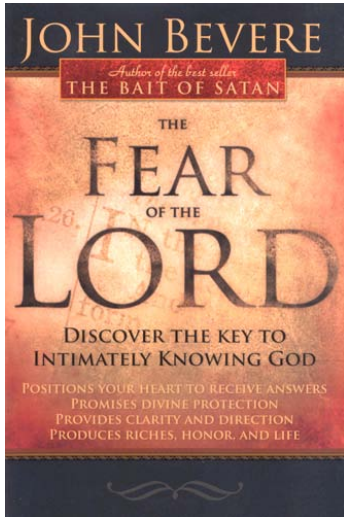


# The Fear of The Lord



## Class Reading Requirement:

You may purchase the book at the church book/media store for \$11.00

An audio CD of the book may be purchased online, usually for \$25.

## Reading Schedule:

Due before 1<sup>st</sup> class:

Introduction – Chapter 4                      Pages 1 – 50

Due before 2<sup>nd</sup> class:

Chapters 5, 6, 7                                      Pages 53 – 84

Due before 3<sup>rd</sup> class:

Chapters 8, 9                                        Pages 87 – 116

Due before Spiritual Maturity class (2 weeks):

Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13                      Pages 119 - 188



# The Fear of The Lord

## Lesson One Student - Understanding God

### Completed Reading:

Introduction - Chapter 4 (Pages 1 - 50)

Questions or thoughts on what you have read?

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### Ecclesiastes 12:13 (Amplified Bible)

*All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God [revere and worship Him, knowing that He is] and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man [the full, original purpose of his creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun] and the whole [duty] for every man.*

### Who am I to God?

The Value - You are \_\_\_\_\_

### 1 Corinthians 6:20 (Amplified Bible)

*You were bought with a price [purchased with preciousness and paid for, made His own]. So then, honor God and bring glory to Him in your body.*

- The artist & His work
  - The Value of Art
  - The Value to others
    - Limited by economic value/There is always a cap
  - The Value to the creator
    - No economic limits/Priceless



The Reality - He needs a \_\_\_\_\_ vessel

### 2 Corinthians 4:7 (Amplified Bible)

*However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves.*

- Yes, we are "\_\_\_\_\_ vessels"
  - We are frail, vulnerable, and inadequate
  - We were originally fashioned from \_\_\_\_\_
    - "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground" ([Genesis 2:7](#))
    - We could be likened to "clay pots"
    - "Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay" ([Job 10:9](#))
- The Lord fully understands our makeup
- He just wants us to be what a vessel is created to be: a \_\_\_\_\_ for its intended contents
- The intended contents of the vessel are heavenly treasures
- "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels" (2 Corinthians 4:7)
  - It is Christ Himself / The Holy Ghost
    - "That the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh" ([2 Corinthians 4:11](#))
- The will of God is that Christ would come to dwell in, and be \_\_\_\_\_ through, the earthen vessel of our humanity.
  - "To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" ([Colossians 1:27](#))
  - God's plan is to put extraordinary heavenly treasure into \_\_\_\_\_ earthen vessels, so that the attention will go to the contents, not to the container: "that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."

The \_\_\_\_\_ - He wants to know you intimately

### Philippians 3:8 (Amplified Bible)

*Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and*



*recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One).*

- Do you know God in an \_\_\_\_\_way?
- It is possible that we can go through this life obeying God and His commandments, but yet not have an intimate relationship with Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_, in the beginning of his ministry, had this type of relationship with God.
  - In **Exodus 33:12-13**, *Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, Lead these people, but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, I know you by name and you have found favor with me. If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.*
  - Moses had obeyed God's instructions, but yet, he still did not know God in an intimate way.
    - *I know you by name and you have found favor with me. If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.*
  - The sad truth to this story is that some Christians today still follow God's commands and instructions, but yet do not know Him in a \_\_\_\_\_and intimate way.

#### **Exodus 34:5-7**

*Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His name, the LORD. And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."*

- God introduced himself to Moses in a way that He wanted him to know that \_\_\_\_\_ is what He desired in addition to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Both are equally important, but it is even easier to be obedient to one you are committed to intimately.

#### **Who is God to me?**

- **The Father** -The one who \_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Psalms 91 (King James Version)**

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress:*



*my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.*

**Psalm 103:1-5 (New King James Version)**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits:  
Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from destruction,  
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,  
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,  
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Like a father & son/ daughter relationship

- Simplicity of a child's perception
- \_\_\_\_\_ that protection is near

The \_\_\_\_\_ - He paid for everything

**Isaiah 43 (King James Version)**

*But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob,  
And He who formed you, O Israel:  
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name;  
You are Mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.  
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,  
Nor shall the flame scorch you.  
For I am the LORD your God*

The \_\_\_\_\_ -My BFF (best friend forever)

Certain Biblical individuals were said to have walked with God, men such as:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 5:22,24)



- \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 6:9)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kings 9:4)
    - This is not walking after a mysterious feeling
    - It is living with a close connection and communication with God
  - \_\_\_\_\_: "He was called the friend of God" (James 2:23; Isaiah 41:8)
- Friendship is intimacy, familiarity, being well acquainted, knowledgeable of, on the same path, and in agreement.
  - James notes, "*He jealously desires the Spirit which He had made to dwell in us*" (James 4:5). This verse includes a great comforting truth, that is, God really \_\_\_\_\_ for our devotion.
  - Being labeled as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is the highest compliment that any man or woman could receive in this life.

### What Friendship Involves

- \_\_\_\_\_:
  - "*Seven times a day I praise Thee*" (Psalm 119:164). Even in a day and age when God is not (usually) speaking audibly to each one of us, we can still be constantly conversing with Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_:
  - "*When I remember Thee on my bed, I meditate on Thee in the night watches*" (Psalm 63:6)
  - "*My soul keeps Thy testimonies and I love them exceedingly*" (Psalm 119:167)
  - "*Thy Law is my delight*" (Psalm 119:174). "*I rejoice at Thy word, as one who finds great spoil*" (Psalm 119:162)

### Why Me, God?

- **Strategy - Part of the Plan**
  - There are many reasons why God shouldn't have called you, but don't worry, you're in good company.
 

Moses stuttered. David's armor didn't fit. John and Mark was rejected by Paul. Timothy had ulcers. Hosea's wife was a prostitute. Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning. Jacob was a liar. David had an affair. Solomon was too rich. Jesus was too poor. Abraham was too old. David was too young. Peter was afraid of death. Lazarus was dead. John was



self-righteous. Naomi was a widow. Paul was a murderer. So was Moses. Jonah ran from God. Miriam was a gossip. Gideon and Thomas both doubted. Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal. Elijah was burned out. John the Baptist was a loudmouth. Martha was a worry-wart. Mary was lazy. Samson had long hair. Noah got drunk. Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse? So did Peter, Paul--well, lots of folks did.

- Sure, there are lots of reasons why God shouldn't have called us. But if we love Him, He'll use us in spite of who we are, where we've been, or what we look like.

- \_\_\_\_\_ - Your willingness

- John 14:15 (New King James Version) - *"If you love me, keep my commandments."*
- All of our lives we struggle with obedience.
- The obvious part is when we are children and we must be obedient to our parents and society. Right or wrong.
- As we grow up and get out on our own, there are company rules, social rules, country rules, rules of the road and more to adhere to.
- We generally follow along because these rules are for the best; at least that was the intention.
- When we are \_\_\_\_\_ to God, we have power for \_\_\_\_\_ living. When we are disobedient, we ask for trouble.

Obedience to God's principals is key to spiritual growth.

- Word
- Spiritual Authority
- Strengths - Your talents

**Matthew 25:15-21 (New King James Version)**

*And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a*



*long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them. His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.*

1. Seek earnestly to discover the talents the Lord has given you
2. Use your talents to build up the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
3. Acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ hand in your success

**Reading for next week's class:**

Chapters 5, 6, 7 (Pages 53 - 84)

