you fear God, you will begin to pray and seek the Lord's face and turn from your wicked way. Isn't that what it says in **2 Chron 7:14**?

***2 Chron 7:14 If MY people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***

"But Brother Krider, there is nothing wicked in me. I'm a child of God." Yeah? You haven't had any anger or hatred in you? It happened to me, and before the Lord, I did not know it was in my heart. But you see, when you fear God, eventually it will come to the surface. I heard of a brother who had defiled a person, and it got into my heart. I didn't realize it, but I had hatred in there. One night I was in bed asleep and the Spirit of God woke me and He said, "That's murder!" I said, "Wh--what's murder," and He told me about this brother that I hated, and I repented of that.

As long as you don't know that it is there, is one thing, but when you know it is there, and don't hate it for being there, then you are in trouble. I prayed, "God, I don't want that thing in my life." I hated it! It defiled me! It defiled the temple of the Holy Ghost! Nobody knew about it but God knew about it. **GOD KNEW ABOUT IT.** It isn't the fear of man that I'm to have; it is the fear of God. It's not the fear of the deacon board that I am to have; it is the fear of God. And when God spotlights it, and says it is there, don't deny it; it is there. Pray, "Lord, take it out right now. I give it to you, because I FEAR GOD."

Let's look at **Deut. 30:19-20; 31:1**

***Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:***

***Deu 30:20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the***

***land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.***

***Deu 31:1 And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.***

See, the Lord is trying to get us to grow up. We need to teach our children to reverence God. When I was in the Baptist Church, I used to sit with my grandmother, and she was hard on me. But I'm going to tell you something: she taught me how to fear God. In the summertime, with no air conditioner and hot, and I'm a little guy sitting down between all of these big people, and I'd start squirming. She would grab me by the ear, and she would pinch that thing until I thought my head was going to fall off. She would say, "Shh!" I'd start crying, and she would say, "Be quiet! This is the house of God."

Grandma almost pinched my earlobes off, but praise God, she taught me something. She taught me to fear God, and I thank her today. I really do, and when I get to be with the Lord, I am going to see her and I am going to thank her again. She pinched my earlobes until they turned purple. But thank God, it drilled into my heart that God was awesome, and He demanded my respect, not only in that building but wherever I was in this world.

We demand respect and we don't respect God. We want people to notice our authority, and yet we do not recognize the authority of God. That was one thing the Centurion knew about Jesus, when he came to get Jesus to speak the word to heal his servant (**Matt. 8:5-9**). He said, "I am not worthy for you to come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my servant will live. I am a man under authority. I recognize authority. You are under authority, Jesus. You respect your Father God. You have a reverence for your Father God. I KNOW you are under authority, therefore I can come to you and trust the word that you are going to speak is the word of authority."

***Psa 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.***

"I will teach you to reverence your God. I will teach you how to have an awesome reverence for your God." These are just a few of the scriptures in the testament of the Lord that tell us that we need to be taught and need to learn the fear of God. Somebody said to me, "Brother Krider, I'd rather learn how to work a miracle." I found out that it doesn't cost you anything to work a miracle. It doesn't cost you anything to preach. It doesn't cost you anything to see the sick healed. But there are at least two things that I know of that are going to cost you everything: one of them is to fear the Lord, and the other is to pray.

There are two things that your physical man hates. He hates to submit himself to anybody, let alone a spiritual God who has told him he must die to self. The other one is when you really pray, my friend, your physical man does not like it. He wants to go to sleep, or he has a million excuses to do something else. My physical man is the same

way. I have been at this for many years, but he still wants to do something else when it is time to pray.

You might as well mark it down, those two things are going to cost you everything. When you really begin to fear the Lord, and when you begin to pray, you are going to lose friends. You are going to lose acquaintances that you thought were with you, but when you say, "Let's go pray," they say, "I've got something else to do." Pretty soon they don't come around anymore, because they realize something: there are two things you want to do, is fear God and pray. If you will gossip about anybody, everybody will come. Or if you will prophesy to people and tickle their ears, everybody will come. But when you say, "Hey, that is not right. The Lord loves you, and I love you, but the word says..." they're gone!

Somebody said, "Do you like to preach like this." Yeah, I do. At first I didn't because it wasn't popular, but I love it now, because I know that the people that come back again got something the first time. But if you preach to a multitude of people and you tickle their ears, you don't know what they came back for. When you tell the truth, it has an effect of cutting away the old and bringing forth the new, and the people that will stay with it, the people that will stick with it, the people that will endure, are going to come forth as fine gold, as pure gold. When the word hits them, they are going to say, **"PRAISE THE LORD! WOW! I NEEDED THAT!"**

Don't come to me to prophesy sweet things to you. I am going to tell you the truth because I love you. I am going to teach you to fear the Lord, because one day you will stand before the Lord, and all the preachers, and all the teachers, and all the people that let you get by with everything in the world, aren't going to be there to see it. It is just going to be you and God, and God will say, "Why did you fear men more than God? Don't fear men who can destroy your body, but rather fear him that is able to destroy both the body and soul in hell" (**Matt.10:28**).

Jesus had a reverence for His Father. He never once touched the glory because He feared His Father, and He said, **"I don't do these things. My Father, He doeth them. I do only the things that my Father showeth me to do"** (**John 5:19,20**). Oh, I love that. The fear of God was in Jesus' heart, and His desire was to honor the Father in everything that He did. We need to really begin to put that into our own life. When people come to us and say, "Wow! That was a dynamic message!" say, **"Thank the Lord. He did it."**

Paul got to that point. The Corinthians had already broken up into three groups, and they decided that some would follow Apollos, and some Cephas, and some would follow after this great man Paul. They thought they would really get old Paul puffed up and make him the head of the church. I love what Paul said, **"Who are Cephas, Apollos, and who is Paul. Christ died for you. We are only men by which the ministry came to you"** (**1 Cor. 1:10-15; 3:3-6**).

When you are that free, you can preach whatever God gives you. They can stone you, throw you in jail, speak evil of you, and in your heart there is such a great peace you can say, "Thank you, Lord. I just pray for them that their hearts will be open to receive the goodness of God." When we fear God, we won't open our mouth about one another. When we fear God, we'll no longer murmur, complain and back bite, and allow the evil to dwell within this temple of the living God. He said, "Cleansing your spirit and your flesh from all ungodliness."

***Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;***

Have you really taught your children the fear of the Lord. Most of them don't even fear their parents. Let's look at **Psalm 34:11**.

***Psa 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.***

A little child is in trouble for doing something wrong, and we pat him on the head and give him a cookie, and say, "Well, go watch television now." You ought to take him in the bedroom and slip off your belt, and say, "Son, I'm going to have to whip you for this. Daughter, I'm going to have to whip you for this, because I love you. You may not understand it now, but I love you, and you have broken the word that I gave you. You have not honored my word; therefore I MUST punish you because I love you."

I never had much trouble with my little girls but my little boy was a toughie. He would do something wrong, and I would say, "SON!" When I said that, he knew he was in trouble and he would start for the bedroom. I remember one day he said to me, "Dad, don't do it." I almost said, "If I don't, would you not do it again?" But the Lord checked me, and said, "I told you to whip him." I grabbed that kid up and I said, "Son, I'm going to whip you for doing it." I whipped him, but I'm telling you, that kid almost talked me out of it too.

When you start reasoning with a child, he is already smarter than you are. When you set a child down and try to reason him out of doing something, he is going to do it until it is driven far from him, because rebellion is bound in the heart of a child when he is born. I don't care what you say, the old Adamic nature that child is born with is rotten. He may be the prettiest little boy, she may be the prettiest little girl you ever saw, but in that flesh there dwelleth no good thing (**Rom 7:18**). The word of God says you must take the rod of correction and drive it far from them (**Prov. 22:15**).

It doesn't mean that you knock them in the head, it doesn't mean that you beat them with your fists. God gave them a lot of padding down there, and when it gets good and red, those little kids remember, "I'd better be careful. I had better not rebel. I had better start fearing my Mom and Dad, because boy, they are going to come on my case." Then some little kid down the street says, "My Mom and Dad never whip me." They will say, "My Mom and Dad beat the fire out of me." Hmm? But in years to come

the little guy that got the whipping will love and honor and respect his parents for doing it to him, because he knew he was loved of them.

I was working in a church in Los Angeles some years ago with Slim Boatright, and God was working miracles, mighty miracles. People were getting saved and everything else. One night I was in bed, and God said, "I want you to get up out of this church now, and I want you to go back home." I said, "That can't be God. That has got to be the enemy." God spoke to me again the second time, and He said, "Get up out of this place and go." The next morning I went down and I told old Slim, "I've got to leave." He said, "You can't leave. There are miracles, there are healings, and the church is beginning to grow." I said, "God told me to leave." He said something to me that really struck my heart; he said, "If God told you, I'm not going to come against it." Amen!

We need to recognize God. We need to quit looking at the crowds and the moving, and it seems like God is doing such great things, because when God says, "Go," you had better let that person go. You had better let the blessing of God be upon them, and say, "Go then," because God will send somebody else to fill the place. God will bring in somebody that could probably do a better job than the person that you let go. But the fear of God was upon me that night. I couldn't do anything else. I could hardly wait to get out of there. I had my suitcases packed, I had everything in the trunk the next morning, and before the service I said, "Slim, I am leaving."

We tarry around, and fool around, and wonder if that was God. When God says it, when God's word declares it, you don't even need to pray about it. That is like going out here and witnessing on the street. You don't have to pray about that. The word says, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (**Mark 16:15**). We don't have to pray about those things that are written clearly and plainly for you and me to do. I don't have to pray about loving you. I can hardly stand it when somebody comes up and says, "Well, I'm praying about loving you."

I don't have any problem with loving you; I just love you. Bless God, we are all different. We are all strange, but we can love one another. If we get people conformed to what we can love, we are going to be in trouble. God has to teach us to love. The Holy Spirit has to shed that love abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost (**Rom 5:5**). That is the only way that you can love. It must start inwardly in yourself first. You must love yourself as Christ loved you first. You must forgive yourself, as Christ forgave you, and then the love will begin to flow out of you.

The fear of God needs to be taught in the church today. Amen! People come to my office for counseling, and a husband wants to get rid of a wife, or the wife wants to get rid of the husband. I would begin to preach to them the word of God, give them scripture, and a lot of them would say, "I don't want to hear that." I said, "What did you come to me for? What did you think I was going to do? Did you think I was going to get on your side, and talk to you against your spouse and okay it?" They say, "Well, I want God to be on my side." I tell them, "Listen, God is not on anybody's side. You are either on God's side or on your side. It isn't God being on your side. God doesn't

choose sides. **GOD IS GOD! WE CHOOSE HIM, OR REJECT HIM.** That is all there is to it.

We need to have some fear in the church; fear of getting up and saying things just to be saying things. David got that fear. He said, "When I go into the house of the Lord, I will be of a few words. Lord, set a watch over my lips (**Ps. 141:3**). Let of the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord" (**Ps. 19:14**). We get up and we say anything that comes in our mind. I am telling you, Christians need to wake up. Quit telling the world about the goodness of God, when we talk about everybody in the world. We should begin to weigh the words of our mouth in the fear of God. We should begin to tremble in His presence, and realize when we begin to just open our mouth and it would run like a river, that sooner or later there is going to be a snare that will take us.

The Holy Ghost doesn't talk a lot. The Bible says that when He is come (talking about the Holy Ghost), He will not speak of Himself (**John 16:13**). That doesn't mean that He wouldn't teach on the Holy Ghost. It meant that He would not speak without permission from the Father. He will not speak by His own authority or His own permission. He will speak only what the Father gives Him to speak. That is what Jesus said: "I do not these things of Myself, but my Father He doeth them, and the words that I speak, they are the words the Father has given Me to speak." Jesus didn't go around blabbing. He didn't get wrapped up in economics. He didn't get wrapped up in government. He didn't get wrapped up in things that were going on around Him. He was from another kingdom, the Kingdom of God. The only words that ever came out of His mouth were what the Father gave Him to say.

When the Holy Ghost speaks through us, it will be a mouth that no man can gainsay (**Luke 21:14-15**). When it is the Holy Ghost, He is not a blabber-mouth. He doesn't talk a million miles a minute, and He doesn't talk for a week at a time. He says what He needs to, and that ends it. Can you imagine how much strife we could end if there were not that many words spoken. Foolish words gender strife (**2 Tim. 2:23**). Where there is no fuel, the fire goeth out. If someone wants to argue with you, just say, "Well, the Lord bless thee," and walk away from them. Instead we say, "Listen, the reason I did that, bless God, is I AM RIGHT!" And that is what the guy was waiting for all the time. But if you say, "The Lord bless thee" or "Thou sayest," and walk away, his mouth is opened and there is nothing for him to do. The fire is gone out. There was no fuel for the fire to go on.

Walking in the fear of God means you also set a watch over your tongue. James said it is the littlest member in the body, but what a fire it doth kindle (**James 3:5-6**). Nations have gone to war over the tongue. Husbands and wives have split up over the tongue. Words that were so easily spoken could never be recalled, and set on fire such a great fire. The fear of God will cause you to begin to control the words that come out of you. That is what defiles you anyhow. It isn't what goes in that defiles you, but what cometh out of a man that defiles him (**Matt. 15:11**). A person that says, "I am a Christian," and all of a sudden you hear him telling dirty jokes, or cursing, or arguing, or

backbiting, or envy, or jealousy coming out of his mouth, there is something wrong inside, for a fountain does not send forth sweet and bitter water at the same time (**James 3:11**).

God is wanting us to realize the seriousness of being a Christian. You say, "Well, Brother Krider, you get it down where I won't be able to have any fun." No, the fun comes when you are at peace with God, and you know that the words you have spoken are acceptable in the sight of God. That is what brings me joy. When I don't have to lay down at night and say, "Ah, I wish I hadn't said that," or I didn't have to avoid somebody because I did say something, that is what brings me peace. I've gone through all of that. God would take me to the woodshed and apply the rod of correction. I couldn't spiritually sit down for a week.

God wants us to grow up today. The only way you are going to grow up is when you begin to fear the Lord and perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord, so the words that come out of your mouth are acceptable in the sight of God. What power words hold, power that can bind you together or separate you simply by the words that you speak. Foolish words. Words of jesting. Words that have no authority. When a Christian speaks, he ought to speak with authority (**Titus 2:15**).

We find then that God wants us to be taught these things, and He wants us to teach our children. If you have to pinch their ear a little bit, it won't kill them. The church that I grew up in, and the church that I pastored, didn't have a nursery. You say, "Wasn't there confusion?" No! The mothers took care of the kids. I mean they set there and listened. Many is the time that I got my ear pinched. Many times Grandma walked me outside the door while the preacher was preaching, and when she did I knew I was in trouble. She would bust me good, and she said, "If you cry, I will whip you again." WHEW! I'll tell you one thing: when she spoke, I knew she meant it. I knew that woman feared God. She didn't fear me, and she didn't fear man, but she feared God. When she said something, and when she headed for the back door, she wasn't going out there to consult with me. She was going to put the fear of God into my heart. She was going to TEACH me the fear of God.

I am not against nurseries as long as it doesn't become a substitute. What is wrong with a child sitting in the congregation and hearing the word of God? A baby is receiving, whether he realizes right now or not, because in his mind there is a void space and the word of God is going into his life. He is hearing it, and one of these days he will say, "I wonder where I heard that." He heard that in the church when he was a baby. He heard somebody speak the word of God, and it went into his little heart, and it was hidden there like seed, and one day it grew out.

There is a reason that God wants you to have the fear of the Lord. God doesn't do anything just to be doing it. God isn't foolish. He wants to do something wonderful in your life. Let's begin a study on that now. Let's look at **Psalm 15**.

***Psa 15:1 A Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?***

***Psa 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.***

***Psa 15:3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.***

***Psa 15:4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.***

***Psa 15:5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.***

David had most of the insight on what God was doing in the sense of the fear of God. He was a man that didn't fear many people. He feared God, and the Lord said there was no man like David; David was a man after God's own heart (**Acts 13:22**). David messed up in the flesh, it was true, but he had a repentive heart, didn't he. Whenever there was a decision to be made, he always honestly wanted to make it for the Lord. That is what Jesus did, wasn't it. When He had a decision to make, He made it for the Lord. When Paul had a decision to make, he made it for the Lord. Why? Because they feared God. Amen!

**Psalm 15:4: "In whose eyes a vile person is condemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord..."** If you don't feel like you are honoured by people, don't worry about it. The Lord said, "I will honour them." If you will fear the Lord today, you will be a man or woman of honour. Isn't that great? You will be a person of great honour and authority, if you will fear the Lord. Too many times we don't fear the Lord. A woman said to me, "I want to be an honourable woman in this world," and I told her that God deals both in the natural and in the spiritual.

***Prov 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.***

Not the beauty of a woman, not a woman that can make herself look beautiful, but what? **A woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised.** She will have praise of God (1), and she will have praise of her husband (2), and she will have praise of her children (3).

When a person doesn't fear God, they will make any decision they want to make, and blame God for it. "The Lord told me..." Be careful when you say that the Lord told you. If it doesn't check out in scripture, God didn't tell it to you. Somebody might have laid hands on you and said, "Listen, my child, the Lord has said unto thee, arise and get thee hence down to the bar and drink two bottles of beer, and surely the Lord will test

thee there, and draw thee back." That is "Thus saith flesh man." When the Holy Ghost prophesies to you, watch out because He doesn't pat your flesh. He hits your spirit. He zeros right in on it, and He says, "Behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee."

Sapphira and Ananias probably wished they had never heard the voice of God or lied to Him (**Acts 5:1-11**). I'll tell you, we had better begin to fear the Lord. Do you women want to be praised? Fear the Lord. Don't go out and live in the flesh. **Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Cor 6:19)**. Amen! That body should not do anything it wants to do. It ought to be made to praise the Lord, to sanctify the Lord, to be a holy temple of God. You say, "Well, I'm saved and my flesh is no longer under subjection to the Spirit of God." No, no! If you're saved, then your flesh ought to show forth the One that lives in you.

I said earlier that Mohammed said he would have become a Christian if he had never seen one. Isn't that a terrible accusation. You see, if people do not fear God, they call themselves Christians, but they will do what they want to do. But when a man fears God, he will not do what he wants to do any longer, but he will do what the Lord commandeth him to do. He will no longer hate people. He will no longer be full of envy, and jealousy, and strife. He will get rid of those things, because he sees they are evil, and it brings a reproach on the name of the Lord. No one sees? **GOD SEES ALL**. There is nowhere that a man can go that God is not.

I remember an incident with my Dad. I was getting old enough to date girls, and he let me borrow his car. He wasn't a Christian at this time, but evidently he had some Christian training. We had a man to man talk, and he said, "Son, when you park that car tonight with that young lady in it, remember that God sees through the roof." It ruined my whole evening. I mean, just flat ruined my whole evening. I don't think I was planning on doing anything, but if I was, I just saw that big eye looking right through the top of the car. Amen! You see, he instilled some fear of God in my heart. God was watching me. I wasn't going to get away with anything, even if Dad wasn't there. God sees through the top of that car. God looks at your heart, and I am so glad He does, because I messed up many times.

God REALLY wants to honour you. God wants to have you praised. God wants to let the world look at you and say, "That is what Jesus is like. There is no guile in him. There is no envy or jealousy. He is not envious when one brother gets exalted. He'll rejoice with him." If one member of the body gets exalted, we all get exalted together. If one has received honour and glory, we ought to just lift him up higher, and say, "Praise the Lord. Hallelujah! That's MY BROTHER." Amen? God is so good to us. We need to be good to Him, don't we.

Let's look at **Psalm 15:4** again: "**In whose eyes a vile person is condemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord.**" He honoureth them that fear the Lord. Do you want to be honourable? Do you want to be honored? The way to do it is to fear the Lord, isn't it. You say, "Well, that is too simple." No, it's not as simple as you think. When you start doing it, your flesh. has to die. Our flesh wants to talk bad about

somebody, but instead of doing that, we should praise the Lord. **Be quick to hear but slow to speak (James 1:19).**

Weigh the thing in the light of the Holy Spirit, and see if the words that come out of your mouth are unto edification. It is easy to criticize. It is easy to throw hatred and to throw all the works of the flesh on other people, but the only problem is, you're not throwing them anywhere. You are just bringing them to the surface in your own life, and people can see what you are really full of. Do you think for a moment that I would have confidence in the spirit in a man if I wanted a prayer request to be just in confidence between him and me, but all I ever heard from him was running off at the mouth? Forget it! I wouldn't tell him anything. I like to be around people that are kinda close-lipped. Amen!

***Psalm 19:9 "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever:.."***

Is it just enduring for a little while? No, it is enduring **FOREVER!** Do you know that when you rule in the Kingdom with Him, in the millennial reign, you will fear the Lord. You will have such a tremendous reverence for the King of glory, but if you don't have it now, you may not even be there. If you are not faithful now over a little, over this old body, if you can't control that hunk of flesh that you are walking around in every day, what makes you think that God is going to trust you with a whole empire. Hmm?

I'll tell you the truth, I don't want to just rule over a little old fourteen acres where God doesn't plant anything because He can't trust me to bring it up right. I want to sit down with Him on the throne. I want to glorify Him and say, "Hallelujah! What do you want me to do today, Lord." He may say, "I want you to go over there and take care of China today. There is a little problem over there, but I want you to rule over it, and send out ambassadors to tell those people about the Lord and the Kingdom of God." Amen? Listen, when the millennial reign comes, there is still going to be flesh. Even though Satan will be bound a thousand years, flesh, the old Adamic nature will still be here. Those who fear the Lord will sit and rule with Him a thousand years, and those who come not up to Jerusalem to give respect to the Lord, will not receive any rain in their land. Amen? See, God is going to show to the world for a thousand years what it could have had in the Kingdom of God, had they not fallen from it.

He said in **Psalm 19:9** that the fear of the Lord is clean. When you fear the Lord, the washing of the water of the word begins to work in you. It washes away hatreds, jealousies, envy, and strife; all the works of the flesh (**Gal. 5:19-21**). When you really fear the Lord, you let the water come over you, don't you. You say, "**Lord, GIVE ME THE WORD!**" You don't pick out the part that you like, and close away the part that you don't like. I used to do that. "Wow! That is good!" or "I don't think that I'll even mess with that." Amen? But when you get the fear of the Lord, you say, "Lord, give it all to me. Wash me and I WILL BE CLEAN, Lord. Give me every part of the word." It is clean and it endures forever. One of those things that will follow you into eternity is the fear of the Lord. When you stand before the Lord, a man will be known as he is known. If you

did not fear the Lord in this life, you will not fear the Lord in the world to come, and you will not even be there. You will be a man that feared not God.

I tell you the truth, I fear God. I learned to fear God through my Grandmother. First I feared Grandma, but I realized as the years went by that she was only a servant of the Lord. That is how people learn to fear God, by the example the church has set before them. First of all they begin to fear the church. No man dares join himself to the church for the fear of God. They don't just come into the church and do their own thing. Some of the churches we have today are just resting places for all the hoot owls, the cockle birds, and the scorpions and serpents. We preach to them like they can do anything they want to and get away with it - eat the children's bread, and defile the temple of God, and we don't kick them out.

I had a pastor, thank God, that I co-pastored with for a year, and nobody came into that house of God just to play games. When they would come in there, he would tell them to sit down and straighten up, and if they wouldn't do it, he would just pick them up and throw them out the door. When I first saw him do this, I thought that was the meanest man I ever was with in my life. I said, "Now Brother Boatright, this just isn't right. You have to love these people." He said, "I love the people of God. I love the house of God. But I am going to tell you something son, there are some people that are possessed of devils, and there are some people that are devils. It's time you learned to stand up for the house of God, and for the love of God, and for the purity of God, and begin to tell these people that they are not getting away with this trash." Amen!

Pansy preachers, prophesying to everything that walks around, "Oh, you blessed child of God," and this thing is a snake. Jesus said, **"Your father is not Abraham, and if he were, you'd believe me. Your father is the devil" (John 8:39-44)**. Nobody preaches that anymore. We just label everybody a Christian. We label everything okay that goes on in the church. I've got news for you: everything that goes on in the church is not okay, and judgment is going to start at the house of God. It is going to start with the preachers and the elders, and it is going to hit the body, and brother, it is going to be a purified church.

The last two spirits that God works with in the end time, are the spirits of judgment and of burning (**Isaiah 4:4**). They are panty-waisted preachers who won't stand up and protect the church against anything. I hope I get you so angry in the spirit, so mad at evil, that you hate the stuff.

Someone might say, "If you'll let me come to church, I'll put in \$3000.00, and that will help you get an air-conditioner" but you know by the spirit, that person is wanting to come in there and steal the sheep, or hurt the sheep, or do something to them. I would say, "You and your money go to hell." Amen! "Oh, Brother Krider, you can't talk like that." **Peter did**. He said, **"Your money perish with you, for your heart is not right" (Acts 8:14-21)**. We get up in the pulpit and we act like we should never say anything that disturbs anybody, and so nobody is disturbed, and nobody hates evil, and nobody fears God.

The Lord is saying that we have to realize that the fear of the Lord will begin to cleanse us, begin to cause the water and the washing of the water of the word to cleanse us, until we can't stand evil. When we see evil in a brother or sister, we'll go to them in love and in a spirit of meekness and we will tell them the truth in love (**Gal. 6:1**). We'll say, "Look, this thing is going to destroy you. It is going to consume you unless you get rid of it. Can I pray with you?" If they won't repent, then take another elder who loves the Lord with you. If they still won't receive it, bring it before the church; and if they won't repent, get rid of them (**Matt. 18:15-17**). "But Brother Krider, that's hard." The word of God is hard. It's a sword. It's a battle. We're in a warfare. We're not in here to compromise with evil. We're not in here to compromise the things of God. We are in here to tell people the truth, and to bring the fear of God back into the house of the Lord. Amen?

Can you imagine what great power and authority the church is going to walk in when the fear of the Lord returns to the house of God. Do you realize that people will just fall dead right out there, because their hearts were lying to Jesus and to the Holy Ghost and they would not repent. The Spirit of the Lord departed from them. He took life out of them. **IT'S A FEARFUL THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD (Heb 10:31).**

So the Psalmist said, "God wants to honour them that fear the Lord, and I want the fear of the Lord to be clean in my life. I want to cleanse me." That is how you perfect holiness, isn't it. Don't tell me you can be completely where God wants you to be, and be holy as your Father is holy, if you have a heart full of lust, and envy, and strife, and jealousy. No! Where the word of God penetrates your heart, and it shows you something wrong, don't cover it up. Say, "Oh, Lord, that is right. I am wrong."

What is wrong with saying that? What is wrong with saying, "Lord, I'm guilty," when He knows it all the time. When He can see through the roof, He can see through your skin. He can see your heart today. He can see your life. He knows everything about you, even the number of your hairs. Don't you think it makes a father's heart happy when you admit that, when He already knows it. Nothing thrilled me more when my kids were growing up, than when they would come to me and say, "Dad, you were right. I was wrong." I said, "Praise the Lord, Father. Thank you, Jesus."

# THE FEAR OF GOD

## CHAPTER 5

The fear of God is clean. The fear of God will cause us to be honoured, will cause us to have prolonging of days, will cause us to know all that God has laid up for us. God wants to bless you today. God wants to bless your home, wants to bless your family, wants to bless everything about you, but it is your obedience that opens that blessing to you if you will obey. He says, "If you will hearken to my voice, if you will do this, if you will do that, then I will command these blessings to come upon you (**Deut. 28:1-14**). So it is up to us to lay hold of the promises of God. It is up to us to see the windows of heaven opened in our lives.

What the church needs are some examples; some people that younger Christians can look at and say, "I want to be like that, because they are like Jesus." Paul said, "Follow me as I follow the Lord (**1 Cor. 11:1**). Do what I tell you to do. This is my gospel (**Rom 2:16**)." He was so identified with Jesus that not only was it the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it was his gospel. We should begin to live in such a way, in the fear of the Lord, in holiness, that men and women can look at us and say, "Praise the Lord. That is what I want to be like. I want to have the peace they have. I want to have the joy that they have."

I remember an account years ago that will show you the fear of God. In Russia in Siberia, they had rounded up these Christians and took them out on a circle on the ice, and put guards all the way around them. They made them take all their clothes off, and put their clothes behind the guards. They told them that if anyone wanted to live, all they had to do is to deny this Jesus and come out and pick up their clothes, and they could go on their way. Hours went by. Some had died, and others were dying and freezing to death. The guards stood there watching them, and finally one man crawled out on his hands and knees, and started toward his clothes. One of the Russian guards laid his rifle down and began to take his clothes off, and he said, "I am going to take your place."

The fear of God that brought these men and women the peace and the power to die for Christ, had already won one convert, and doubtless had touched the hearts of many of the other guards as they watched these men and women give their life for the Lord Jesus Christ. So God wants us to fear him. In **Psalm 25:14** we will find some of the reasons for this.

***Psalm 25:14 The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.***

His word says that the world receiveth not the Spirit of God. The natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God, because they are spiritual (**I Cor. 2:14**). But to those that fear the Lord, God will begin to open up the secret things of the Lord. Many in the church today do not know what God wants them to do, do not know what God's divine plan for their life is, and it becomes a secret, doesn't it. They've had every body say something to them to try to find the will of God. It doesn't come that way. When you fear the Lord, then the secret of the Lord is open to you.

Jesus did not have to wonder what He was going to do when He got up every day. He knew that as He walked along life's journey, the Father had already ordered His day for Him. Most Christians don't even realize that. When you get out of bed and you've prayed and thanked the Lord, and you've praised Him and started on your way, whatever happens that day has been ordered of the Lord. The footsteps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord (**Ps. 37:23**).

So many Christians are frustrated today. They don't know what is going on, but the Bible says, "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant (or His will)." You don't have to worry about it. A Christian can get up every morning and say, "Praise God! This is the day that the Lord hath made,, and begin to walk in it and rejoice in it (**Ps. 118:24**), and as he goes along, he will find out that everything that happened to him that day was the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning him. It was ordered for the day. Instead of spending three-quarters of the day wondering what God wants you to do today, He had already told you what to do: **"Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"** (**I Thess. 5:16-18**).

Now look at this in **Psalm 31:19-20**. Notice what is happening here.

***Psalm 31:19 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee...***

God laid up good things for you if you fear him. **GOOD THINGS** will happen to those that fear the Lord. A lot of us unfortunately, don't fear God. We see our need for a Saviour, so we accept Him, but the fear factor is not yet there in our hearts. So God has to allow things to happen to us to bring us to a place where we are afraid to speak evil, where we are in fear of thinking bad thoughts and letting them come out of our lives, of having hatred or jealousy or envy found in us. We are a fearful people in the sight of God, realizing that He is an awesome God, that He is a terrible God (**Deut. 10:17; Ps. 33:8; Ps. 47:2**). God is going to bring you to the fear of the Lord whether you want it or not. It is a lot easier if you just finally give up, and say, "Lord, I am about ready to draw on your goodness now."

***Psalm 31:19 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee be fore the sons of men!***

***Psalm 31:20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.***

Hallelujah! I don't have to go around arguing with you or striving with you or anybody else. I'm hidden. I just stay in the fear of the Lord, I just walk in the fear of God, and He's not going to let me get caught up in a lot of useless words, a lot of strife of words, and a lot of envy. Isn't it stupid how we sit around and argue about what the government ought to be doing. Really think about that for a minute. You can hardly get to your congressman, and you are sitting around and trying to solve the problem. Pretty soon you get mad at one another, because that guy won't agree with you, and you argue about it.

The government is exactly where God said it was going to be. It is coming to the point where God is going to let it come to, so the church will wake up; not so the world will wake up, but so the church will wake. The world is already judged. It isn't ever going to wake up, but you and I that are of God and called of the name of the Lord, do not need to get involved in everything of the world and start having strife of words, but ought to begin to concentrate on the Lord. Begin to concentrate on His Kingdom, **seeking first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all of these things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:33).**

What do you care if hamburger gets to be \$10.00 per pound. It doesn't cost God anything. He doesn't care. Somebody said, "Brother Krider, you had better watch out. They are going to put a big 666 on you." They can't because I have a 777. **I'M ALREADY SEALED! (2 Cor. 1:21-22).** "Got to watch out for the anti-Christ." I'm too busy watching for the Christ. I don't have time. "Got to watch out; everything is going down." I say, "No! I am going up in Jesus." You see, we are all reversed. We are all distraught and get into strife of words, and we worry about it.

I am hidden in His pavilion (**Ps. 27: 5**). The anti-Christ doesn't like me. He doesn't want anything to do with me, and he leaves me alone. When he tries to hinder me at God's command, he gets in trouble for it. The only problem I have left is me. That's all! If you start preaching on anti-Christ, or 666, or world economy, you can fill auditoriums full of people to feed on the fear. But if you preach the love of God, and the peace of Jesus, and the fear of the Lord, you don't fill the church. They want to worry. They want to be like everybody else. They want to be fearful, so they can go around and say, "Oh, how horrible it is. How terrible it is." God's people are ordained to say, "How wonderful it is. This is the day that the Lord hath made."

I don't care what the government is doing, they can't stop today. I'll tell you something: the congress couldn't vote this morning on whether the sun would come up or not. The senate didn't have one thing to say about whether God brought the stars out last night or not. And we are worried about some carnal natural men that are trying

with their own ability to rule a nation in which God already rules? The Bible says that God rules in the kingdom of men, and He gives it to whomsoever he wills (**Dan. 4:17**).

***Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.***

"Oh, Brother Krider, you have to be reasonable." No, you don't have to be reasonable. What you have to be is a new creature (**2 Cor. 5:17**). You have to have the mind of Christ (**Phil 2:5**), and when the mind of Christ is in you, it isn't reasonable to the natural man. It is not reasonable to trust God. That's not even sensible in the natural. If you tell people that you are believing God and that everything is all right, and they look at everything in the natural, and they look at what they think they see, they say, "You are crazy." Yet they are in turmoil. They are having the ulcers. They are having a hard time. They are having a nervous breakdown, and you are sitting there smiling.

**God expects you to realize something: He has laid up goodness for us. And to open that goodness and the secret of God to us, all we need to do is to walk in the fear of the Lord. Amen! When God says to do something, say, "Lord, I want to honour you and reverence you, and I am going to do it."**

***Psalm 33:18 Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;***

***Psalm 33:19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.***

Are you worried about somebody not having enough peanuts to eat? God said, "I'll keep them alive in famine." Didn't He do it for the nation of Israel? Didn't He bring them down and feed them in Egypt; grew the food for them. Egypt toiled and laboured for seven years to fill the warehouses, and here come the children of God; here comes old Jacob right down into town, and they get the best land, the best pieces of property, and they eat what the Egyptians had bestowed all their labour to grow (**Gen. chap. 45 through 47**). And here we are, stocking up for the great day of destruction. We're storing it up like a bunch of squirrels running around in a tree, getting nuts for winter. We've got our cheeks so full, we can't get another one in there, and we are looking for another one. Mumble, mumble, grumble, gripe, grumble, grumble.

God said, "I will keep them **ALIVE** in the day of famine. All they have to do is fear Me." You have quail, you have manna; whatever you really want, God will feed it to you. He'll make a little old game chicken feed seven people. I know that, because He did it for me. What I am saying for us is the fact that God is going to take care of you, if you'll begin to fear Him. It says it right here. If you want to argue with somebody, go into the closet with God, take your Bible out, and start underlining and marking it all out,

and say, "Lord, I don't believe you meant that when you said it, so I'll just erase that. I want something that I can EARN." You don't earn anything in the Kingdom of God. No, no! The works that are produced through you are through the Spirit of God. All God wants from you is a willing heart (**1 Chron 29:9**), a willing vessel, a willingness to be whatever He wants you to be, when He wants you to be.

He says, "**I WILL KEEP YOU ALIVE IN THE DAY OF FAMINE.**" Is that what God says or does He say He will kill you, or you will die with the rest of them. No! He said, "I will keep them alive in the day of famine." Whew! Not only that, He said His eye is on you. He can see through that steel roof, just like my Daddy said He could. But better than that, He can see down the road. Everything that is going to happen in your life, He has already made provision for it. He has already made a way of escape for you (**1 Cor 10:13**). Every need that is going to arise, God has already made the supply available (**Phil. 4:19**).

We wait until we get into a panic situation, and then we try to figure a way out, and the Lord said, "Why don't you just fear me and love me. Why don't you just believe me?" That is what really believing God is: fearing the Lord, that whatever He has decreed, that is the way it is. God says it, that's it! It's settled forever. He doesn't need me to talk to Him about it. He did it.

Let's look at **Psalm 34:7**. Here are some things that He said, that if we would begin to fear Him, He would deliver us, show us, and satisfy us with.

***Psalm 34:7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.***

Isn't that what it says? Why should I fear what man can do to me? Is man greater than the angels? No! "**What is man that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? thou madest him a little lower than the angels;**" (**Heb 2:6-9**). God's mighty angels are waiting for God's command to move on your life.

**Rev 5:8** tells us what power we have in prayer: "**And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.**" God takes your prayers and considers them to be a sweet odour. An angel takes them before the altar of God, and when you pray, **Heb1:14** comes alive, for the angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister for (not to) them which shall be the heirs of salvation. They go out and do the work for you. We pray and then try to work it out. Isn't that the truth?

Let's look at **Rev 8:3-4**. This will help you fear God, when you realize that when you pray, it is not just a little old weak voice falling on a deaf ear of an old man, but the angels guard your prayers.

***Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.***

***Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.***

The angel takes your prayer, puts the incense on it, and it ascends up before God. Hallelujah! Daniel stood and prayed and fasted for three weeks, and the angel of the Lord was sent to him. He came the first day, but because of the warfare (the king of Persia had risen up), he had to go over and help. But finally, 21 days later, he came to Daniel, and he said, "I came. I was sent because of your words the first day that you prayed" (**Dan. Chap. 10**). We pray and then try to make it happen.

Did you know that Jesus never tried to make anything happen? Think about it. When Jesus prayed, that was it. He walked in such simple faith and fear of God that when He spoke a word, He knew it was the word that God had given to Him, and there was no need for Him to stay up all night trying to make it work. There was no need to call another prayer meeting. There was no need to do it over again. It was done!

He stood at the fig tree and He cursed it, and it died from the roots up (**Mark 11:13-14, 20-22**). He didn't stand there to see if the leaf began to curl up. He didn't go out and get a bunch of insecticides to try to kill it. He didn't start chopping the roots and try to make it work, so His disciples would be impressed. He turned and walked away. He knew the angel had already taken His prayer. He knew that the angel had already touched that tree and it was dead. He walked away and came back the next day, and it was dead.

He didn't say, "Wow! Am I amazed! What a surprise!" No! Peter goes, "Wow! Dead!" Jesus said, "**Don't marvel at this. Have faith in God (Mark 11:22)**". I didn't do it, fellows. You don't understand. It was faith in God that did it. It was My obedience to the fear of the Lord that told Me to curse that tree. I cursed it; He killed it. I didn't kill it. He killed it."

Jesus never healed one sick man. He laid His hands on them, and He prayed the prayer of faith, but God healed them. He said so Himself: "**I don't do these things; my Father doeth them (John 5:19)**". Our problem is that we pray, and then try to make it work. Or if we get a miracle, we want to write a book on it. People get one miracle in their life, and they want to write a book on their miracle ministry, and let every body in the world know that they did it, when they didn't do it. See, there is no fear of God there. You've never worked a miracle. You have never saved anybody. You have never healed anybody. The Lord did it through you, that's all, so why get all puffed up. Why get high-minded, like you did something, or like I did something.

If anybody gets saved, it is by the grace of God. If anybody gets healed, it is by the mercy of the Lord. If anybody gets delivered, it is by the mercy of God. It had nothing to do with you, except you happened to be the vessel that was in the right place. When Jesus cursed that tree, He did not kill it. **GOD, THE FATHER, SENT THE ANGEL, AND THE ANGEL KILLED IT.** Jesus didn't even raise Lazarus from the dead. He just spoke the word (**John 11:39-43**). That is all He did, and the Spirit of God went in there and raised him up. The Father raised him up.

I love Jesus because of the simple faith that He had; because of the fear of God that was in His heart. He dared not touch the glory of God. Never once did He claim that He could work a miracle. Never once did He claim that He could heal anybody. He said, "**The Father, He doeth these things.**" We are told to go out and heal the sick, aren't we (**Matt. 10:8; Luke 9:2; 10:9**). We are to go and simply pray or lay our hands on them, whatever God tells us, and then the Lord will heal them. The angel of God will touch them. The angel of the Lord will do what He wants to do, because He is commanded of God to do the work for you. Can you imagine going around in your puny little flesh fighting a devil you can't even see; fighting a spirit of infirmity that you can't even look at. The fear of God will teach you better. The fear of God will show you that you can't even have confidence in your own flesh, because when something good happens, you are going to take credit for it if you don't put it down real quick.

The angel of the Lord encamps around about me. Do you know what I do? Being a Christian, I enjoy it. I don't work at it anymore. I don't try to BE anymore. I just am, that's all. I have learned that there is a rest in the Lord, that through the fear of the Lord, I can enter into. I can say, "Thank you, Father. I have ceased from my own works. I have ceased from my own abilities, and now, Lord, I'm just going to let you do anything you want to do. Send me anywhere you want to send me. Make me anything you want me to be. If you want me to be foolish, if you want me to be wise, if you want me to look like a dumb nut, Lord, it is all right."

Look at what the Lord says in **Psalm 34:7**. I want you to get this into your heart and just let it die there.

***Psalm 34:7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.***

I don't have to deliver myself. He delivers me. I have had people come in to see me, and say, "Brother Krider, do you know what they are saying about you? Your reputation is being destroyed." I said, "I don't have one. I died in Calvary. Dead men don't have a reputation anyway, just that they are dead." People want to put labels on you. They want to smear you. Let them smear you. If God doesn't deliver you, then you are not going to get delivered anyhow. If God doesn't justify you, you're not going to be justified anyhow. **Rom 8:33 Who is it that shall lay anything to the charge of my elect? It is God that justifieth.**

So the fear of the Lord is important. It causes me to realize that the angels of God are around me, not because I am some big shot, but because I fear the Lord. I can lay me down and sleep at night because I fear the Lord. I can get up in great peace in the morning because I fear the Lord. I do not fear men. I don't fear what men can do to me, but I do fear the Lord, and He encamps His angels about me and He gives them charge over me. He loves me. Oh glory!

Let's go to **Psalm 34:9**:

***Psalm 34:9 Oh fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.***

There is no want, for God shall supply **ALL** my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (**Phil 4:19**). It doesn't make any difference to me whether anybody pays me a dime or not, I can preach the gospel anywhere God sends me, because God sends me. God does it. Amen!

The Lord is wanting us to realize something: you don't have to go around telling people how bad it is, how tough it is serving God. He said you will never be in want. Look at it. Is that what it says? There is to be no want to them? We read it where He says He will supply all your need, but here He said there won't even be a want there. You won't even want for any good thing. The Lord has already blessed you with it, and because you fear Him, He'll just dump it into your life. It'll come on you, overtake you (**Deut. 28:2**), and you will be so blessed.

You create the wants in your life that God doesn't give, because you don't fear the Lord. We go around telling people what we want. I can't really think of anything that I want. I have some desires about what God is going to do in my life in the ministry. He spoke to my heart at Oral Roberts University about what He wanted me to do, and I have given myself to do that. I don't have to figure out how to do it. I don't have to make a way to do it. He'll take care of that part. The LORD has laid up His goodness for me and encamped His angels around about me, hallelujah.

In **Psalm 60:4** David got beside himself, didn't he.

***Psalm 60:4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.***

There is a banner over you today; a covering. You are covered today by God. Amen! He has put a banner over me, and His banner is love (**Song of Sol. 2:4**). He has set His love upon me. Isn't that great? He has a banner flying. His angels are flying a banner over me. The enemy is standing there looking, and the angel says, "You had better keep your hands off him. Do you remember what Jesus did to you back at the cross. This is one of those that believe in Him."

The enemy is saying, "Look at this one. I can't do anything to her, because look at the angels guarding her. She doesn't see them, but I can see them." Can't you see those old demons sitting there, all boggle-eyed, teeth knocked out. And here we are going down the road, stepping on them, walking on them, not even aware that they are there, and the banner is flying, and all the troops of God are marching forward. And their banner is LOVE. Praise God! When you fear the Lord, it takes away the want. It satisfies you. It puts a banner over you. Today I want to give you a high-light of just rejoicing in the Lord. Amen!

***Psalm 85:9 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.***

The saving grace of the Lord is near them that fear him, to save them, to lift them up, to securely seal them away so the enemy cannot touch their lives. I don't know about you, but I am excited. I want you to get these into your heart and begin to practice them, because when you begin to practice them, things are going to take a different course in your life. Amen!

***Psalm 147:11 The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.***

Do you want God to take pleasure in you? Fear Him. Whenever you read in the word of God something that you should be doing, don't argue about it, but reverence Him by doing it, and God will take pleasure in you. I don't know how many people take pleasure in you, but I think it is wonderful to have God take pleasure in you. You can't please men, but you can please God. Amen! So He takes pleasure in them that fear Him, doesn't He.

***Ecc. 8:12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him;***

***Ecc 8:13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.***

**Proverbs 10:27** says that the fear of the Lord prolongeth days. The wicked may look like they are prospering, but the word says that it shall not be well with the wicked. The wicked are going to perish, but the Lord has prolonged your days. Not only prolonged your days in the flesh, but He has given you eternal life. My days are forever. I am alive forever more. I will change this garment, but praise the Lord, the real me has been prolonged forever. It is not so with the wicked, for they shall perish, and there will be no remembrance of them anymore. God is real, friends. GOD IS REAL!

***Num 14:9 Only rebel not ye against the Lord...***

Now let me ask you something: if God said to fear Him, and I don't fear Him, what am I doing? I'm rebelling, aren't I. When I respect men's opinion above God's word, I am rebelling, aren't I. When I give favour to one person above another, I am rebelling.

***Num 14:9 Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us...***

Praise God! All the wealth, all the strength of Egypt was given to the children of Israel. They fed them in the year of famine. They gave them all the gold and silver that they had laboured to get when they left the land of Egypt. Oh, praise God.

***Num 14:9 for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.***

What He is saying to us is to have the right kind of fear. Let's not be afraid of man, let's not be afraid of people. Let's not be afraid of anything, but let us fear our God. Let us have a reverent fear of God, so when God says something, it means something.

I hope and pray that the Spirit of God has put something into your life. I pray that you feel that God is changing and challenging your life right now. We need to learn the fear of the Lord, so that we can walk in peace, walk in joy, walk in the things of God. Amen!

# THE FEAR OF GOD

## CHAPTER 6

The fear of God is not a subject that is taught very often. They use it in sermons, and they say that we ought to fear God, but we're finding out what it really means to fear God. The word **fear** here means to have an awesome reverence, or to even have a terrible reverence. This will cause you to be conscious and aware that you should do nothing that might bring a reproach on the name of the Lord. That your life will be lived in a godly manner, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. That nothing you do will bring a stench or a spot on the ministry, or upon the very name of Jesus.

I want to live so everything I do will glorify the Lord. I want to live in such a way that every word that I speak, and all the actions that I take, will glorify the Lord, and I know that it is only going to come through fear. Because Israel did not fear God, they soon lost their respect for Him, they soon lost their reverence for Him, and they lost the Kingdom because of it. We found that God wants to honour us, and we found that the fear of God would prolong our days. We found that the mercy of God was upon those that fear Him; that His goodness was reserved for them that fear Him.

Let's look at **Acts 13:16**. God is so faithful. This is a scripture where Paul begins to talk to the rulers of the synagogue in Antioch, but there is a real warning here for us.

***Acts 13:16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.***

There is one thing about the fear of God: it gives you the ability to hear. You are not going to want to hear what God says until you fear Him, because you know what the word of God will tell you. It will tell you to separate yourself. It will tell you to die to self. It will tell you to become more Christ-like in everything you do. The natural man doesn't want to hear that, so he will allow you to become saved, he will allow you to become religious, he will allow you to become a person that is under bondage, but he doesn't want you to give audience or to hear what the spirit is saying to the church.

So Paul stood up and told them, **"Now you that fear the Lord, let's give audience to God. Let's give the Lord audience."** When we come into a church, the first thing we ought to do is kneel down and pray, or stand and pray and give God an audience, so He might give us direction for the service. We begin to give ourselves to Him, and yield ourselves so He can begin to flow through us. If you would come one-

half hour early and not talk to anybody, but come down and bow before the Lord, in the fear of God, God would begin to use you, whether you are male or female, whether you are young or old, because you had given Him an audience in your heart. You would have received instruction, and you would have been made available. You had been yielded because you are giving audience to the Holy Spirit. I don't think that we understand the very power that prayer has, that no matter who we are, if we pray with a faithful heart, God will use us.

Here he was saying, "I want you to use your own will to let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart." So we find that if I fear God, it is because I WILL to fear Him. Everything is hinged upon your will today. It isn't what anyone desires for me; it is what my will will let God do in me. I don't care who you are, God can use you, but He can never use you beyond the fear of God in your heart. He can't trust you. If you don't fear God, you can't be trusted, because you will make your own decisions. You will do what you want to do. You'll have your opinion. You will counsel people after the thoughts and imaginations of your own heart. You will prophesy out of your mind.

Do you want God to trust you? Begin to fear Him. Begin to reverence Him. Begin to be in awe of Him. Praise God. It amazes me that God would even want to use us. But isn't it amazing that when we get saved, right away we think we know everything and we don't need God anymore. We can make our own decisions. The same foolish decisions that we made in the world, we are making in the church, but now we have scripture to back it up. Amen!

In **Phil. 2:12**, He begins to put that fear deep into my heart; anyway it does mine. I don't know about your heart, but whenever I see these words in the word of God, it begins to do something in my spirit. I want you to see this because God is speaking to our hearts.

***Phil 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.***

**WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING.** You say, "Hey listen, I am not saved by works." I know you are saved by grace, but it is not to him who BEGINS the race, but to him that FINISHES; to him that endures to the end that shall be saved (**Matt. 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13**). We make salvation so easy for people that there is no repentance for it anymore. There is no separating ourselves anymore. There is no becoming a separate people unto God anymore. There is no fear of God anymore. We go out and do anything we want to, and suppose God's approval to be on it.

We need to begin through prayer and supplication to make our needs and petitions known unto God (**Phil. 4:6**). We need to fear as Jesus did. Did you know that Jesus feared? He prayed, but He knew that God could deliver Him (**Heb. 5:5-9**). **YOU ARE NOT GOING TO PRAY RIGHT UNTIL YOU FEAR RIGHT.** God said that a man ought to pray always (**1 Thess. 5:17**). You are not going to do that until you fear that

God really means what He says, and your life is going to be short unless you begin to pray always. You are not going to fast unless you begin to really believe that God wants you to fast (**Ezra 8:21; Isaiah 58:5-7**).

No one else can withhold a blessing from me. I can't withhold it from anyone else, but we both can withhold it from ourselves. The early church had such great power because they were moved with fear. They had godly fear, and when the Lord said something to them, they believed it was from God and they acted upon it. They didn't question it, they didn't reason it out, they didn't begin to bring other men to teach it away from them, but they heard the word of the Lord, and they feared God. They said, "If that is the word of the Lord, we will be obedient."

It is through the fear of the Lord that you learn how to have an inspiration in your heart to work; how to have an inspiration to move in God. **Phil 2:7** talks about Jesus, how He made himself of no reputation. He became obedient to God the Father. Now I want to show you a perfect example of the reverent fear of God that was in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

***Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.***

Obedience is found in the fear of God. When you go into the army or the navy, or any of the armed forces, the first thing they instill in you, is the fear of their authority. You know that if you break their rules, they are going to come down on you. You are in the army of God, and God, through His great love, must have an obedient people. He said, "What I want you to do is to begin to learn the fear of the Lord. You won't say anything that you want to say, and you won't do anything that you want to do, but you will be obedient to Me. You will want the blessing rather than the cursing, and the blessing of God comes through obedience, and obedience works through the fear of the Lord." Isn't that simple?

Do you believe that you are going to stand before the Lord one day, and do you want to have some rewards? Wouldn't it be terrible to have worked all your life, and have nothing at payday. Really think about it for a minute. How would you like to work 25 years, and go to pick up your check, and you didn't receive anything. There are a lot of Christians that are going to be saved, but have no reward (**1 Cor. 3:11-15**). Their works will be tried by fire, and wood, hay, and stubble will be consumed in the fire; but gold, silver, and precious stones will be our reward that came through the fire. Also we saw that Noah was moved with fear, and he built an ark, and because of that he was justified. The world was condemned, and he was saved.

Let's look at this in **Rev 11:18**:

***Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou***

***shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.***

**1 Peter 1:17** tells us there is no respect of persons in God when He rewards you. He is going to reward you for your obedience, whether you are small or whether you are great. He is going to look at you and say, "You are faithful, and now I am going to reward you for your faithfulness, because you feared the Lord." That's how you are going to be faithful, because you feared the Lord. Because you reverence Him and His word is your guideline, so when the Lord says to do something, rather than bring a reproach on the Lord through rebellion, we say "**YES LORD**" and we bring glory to Him through our obedience.

I want some of those rewards. I have feared the Lord, and because I feared the Lord, I have kept His name. I have kept His word, and I am not going to give a reproach to the gospel nor to the name of the Lord Jesus. Do you want a reward when you get there? He is no respecter of persons in His rewards; the small and the great can have the same rewards. **Rev 19:5** tells us the same thing. A lot of people that seemingly have made themselves great in this life, will be very small when they get there.

I like what Billy Graham said in one of his messages. It put a fear in my heart of not being where God wanted me to be. He said, "When I stand before the Lord in that day, God will not give me a lot of rewards for a lot of messages that I have preached, or the miles that I have traveled; but I believe there will be women and men that have been faithful to stay home and pray for me, and give so the ministry could go forth, that will have greater rewards than I have, because men judge after the seeing of the eye, but God judges according to the heart"(**I Sam. 16:7**). If I preach one sermon to you because I have to, I get no reward. If I preach to you because I love you, and am faithful to God, and love the Lord and fear the Lord, there is a reward for me.

You see, if we are not motivated by love in whatever we do, my friend, it is total lost time. I have to believe that is true, don't I. I have to believe that God is an awesome God, that every commandment He gave me is true. I have to have the fear of God in my heart, not to go traveling around the world because I feel obligated to do it. I must be compelled by the love of God. I must be constrained by the love of God, and so must you. When you pray, you should pray because you fear the Lord, because the Lord said to pray. You will get down and pray because you love Him, and you don't want to be a people without a prayer life.

You know, it is easy to tell a people who do not pray. They are in, they are out, they are up, they're down, they're over, they're under. They are never stable, so they don't have a good prayer life. A lot of them can quote scripture, but it doesn't cost you anything to quote scripture. It doesn't cost you anything to preach. It doesn't cost you anything to heal the sick. It doesn't cost you anything to see a miracle. But when you give yourself to prayer and fasting and the fear of God, it is going to cost you everything. Believe me! You are going to say, "Well, it is time for me to pray now," and somebody

says, "Well, let's wait about ten minutes. This program is almost over." Now one of two things is going to happen in your heart: either you fear their opinion and you want to please them or you are going to fear God, and say, "You stay if you want to, but my Father told me to go pray, and I am going to go and pray." Amen! The one that stayed and watched the television set, his life is going to be unstable; but that individual that feared God and got up and went in to prayer and met the Lord there, his life is going to be stable. He's going to be strong and the reward of God is going to be in his life.

You make decisions every day, and the answer that you give is the one whom you fear. If you fear what people are going to think about you, you are going to give an answer that pleases people, but if you fear God, you don't care what anybody says. God is looking for a people that please him. Jesus was a man who prayed. He prayed so much that His disciples wanted to be taught to pray; not how to pray, but **TO PRAY (Luke 11:1)**, and Jesus began to teach them. **Jesus said that men ought always to pray, and not to faint (Luke 18:1)**. If I fear God and I really believe that He means that, then I am going to be in prayer a lot more than I am in gossip; a lot more than I am going to be in backbiting, envy, and strife, and all that stuff. That is evil (**James 3:14-16**).

I've said this before, and I'm going to say it again and again and again: we want to pray against the people that are doing what the natural man does by raising up ugly pornography, and all of this kind of stuff - the girls on the street, and the men doing what they are doing. We continually preach against that, but let me tell you something: there is a greater evil today than all of that combined. That is the evil in our own hearts, that we do not regard as iniquity. Backbiting in the church is a lot worse than the poor prostitute on the street. Hatred in your heart is a lot worse than homosexuality. When you hate a brother or a sister, you are going to be a murderer (**1 John 3:15**). Amen!

We need to hate that evil, don't we. But I'm not going to hate that evil unless I believe that God meant what He said. If I really believe that He meant what He said, I'm going to be moved with fear, and faith, and in trembling. I am going to desire that He will be pleased with me, not that all the men in this world are pleased with me. Choose this day what you want. Do you want to please God, or do you want to please men? You know, the first one we please is self. We have a prayer meeting and we say, "I don't want to go down there and pray. I can't get down there in time for church, but that is plenty early." Well, you missed whatever God was going to give you in that half hour of prayer. It won't come in the service. It won't come in the prophecy. It won't come in the praise offering. God will say, "I wanted you down there praying before me. I wanted to use you then. I'm not going to use you now."

**I know the fear of God will kill you, but it is good. It will cause you to deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Jesus. When you fear God, you are going to believe Him. When you fear God, you are going to be obedient, and you are going to love the Lord thy God with all of thy heart. Amen!**

I used to have a perfect program worked out on how to get everything in the right perspective. I loved God first, my wife and family second, and then the church third. One day I was praying and God spoke to my heart. He speaks to me where I can understand. He said, "What are you doing?" I said, "Well, I'm praying, Lord." I was just repeating the same old prayer, right in the line that I thought they ought to come, you know. God said, "What is first, what is second, what is third, what is fourth, what is fifth?" I said, "Well, you know, I love you Lord, first." The Lord said, "No! You are to love **ME** with **ALL**. There is no second, third, fourth, fifth. Then you will love your wife as Christ loves the church, and you will love one another as I have loved you." We begin to be religious, don't we, because somebody taught us to pray that way. We are afraid to tell them that God said to pray this way, so we never let them know that we are praying God's way.

So here He said that the reward is going to be reckoned without respect of persons. My reward and your reward will not be reckoned by the preacher. I have news for you: when the Lord calls you to stand before the judgment seat of Christ, you won't stand before the deacon board, you won't stand before your wife, you won't stand before your husband, you won't stand before the community, you won't stand before all the people that you wanted to please. You will stand before the **LORD YOUR GOD**, and if you don't have any rewards, don't look around and say, "Well it was my wife's fault. It was the preacher's fault. It was the deacon's fault." **IT WAS YOUR FAULT**. If you suffer loss in the Kingdom of God, nobody took it from you. You **GAVE** it away.

We are talking about working out our salvation with fear and trembling. Peter said, "Our brother Paul wrote many things hard to be understood, and they which are unlearned wrest these scriptures as well as others to their own destruction" (**2 Peter 3:16**). But God knows what is going on. In **Romans 11:20** we find these words: "Well; because of unbelief (talking about the Israelites) they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear:" This is in the middle of a good context. You need to read it all.

We just come before the Lord and take it so nonchalantly. Being a Christian is almost like being a truck driver. It is almost like being a housewife. It is almost like being a businessman. It is almost like an occupation. I've got news for you: **being a Christian is not an occupation**. It is **LIFE**, friend. **IT IS LIFE**. It is more serious than anything you'll do in this world. We say, "Well, praise God; God, you sure were lucky to get me. You're blessed now that I'm in." We should come before the Lord and say, "God! I'm awe struck that You would even desire me, that You would give your Son to die for me, that You would shed the blood of Jesus for the remission of my sins. Lord, let me please You in everything I do, and in everything I say, in every action of my life."

David had this kind of fear. He said, "**You can do anything you want to, Lord, but take not thy holy spirit from me (Ps. 51:11)**. Lord, there is one thing I fear, and that is that You would remove Your spirit from me. Lord, don't take Your spirit from me." Do you want to fill the church? Begin to fear God, and when you begin to fear God, you are going to tell people about the love of God, and about the mercy of God, and about

the goodness of God, and you are going to be down praying thirty minutes or an hour before every service. You'll be praying because you believe that God told you to pray. "Well, Brother Krider, you know I've got this program that comes on just before church time, and I've got to see it." Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Lord had told you to go pray, and just thirty seconds before that program was over and you were caught up in it, the Lord called you home. "I know I should have gone and prayed because I felt it was you God, but tomorrow I'll make up for it. I just have to see who gets who in this program." **God will say, "You're too late!"**

**WE DON'T HAVE THE REVERENT FEAR OF GOD.** We say we do but the life that you live tells whether you do or not. The prophets were men that feared God, and they were thrown into prison for it. Many of them were hated by Israel. They were killed at the hand of the religious group. Why? Because they told the people of Israel, "Fear the Lord thy God. Fear Him only. Do not fear men, do not fear kings, do not fear other nations or any other power, but fear only the Lord thy God." They would say, "Who do they think they are? Kill them. Do away with them. Throw them in prison." But I want to tell you something: God hasn't spoken to us by prophets. In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and if you think they had a day of judgment upon them because they rejected the prophets, how much more we that reject the word of the Lord.

"Brother Krider, I'm saved." I'm not arguing about you being saved. What I am talking about is obedience, through the fear of God, knowing that certainly God has told us, God has spoken to us, God has shown us. The reason America is in the shape it is in, is not because of ungodly men ruling. It is because the church let down. The church began to become unholy. The church began to allow everything into the congregations, and the final result of that is that America is in the shape it is in. The church has the remedy too. The church let it happen; the church can cure it, but you are going to have to obey **2 Chron. 7:14**.

***2 Chr 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***

You are going to have to get that into your heart and believe that it is from God. We are the people that are called by God's name. We are to pray for our President. We are to pray for our Governor. We are to pray for the Mayor of this city. We are to pray for the Council. We are to pray for the police force, not to talk about them, not to degrade them, not to downgrade them, not to speak evil of them but to humble ourselves and to pray for them. We are to turn from **OUR** wicked ways. Anytime you choose your way over God's way, it is wicked. **There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof is death (Prov. 14:12).**

It is a lot more pleasing to the flesh, when God says "fast" to go "feast". It is a lot more pleasing to man when God says "pray", to go "play". Isn't that right? We think

because we are under grace, it is all taken care of. You had better read the word of God. I want some rewards. I want faithfulness in my life. I want God to abound in my life today. Somebody said, "I'm worried about cancer getting me." I'm not because He said that the fear of the Lord lonongeth my days. "I'm afraid of tragedy happening to me." I'm not, because He said He hath laid up goodness for those who fear the Lord. "Well I'm going to lose everything I've got." I'm not, because the word of the Lord says that they that fear their God, they shall never be ashamed. They have put their trust in Him, and they will never be moved.

The Lord is saying to us that if we learn to fear God, we wouldn't have to fear men. You see, the fear of men brings anxiety, it brings a snare to you, it brings you heart failure, it brings you sickness, depression, worry, restlessness. If you want to sleep at night, quit talking bad about people. It is so simple to sleep good at night. The sleep of the saints is sweet when he has been obedient to the Lord (**Pro 3:24**). Amen!

He said in **Romans 11:19-20**, "**I don't want you to be high-minded, but fear. You didn't do this by yourself; you were grafted in.**" If you read on, you'll find that if the natural branch was broken off, how much more then can the unnatural branch be taken out. How can you fall away from something that you have never been in? How can you be broken off from something that you were never in? He hasn't called us to sit down and do our will and live anyway we want to after we are called. He called us to glorify Him by being obedient to His will, to go where He tells us to go, to do what He tells us to do, and to say what He tells us to say.

When we begin to be high-minded, we are in trouble. When we begin to think that we are something that God can't do without, we are in trouble. When we think that we have an ability or a gift that God can't do without, we are in trouble. **Jesus said, "If these people don't praise Me, I'll just raise up the rocks and they'll cry out" (Luke 19:40)**. If He could use a jackass to prophesy the word of the Lord (**Num 22:27-29**), He can do it again today. If He can't get His prophets to live godly, if He can't get His people to live godly, He'll just shut them down and get another people. Someday He is going to have a people that fear the Lord.

What do you think would happen if the Lord returned today, with the things that are in our hearts and in our lives and in our minds. It is a serious thing to serve God. **It's a lot better never to have known the way than to have known it and to turn from it (Heb 6:1-6)**. It's much better for us to say, "Yes Lord, I'll do it," and then do it, than to say, "Yes, Lord, I hear you. I've read your word," and then go our own way. It would be better for us to never have given our life to Christ, if we are still going to have hate, jealousy, envy, strife, and backbiting. We are going to be held more responsible in the day of the Lord for those things, than the sinner is ever going to be responsible for.

He doesn't want a high-minded people. He wants a humble people. When we are high-minded, we think that we can get away with everything. We think that we are doing God a favour by being in the family. It's like your own kid coming up to you and saying to you, "Aren't you glad that I'm in your family. Haven't I really done you a

favour." You are feeding, you're clothing, you're blessing, you're sending them to school, you're buying them shoes, and the little rascal comes up to you, and says, "You ought to be proud that I am in your family." He messed up, broke the windows out of the neighbors house, got thrown out of school. "Hey, you ought to be proud that I am in your family." If my kid had ever done that to me, I would have beaten the fire out of him. I mean that. I still believe in the board of education applied to the seat of understanding. I believe it works, because the word of God says it does (**Prov 10:13; Prov 22:15**).

Let's look at **1 Peter 3: 9-13**:

***1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.***

You will not inherit the blessing until you become a blessing.

***1 Peter 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:***

Do you think you can speak bad about a brother and it is justified? Or you can speak evil about the preacher, and it is justified? **NO!** What you have done is you have already loved evil more than you've loved righteousness. You have already said to God, "I don't fear you. I will say what I want to say, anytime I want to say it, because that is my right." You know, when you stand before the Lord, you won't be saying, "But God, I had my right." God said that man will be without excuse in that day (**Rom 1:18-25**).

The Lord will say to you and me, "It was written!" "Yeah, but Lord, I didn't have time to read it." You mean you were preparing your life for eternity, and you didn't have time to read the book of instructions? In the very near future if you had to fly a 747 and your life depended on it, do you mean to tell me that you wouldn't be trying to get all the instructions that you could get before the date of takeoff. You don't mean to tell me that you would be laying around worrying about the future of cars and anything else. You would be studying, because your future hinged on what you knew when you got in that cockpit, and you would be out there trying that thing out. You would be reading the instruction book. You would be familiarizing yourself with all the gadgets in there. You would get the best instructor you could ever get, because your life depended upon getting that thing off the ground and into the air, and then down again. There is something far more serious than all of that: **eternity - life with Jesus, life with the Father**. You are preparing yourself for eternity.

***1 Peter 3:11 Let him eschew evil...***

Not only hate it, but get away from it.

***1 Peter 3:11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.***

***1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.***

Do you think God's judgment is not against you when you do evil? Do you think you don't withhold the hand of God of the blessing of the Lord in your life when you speak evil about a brother? You certainly do. His face is against **THEM** that do evil. It doesn't say just the sinner and the ungodly, but against **US**. If it weren't for His mercy, His grace, and for His goodness, my friend, we would all be wiped out.

I know that when you got saved, you never had any problems like that, did you. You loved everybody. You never had any evil word. I know this couldn't pertain to any of us. It must pertain to those somewhere else. No, it pertains to the whole body, and it should have been taught years ago. It should never have left the house of God. "Boy, I'll tell you, those people back there, they were holiness people." Well, God's people are still demanded to be a holiness people. God's people are told that in the fear of God, in the fear of the Lord, we should perfect holiness. Holiness means to have a holy body, a holy temple, that God can dwell in, where your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (**1 Cor. 6:19**). It's the dwelling place of the God that we love.

***1 Peter 3:13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?***

The only time that you get in trouble is when you follow after your own imagination. God is saying to my heart through these lessons that I have a choice, and I had better choose to learn the fear of God. I had better choose that when God says something, that is the final authority. I could come to you and say, "Would you write me a new Bible. There are a few things in here that maybe you through your wisdom could do away with, because I really don't like that." Now I am sure that God would be impressed with both of us, because we had come up with a better idea that would make more people religious, wouldn't it. There would be a lot more people that would call themselves Christians if they didn't believe there were any rules to it, but the only problem is, you're not flying a 747 off the end of a strip. You're preparing to make the flight of your lifetime for eternity. Amen!

So the Lord is saying to me that I am not to be high-minded. I didn't get saved because I was so intellectual. I gave my life to Christ because He showed me that I was lost, and the only way to Him was through Jesus Christ, and I needed the blood applied to my life. I find that I need the grace of God every day of my life. I find out today that I need the mercy of God every day of my life. I find that the only time the **BLESSING OF THE LORD** is withheld from me is when I withhold it.

"The devil is keeping my blessing from coming." No! Look in the mirror and you will find the real guy that is doing it to you. You can call him the devil if you want to. You can stand up there and say, "DEVIL!" No, just say, "You rotten outfit. You robbed me last time. I mean today I am going to **PUT YOU AWAY**, and tomorrow I am going to **PUT YOU AWAY**. As long as I have to live in you, I'm going to **DIE DAILY** to you. You're not going to have any power on me. I'm going to begin to love my brothers and sisters, and when you try to make me hate them, I am going to absolutely annihilate you, and remind you that you are not going to live forever. And if you are not good today, I'm not going to feed you."

Do I talk to myself like that? Amen! Who is it that doesn't want to get out of bed and pray, the spirit or your flesh? Who makes you lay there, the devil or you? Who is it that keeps you from giving when God wants you to give? The devil? **YOU!** When God wants to bless you, who withholds the blessing of God? You do! That flesh man! Well, I've got news for you: the devil cannot keep the windows of heaven from opening in your life. Only you can do that.

**So the key to it is right here in 1 Peter 3:9-13. We are not to be high minded, but being of a humble mind. Saying as Jesus did, "Lord, not my will but thine be done" (Luke 22:42). Here is my commitment to you, Lord. Everything I am, Lord, is yours. Everything you do through me, I want to use to glorify you. I don't want to build a big ministry, Father. I don't want people to build me up, Lord."**

We like people to mention our name. We keep waiting and then sure enough, they get everybody named in the group except us. Did you ever notice that? You were faithful, and worked yourself to death because you knew somebody was going to recognize you, and when they got up to call the names off, they got everybody else, but somehow they missed your name. And what did that dead man do? He had a fit! He was going to quit the church. He was going to resign. He was never coming back, because they didn't appreciate him, they didn't love him, they didn't call his name.

Did you ever think that maybe God blanked the mind of that person so he couldn't even remember your name. Next time you want to get mad at the preacher, get mad at God. The next sermon that hits you, just drives you to your knees, don't blame the preacher for picking on you. Say, "Thank you, Jesus. I never got to my knees any other way, but this is doing it." You see, when you ask the Lord to teach you to pray, don't tell Him **HOW** to teach you to pray. Amen!

The fear of God will cause all of these things in your life, and you will be so happy. We are not to be high-minded. We are to be humble. Now here is a good one: **submitting.**

***Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;***

**Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another IN THE FEAR OF GOD.**

That means that no matter who we esteem to be great or not great, if God has put them in the body and they have something that is going to benefit the body, or benefit me, or they need help, I should submit myself to them. Amen! What difference does it make if your feet need washing, if I am the one to wash them. If your lawn needs mowing, what difference if I have submitted myself to your need, and have mowed your lawn.

We have a hard time submitting to God, let alone to one another. Do you know what is missing? The fear of God. If we really believed this, and feared God meant it, do you know what we would do? We would be submitting to one another. We wouldn't be speaking evil of one another. We would give the other person equal time. Is it in there, or is it not in there? Can you teach the fear of God without that? No! Because that is what causes you to have a submissive spirit. You say, "Well people will walk on you. They will step on you." They may kill you.

Jesus submitted Himself to the will of the Father. He submitted Himself to the hand of those that killed Him. Submitting yourself means that **you no longer live, but Christ lives in you, and the life that you now live in the flesh, you live it by the faith of the son of God who loves you, and gave himself for you (Gal. 2:20)**. The fear of God means that you acknowledge that scripture to be true. I don't belong to me. I belong to God. I was a mess for thirty-three years, so when the Lord wanted to take my life, I was glad to give myself to Him. Amen! But I find myself every now and then wanting to take it back and help him. "Now Lord, this is the way that I think it ought to be." Was my Father impressed with what I think? No! He said, "Son, it is written. Forget what you think. It has worked My **WAY** for all of these years. It will work a few more for you." Ford isn't the only one that had a better idea. Christians do too, you know.

So here the Lord is saying that we are not to be a people that want to rule over everybody. We ought to be a people that are submissive, and when they pass a new tax, just accept it. I love Jesus. It came tax day, time to pay, and Peter is having a fit. He said, "They want money. We have to pay our taxes." And the Lord said, "Go fishing" (**Matt.17: 24-27**). That is a crazy thing to tell a man to do when he is all worried about getting something done. Peter was over in the fear of men. He was anxious. He was full of anxiety. He was worried about how they were going to pay the taxes. What does Jesus tell him to do? "Go fishing, Peter. Since you like to fish anyhow, why don't you just forget it and go fishing. You aren't going to have to work at it all day either. The first fish you get, open his mouth and you will find a piece of money that will pay the taxes for us." Hallelujah!

We are out here worrying, full of anxieties about how we are going to make God's program work, and He says, "Go fishing." Take a vacation from all of your anxieties, your fears and your frustrations, your restlessness, and your work. Take a vacation

from that and begin to live in the Kingdom of God, and enjoy the presence of the Lord. Submit yourself to those that are in authority over you, for they are rulers of God. God appointed them.

A few years ago I was on my way to Oklahoma, and I don't know how fast I was going. I try to keep it down to 55, but here I was cruising along. People were passing me, so I was singing praises to Jesus, and I had a great victory, burning the highway I guess. All of a sudden there wasn't anybody on the road but me, and I went up over this little hill, and here is a guy welcoming me to Arizona. He said, "Do you know how fast you were going?" I said, "No, I don't. I really don't." He said, "You were doing 69 miles per hour, but I'm going to write you up at 65 so it won't go on your record," and he gave me that thing that you send in, and it said 65 miles an hour. That is only \$20, but 69 miles an hour and above begins at \$55.

I could have argued with him and said, "Now I wasn't going that fast," and he would have written me up for 69, and it would have cost me \$55. It would have cost me an extra \$35 to learn to keep my mouth shut. I just submitted myself to his authority. He had the badge, and he had the blinking lights, and the little ticket book. It wasn't a question of how fast I was going. There wasn't any question at all. I had broken the law, and therefore because I did not submit myself to the authority of the law, I couldn't get mad at him. I just said, "Well, whatever you say." Then I thanked him for 65 instead of 69. Four miles an hour can sure make a difference in Arizona. See, a little sin can kill you.

So we are to submit ourselves, not only to the body of Christ, but to those in authority. If we really believe and have the fear of God in our heart, we realize we are in the world, but we are not of it. We are here because God wants us to be ambassadors (**2 Cor 5:20**). God wants us to represent Him. God wants us to move in new realms of authority. But the safety factor is in being submitted. Now if someone else preaches a sermon and lays one on me, and they are wrong, instead of me rebelling about that, my heart is to submit and to pray about it, because if I rebel then God is going to deal with me for rebellion. But if I submit myself, God is going to deal with them for being wrong, and I am not going to get hit. I tell my wife all the time, "Honey, there is a safety factor built in for you. You stay under my covering, and if I am wrong, God will zap me but you won't get touched. But if you get out from under the umbrella, God is going to get you with lightning, and then He is going to work with me." 55 is a lot better than 65.

We need to submit ourselves in the fear of God, and the only way we are going to submit ourselves is when we really believe that God means it; when we don't want to bring a reproach on God. I think that one of the most reproachful things on the gospel of Christ today, is the rebellion in the hearts of God's people. How would you like to have a bunch of people working for you like God has working for Him? They show up when they want to show up, doing what they want to do, when they want to do it. Amen? They murmur and complain when you feed and clothe them, and give them a hospitalization policy, and take good care of them. You wouldn't have a person working for you one day that way, would you.

I had men working in my business, and when they were not obedient to me, I brought them to my office, and told them, "Look, you read this, you signed it, you said you were going to abide by the agreements that I set down, and you haven't done it. I am going to give you one more opportunity." That is, if they didn't rebel. If they said, "**I DON'T LIKE YOUR RULES,**" I said, "There's the door. The same way you came in, you can go out." Now that is the temporal men, but how about us who are working for eternity. How about us who are laboring in the field today that are preparing for eternity. Do you mean to tell me that God is going to give a Kingdom to a rebellious man? Israel lost it for rebellion, because rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (**I Sam 15:23**). So the Lord said, "I want you to submit yourself."

In **I Peter 2:16-17**, the Lord begins to reveal some more things to us. Not only one writer wrote these things. There were many writers that agreed.

***1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.***

***1 Peter 2:17 Honour ALL men. Love the brotherhood. FEAR GOD. Honour the king.***

Christians should be the most obedient people in all the world. If there is a law that says we have to do a thing, we ought to do it with gladness, not start grumbling, complaining, and murmuring about it. I know the natural man says you've got to protect yourself. Find that in the scripture, please. I belong to my Father. He takes better care of me than I ever could. I don't mind what the laws of this land are, because I'm only here for a season. I'm a tourist. If you go to England and try to change their laws, you can't. You're not even a citizen of their country. You don't really belong there except as a guest, so you aren't able to change their laws.

Do you want things to get changed in America? Begin to fear God. Begin to pray. Begin to seek the face of the Lord. Begin to turn from your wicked way, and say, "Lord, hallelujah, praise God, there is going to be a **CHANGE** now, because I am honoring your word. I am submitting myself to the word of God. I am going to honour the offices of the President, the Governor, the congressman, the mayor, and the police force because You set these in office.

One of my Christian brothers said there have been a few times that people didn't like him, but most of the time he went out in love, and didn't tell them that they were sinners but brought them the good news. Most people would say, "Hey, I want to hear it." If they rejected it, they would just walk away. But if you come pouncing on them like you are some high-minded big-shot, and you are going to really shake them up and tell them, bless God, that they had better get their act together or hell is going to bust wide open, as far as the guy knows now, he is already in hell, and things couldn't get much worse if he just died and went

off. It's just kind of a continuance, right? But many Christians walk around with a high-minded attitude, not submitted to authority or having that reverent fear of the Lord, and think they are going to save the world.

Men and women who have ever been used of God were men and women who feared God. They prayed, they fasted, they believed that the word of God meant exactly what it said, and if they would be obedient to God's choice, they would live and not die. Amen! God spoke to George Mueller. I love to read about him. He's one of the greatest men. He wanted to go out and tell people his needs, and the Lord said, "No. You pray and tell Me what you need." George Mueller began to meet God in his prayer closet, and pray with other men, and they would pray, and pray, and pray, and God would miraculously move, and all of their needs would be met. He never brought reproach on the gospel. He never gave anybody an occasion to say, "He is after the money." He believed God. He prayed. He feared God and God honoured him.

**That is what God does. God will honour us if we will quit telling people how bad it is, and how poor we are, and how much in need we are, but rather say, "God, You are my source. You are my substance. You are my provider. I fear you, God. I've honoured you all the days of my life, and Lord, thank you for providing the substance." Amen!**

# THE FEAR OF GOD

## CHAPTER 7

We are going to begin this last chapter with **Hebrews 12:26-28**.

***Heb 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.***

***Heb 12:27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.***

***Heb 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.***

The only way that I can serve God acceptably is with reverence and godly fear. I can't serve Him and be acceptable in His sight, if I argue about how He has written it, if I doubt the way that He wants me to live, if I continually argue with Him. If I continually complain, and murmur, and gripe, am I serving Him acceptably? What happened to the children of Israel? They were cut off, the Bible says, because they would not serve the Lord with joy (**Deut. 28:47-48**). The Lord said, "I want you to come before me with joy. I want you to come before me with gladness," and yet they would not have the fear to believe God; therefore God cut them off, and gave the Kingdom to another nation. So I know that if I am going to serve God acceptably, I am going to take His wisdom, His counsel, His guidance, and His word for it. Amen? There is no higher court in all this earth, in all the heavens, than the court that God brings in.

Now let's look at **Malachi 4:1-3**. I want to show you something that it will do for you. It is healthy to fear the Lord, believe me.

***Mal 4:1 For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.***

***Mal 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings...***

If you want to walk in health, if you want to walk in prolonged days of life, if you want to walk in the goodness of God, fear the Lord, and He will arise in your life. He will have healing in his wings.

***Mal 4:2 ...and you shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall.***

***Mal 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of host.***

He said that authority and healing belong to those that fear God.

I like what Job said, "Whether I live or die, it is going to be the Lord (Job 13:15). The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1:21)." When Shimei was throwing dirt and stones on David and was cursing him, David's men wanted to go up and cut his head off, but do you know what David said? (**2 Sam. 16:5-14**). **"Let him alone, for the Lord ordered it. The footsteps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord. It may be so that the Lord will requite me a blessing this day. I know he isn't doing this just for fun. I know he isn't doing this just because it is something to do. He is doing it for my benefit. I'm getting stoned, I'm getting dust on me, but God is going to give me a blessing. When He finds out that I am faithful, He is going to give me a blessing. When He finds out that I fear God, He is going to give me a blessing."**

I want the healing power. I want the authority power in my life, but it is not going to be given to those that don't fear God. Amen! It is going to be to those that fear the Lord. God wants to bless you, doesn't He.

I believe all the word of God is powerful. I believe all scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable (**2 Tim 3:16-17**). If we read from **Gen 1:1 to Rev 22**, we would not find scripture that was not profitable to us. Amen! If you want to see the church built up, and you want to see things happening in your church, I'll show you how to do it. Let's look at **Haggai 1:12-14**.

***Haggai 1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God...***

That is what the preacher has to do first.

***Haggai 1:12 ...and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the Lord.***

***Haggai 1:13 Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message unto the people, saying I am with you, saith the Lord.***

***Haggai 1:14 And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,***

When we begin to fear the Lord in the eldership, when we begin to hear the messenger of God, and begin to tell the people, "Fear the Lord. Begin to fear the Lord," we are not going to have to worry about getting them to work. They are going to find a place TO work. When the fear of God is upon a man's life, you don't have to tell him to do anything. He is going to be busy doing something. It is the word of the Lord, friends. **God wants us to begin to fear Him, to know that whatever He said is right, and it doesn't need a second opinion.** It doesn't need somebody to try to interpret it for us. It doesn't need somebody to say, "Well, it doesn't need that anymore." **It means exactly what it says.**

I have preached my heart out. I have taught my heart out. The Holy Ghost has said again, and again, and again, that we need to fear the Lord, and move into that realm where God's word is the authority. Where God said it, that settles it; there is nothing to debate about. There is nothing to argue about. If God tells me to love you as He loves you, then what do I have to argue about? Why do I need to pray about it? If He tells me to hate evil, why do I have to pray about hating. The healing, the authority, the work of the Lord is going to get done when we begin to fear the Lord.

I'm really tired of people getting up and saying anything they want to say in the house of God, and then blaming God for it. They prophesy the paint off the walls, and can't even stay in attendance in the house of God more than three services in a row. I want to tell you something: we need to hold our mouth. We need to watch our tongue. We need to ask the Lord to set a watch over it like David did (**Ps. 141:3**), so we won't dare to open our mouth just to say something, to fill up a vacuum. When the Lord is not speaking, we ought not to speak. When the Lord is not talking, we ought to be quiet and wait for the Lord to move. Amen! I tell you, if I was every thing that people prophesy to me to be, I would have to be 550 people and 620 places.

When somebody asks me to give a personal prophesy, I just say, "You may not want to hear it." I don't think God just tickles our ears. I don't think God just says flowery things to us when we don't fear Him. I believe the first thing He'll ever tell us when a true prophet arises, is **fear the Lord**. Amen! **Fear the Lord. When we begin to fear the Lord, we are going to believe Him, and when we begin to believe Him, we are going to start living it. When we start living it, the world is going to see it, and then they are going to know that Jesus was the Son of God (John 17:21-24).**

The **32nd chapter of Jeremiah** has to be one of the best promises in the word of God to those that fear the Lord. We're going to begin with the **36th verse**, and we are going to finish up today in this section of the word. There are so many more scriptures in context on the fear of God, but I believe we have taught enough.

***Jer 32:36 And now therefore thus saith the Lord...***

When I see, "Thus saith the Lord," in the word of God, I want to pay attention.

***Jer 32:36 ...the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence;***

***Jer 32:37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries...***

And that is what He is doing right now. He is gathering us up. The chosen, those that before the foundation of the world were chosen, He is gathering together.

***Jer 32:37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:***

***Jer 32:38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:***

It sounds like **Revelation 7:17; 21:7, and 2 Cor. 6:18**. "I will wipe away their tears, and I shall be their God, and they shall be my sons and my daughters in that day, saith the Lord."

***Jer 32:39 And I will give them one heart, and one way...***

Jesus said in **John 14:6**, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man comes unto the Father but by Me." There is only one way. When we begin to fear God, we are not going to let everybody claim to have the way and not become angry about it in our spirit. I've got news for you: a Hindu doesn't have the way. He is lost and on his way to hell. A man that does good works to work his way into heaven is not on THE way. He is **IN** the way but he is **OUT** of the way.

God is saying to us that we need to begin to have some righteous anger in our spirits. We ought to hate evil, and anything that distracts from Jesus is evil, friend. Anything that doesn't glorify the Lord is not of God. Isn't that what He said in **2 Cor. 6:17-18**: "Come out and be separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and then will I receive you unto myself, and then will I bless you."

**God said, "I am going to give you one heart. I am going to give you one way."** Amen! Somebody said to me one time, "Brother Krider, there are a lot of ways." I said, "No. There are a lot of ways to hell, but there is only one way home." Either we go that way, or we don't go at all. If I can't serve God with **ALL** of my heart, I'd rather not serve Him, because it is going to cost me a lot more to lose heaven because of luke-warmness in my heart, than it would ever cost me not to have started at all.

***Jer 32:38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:***

***Jer 32:39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever...***

You see, the heart that God gives you is a heart that fears the Lord. The heart of man does not fear God. The heart of man fears man. He fears the things coming upon the earth, but he does not fear God. A man that is not saved never fears God. The only fear he has of God is that one day he is going to get judged by Him and be lost forever. But the fear he is talking about here is the reverence, the awesome reverence of God; wanting to do the will of God. You don't get that until you are born again, until you give your life to Jesus. Amen!

***Jer 32:38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:***

***Jer 32:39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever...***

Why does God give you that heart? Why does God give you that way? Why does God give you this desire? So you can learn to fear the Lord! You can go out here and do all kinds of good works and go to hell. You can go out here and give yourself to be burned, and go out here and feed the hungry, you can go out and do everything, but if it is not motivated by love, it will profit you nothing. Amen!

Here the Lord is saying, "I have given you all of this for one reason: that you may learn to fear Me." **WHEN WE FEAR GOD, WE ARE GOING TO BELIEVE GOD.** We are going to believe that God's word is true above every man's opinion. We are going to quit seeking for men to change the word of God so it will fit us and please us, but we are going to ask the Holy Spirit to change US, so we can please the Father. We are going to walk in His concept. We are going to walk in His judgments. We are going to walk in His word. We are going to walk in a way that is right in the sight of the Lord, but it is not going to happen until we fear God, until we would rather die than bring a reproach on the name of Jesus.

The three Hebrew men did not want to bring a reproach on their God. They stood at the fiery furnace, and rather than bow down and compromise, they said, "Oh no, we are not careful concerning how we answer you in this matter, for our God is able to deliver us; but whether He does or not, we are not going to bow down. Forget it. Throw us in the fire. Kill us if you want to, but we are not going to bring a reproach on the name of the Lord" (**Dan. 3:16-18**). Daniel said in **Chap. 6**, "No way am I going to be a reproach on the name of the Lord. My Father told me to pray, and I am going to pray. I've seen too many results from prayer to quit now. Hallelujah! I'm not going to quit. You can throw me to the lion's den if you want to, but I am not going to quit praying. **I fear God.**" **Amen!**

Every time a man or a woman stood up and proclaimed their faith in God and their fear of the Lord, and their unwillingness to compromise, God always honoured them. Do you think God is going to trust you with anything when you are afraid of people, and you are going to compromise your stand away, because they are going to kill you. They are not going to give you any more money. They are going to do something to you. I want to fear God, because God has sent me around the world already, and people called me to buy the airplane ticket for me. They didn't even know I was going. You don't have to be afraid of people, and you don't have to compromise the gospel to get favour with man. If you have favour with God, you've got the favour, and then He will give you favour in the heart of men.

Don't you think it's time that we took a stand like those three Hebrew men. Don't you think it's time that we took the stand that Daniel took, that Jesus took, that Peter took, that Paul took. Don't you think it's time we stood up and said, "Hallelujah! I believe the word of God is truth. Whether I live or whether I die, it's going to be God. You haven't got anything to do about it." Wouldn't it shake some people up if they could see Christians living by the standard of God? Don't you think people would want to join that kind of an outfit?

I remember during the Korean war men wanted to get into the special forces. It was harder; it was commando tactics. They had to really come into a place where their standards were higher than just being in the service. They had to be a special elite corp., and they had to be disciplined. They had to be in great obedience. They were willing to die for it, because it was a place of honour. Well how about you and me; we're going to be honoured in heaven, and the Bible says that He will honour them that fear Him. We ought to be willing to be different than the world. We ought to be willing to live in a higher standard. We ought to be willing to live or die for the word of God, and by the standards of the Lord. We want God to bless us, but we don't want to bless God.

He said, "I'm going to give you this so you'll fear Me forever, for your good and for your children." Do you want your children blessed? Start fearing God. When you've got decisions to make, start making your decisions totally upon the word of God, with nothing added and nothing deleted. Make your choices on the word of God, not what some preacher gets up and tells you, or somebody gets up and prophesies to you that is 150 thousand miles away from the word of God. Go to the word and check it out, and if it doesn't line up with the word of God, forget you ever heard it and start praying for that guy unless God tells you not to. It may be too late for him. He said that, you know.

***Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.***

***Gal 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

There are a lot of people prophesying today, that prophesy out of the vain imaginations of their hearts. They need to be stood against the wall by somebody that loves them, and say, "Look. You are on your way to trouble." Amen? They come up to somebody living ungodly, and say to them, "The Lord is well pleased with thee, and the Lord shall prosper thee, and the Lord shall multiply thee." That person says, "Wow! I guess what I am doing is all right. This person is a prophet; he prophesied to me that everything I am doing is right." Accountability starts to multiply when you have hundreds of souls that you have prophesied to, and they are all on their way into trouble because you wanted to be important in the house of God, and did not fear the Lord.

When a man or woman gets in the pulpit, the fear of God ought to be upon them. The trembling of the Holy Spirit ought to be upon them. They should be saying, "I will not preach any other gospel, and I will not glorify any personality but the Lord Jesus Christ." Whether men and women like it or not, whether a person says, "I don't like you any more," doesn't make a bit of difference to me, because my Father loves me. Amen! I would rather have the honour of God anyhow, because it will last awhile. If you honour me, you might change your mind next week. God doesn't change His mind.

***Jer 32:39 I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:***

***Jer 32:40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts...***

**"I WILL PUT MY FEAR."** That is what God wants to put in you today. You say, "Well, Brother Krider, I want the love of God." You will never really have the love of God until you fear God, and the more you love God, the more you will fear God. Amen! Every man and woman that are recorded in the Bible, that ever did anything good and mighty for God, were people that loved God and feared God. Think about it for a minute.

What does fear mean? Not the fear of man. I am talking about the reverence that is due God, the awesome reverence due God, that if there is a decision to make, "I want to make it according to His will. I will do nothing to bring a reproach on the gospel or upon the personage of Jesus Christ." That is what it means. I will not be a hypocrite in the house of God, nor anywhere in the world. This will help you tell the truth too. Amen!

***Jer 32:40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.***

When the fear of God gets in your heart, you won't depart from God. You won't worry about backsliding. When you start fearing God you will not want to backslide,

because when the fear of God is there, we found out that He makes your days prolonged. He has reserved goodness for them that fear Him. He has given us healing. He has given us prosperity. He has given us authority. He has given us the power to get the work done. Why? Because we have **FEARED** Him. We have **KNOWN** His name. Amen.!

***Jer 32: 41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.***

***Jer 32: 42 For thus saith the Lord; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.***

God is wanting to bless you, and to cause those blessings to be mighty in your life, but we have withheld the blessing of God from our families, from ourselves, from our children, because we were afraid to bring them up the right way. We were fearful of men, that if we beat our children, it would not be pleasing to society. If we made our children go to church, it wouldn't be pleasing to their friends, and that would make us look bad. But I want to tell you, we need to become a God-fearing people. We need to train up our children in the way that is right in the sight of God, that when they are old, they will not depart from it (**Prov 22:6**). We need to have so much fear of God in our heart that we want to please Him always.

Let's look at **Heb 10:14-17**:

***Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.***

***Heb 10:15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,***

***Heb 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;***

***Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.***

You are a new creature today. You are a new person. You are not born of sin (talking about the new creation man) but you are born of God. You are created in His image and likeness, and the Lord said, "The reason that I have put this into your heart, is that you will fear Me, that it may be good for you and for your children."

The things I like to minister are the things that change our lives now. I don't need to know how great I am going to be. I don't need to know how powerful I am going to be. What I need to know is what is going to change my life today. What is the gospel

that I need to know now that will make me what God wants me to be, so He can reveal that in me in that day. I need to get right back down to the simplicity of the gospel of the Kingdom of God; to fear the Lord, to eschew evil, to love the Lord, to do that which is right in the sight of God, to always choose that which is good in His sight and not that which is good in men's sight. To please the Lord, rather than men.

Isn't that what the early church did in the beginning? They were afraid of no men, but men were afraid of them. Today the church can be filled with snakes and scorpions and serpents, and we preach and prophesy to them like they have a good standing with God, and we welcome them to the house of the Lord. I'll tell you something: the day of restoration is at hand. When the fear of God shall once again rule in the heart of men and women, it will be as it was in the day of Sapphira and Ananias (**Acts 5:1-11**). They will not dare to join themselves to the church for the fear of God will be upon them. If you are popular with the world, there is something wrong with your stand with God.

Father, we thank you! God we need to understand. You told us to learn and to be taught the fear of God so we will make choices that will please You in the reverence that is due You. We will not argue with You. God, we will not try to rewrite it in a way that we like it. We will not tone it down so it will please men, and soothe men, but God, we need a message today that will stir men. We need a message in this hour that will cause men to desire to rise up, and to be right in the sight of God. Lord, let the fear of God be in our hearts as it has never been there before, and that we will begin to make choices. We will begin to make decisions that are not based on how we see it, on how we feel, or what we think about it, but it will be "Thus saith the Lord", and that will settle it forever. In Jesus name, Amen!