

W O R D A T W O R K

Dear Friends:

Second Corinthians 5:11 is perhaps, for 21st Century Western Christians, one of the most challenging verses in the New Testament, “Knowing therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well-known to God, and I also trust are well-known in your consciences.” For the author who was blinded and knocked to the ground when first meeting Jesus, I can appreciate the circumstances which culminated in this statement.

How should a congregation of people who have never been blinded, whose only lumps and bruises come from each other, and who have never witnessed an “Ananias and Sapphira,” attain or “know” the terror fear of the Lord. I can clearly see how Paul got it but how do we get it?

Our forefathers persuaded politicians and our nation was built on biblical principle. When I was in high school every English class started with prayer, along with all the plays and every commencement. In the last forty years, we the church have lost our ability to persuade and the fruit is very evident in our nation. It is more evident in the courts!

I believe God wants to restore our ability to persuade. If that premise is correct, then the church is about to encounter a baptism of events which fully release and restore the fear of the Lord. The real prophetic question is, How will He choose to accomplish “that empowering”?

Such a premise demands a study of how the fear of the Lord comes. I was amazed to discover pleasant inviting ways in which it manifested as opposed to the “shock and awe” variety of Acts 5. The “fear of the Lord” is a great subject and one that can be appropriated without losing parishioners. The church’s corporate response to prophetic prompting may determine whether the restoration is pleasant or painful.

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER X
Converts or Disciples? IV

FRIDAY, October 1

Scripture: Matthew 5:1,2, 20-23

When Jesus taught the Sermon On The Mount, He saw the multitude and retreated from them up to a mountain and His disciples came and He began to teach them the elementary and foundational principles of discipleship. In verses 20-23 He set a standard. He declared they had to exceed the standard of ministry leadership in the generation in which they were living. He said, “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder,” and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, “Raca!” shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, “You fool!” shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,...” Jesus made it very clear that discipleship for them meant they were going to have to go beyond what they were seeing in the pulpit, if they were really going to walk with God. Not only that, they could not afford to get into strife and unforgiveness because the result of holding offenses was a financial prison. Do we understand today that we cannot afford to hold and keep offenses. We have to forgive. This passage clearly presents a clear truth. Discipleship is principled and practical. If you want God’s provision, you can’t afford to be offended and walk in unforgiveness.

SATURDAY, October 2

Scripture: Matthew 5:24-26

Jesus said in verses 24-26, “...leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you are thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.” Financial prison results from not forgiving offenses and for not reconciling over areas of disagreement. We cannot afford to be the offender and we cannot afford to take the offense. It is obvious that when we have to speak prophetically, oftentimes His word, when not received, brings offense rather than repentance. Jesus was not talking about those inevitable incidents. He was talking about all those relational situations where our flesh manifests and bringing us into disharmony and disagreement within our spiritual and physical families. Jesus made it very clear that forgiveness, mercy and reconciliation were demanded in humility and we were responsible to walk it out. How is our **discipleship** at this practical level?

SUNDAY, October 3

Scripture: Luke 12:29-34

In Luke 12:29-34 Jesus exhorts His disciples to not really be concerned about what they are going to eat or what they are going to drink and don't be anxious about their provision for the nations of the world seek after those things and the Father knows they need them, but their job is to seek *first* the Kingdom and then all these things will be added to them. Jesus exhorts them to not fear for it is the Father's good pleasure to give them the Kingdom. He even suggests they sell what they have and give alms and then provide money bags, which don't grow old, a treasure in the heavens that will not fail, where no thief can touch it, no moth can destroy it. Jesus declared that where our treasure is that is where our heart will also be. **Discipleship has a goal** and the goal of discipleship is that we treasure what God treasures, that we think like God thinks. No man can think crooked and live straight. You can only **LIVE STRAIGHT** if you **THINK STRAIGHT**. The goal of discipleship is to **THINK STRAIGHT**. And straight thinking only comes from one source – God's Word as applied by the Holy Spirit in our lives. How are we doing in discipleship? Are we **THINKING STRAIGHT**? Are we *doing* the Word?

MONDAY, October 4

Scripture: Luke 12:35-40

In verses 35-40 Jesus told them to get ready to be like men who wait for the master's return from a wedding so that when he comes and knocks they will be ready to open the door and let him come in, because if he finds them ready then he will come and serve them. He goes on in verses 38-40 and says, "And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Jesus promised that if we would, in our discipleship, learn to think straight and act straight, we would live in a season where He would come and serve us. We should qualify for such a season. I'm sure there are those who will find it here and those who will find it in eternity. But nevertheless, Jesus promised it as a reality for those who become *doers* of His Word. **Discipleship demands the heart be wholly dependent on God.** Are we moving that direction? The fruit of discipleship should produce believers who catch the wind when it blows. They can repent when it is time to repent, laugh when it is time to laugh, war when it is time to war and growl like a lion if it is time to growl. They catch the wind of the Spirit without being offended at its manifestations. How are we doing in our discipleship?

TUESDAY, October 5

Scripture: Luke 12:41,42

In verses 41 and 42 we are told, "Then Peter said to Him, 'Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?' And the Lord said, 'Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?'" Discipleship's goal is that we reach a season where we become "...ruler over all his goods." The translation of "ruler" is the full authority released in our lives to accomplish God's assignment; the necessary anointing to accomplish what God has assigned us to do; the full measure without any hesitation released in our lives to accomplish God's ultimate call. "...ruler over his goods..." means that anointing comes, it settles, it sits on our shoulders. You don't have to pray for it anymore because it has arrived. When the early church got to that place, people were healed in their shadow. Peter could say, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee rise and walk." It was present. It was in the house. It had been birthed. It wasn't an issue of praying for it. All you had to do was speak the word and it was done. The anointing came and settled. They had full authority to release God's power in that dimension and accomplish their assignment. No sickness or disease could stand in the presence of that anointing. **Discipleship has a goal** to bring every person into being "...ruler over his goods...", the full measure of anointing that parallels their gifting and calling. How are we doing in our discipleship? Are we headed that direction? We better be.

WEDNESDAY, October 6

Scripture: Luke 12:43,44

In Luke 12:43-44 we are told, “Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.” **Discipleship has a goal** of faithfulness in pursuing a divine goal where God’s anointing settles on our endeavors as we are led by the Holy Spirit to possess full authority. We should ask ourselves what happens to the gifting and calling of that one talent individual who hid his money in the sand and didn’t develop the gift? He didn’t honor the heavenly deposit, didn’t move on into discipleship and it was taken from him and given to the one who had ten. Jesus is saying the same thing in another dimension, “Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.” Will we see that in our lifetime?

THURSDAY, October 7

Scripture: Acts 5:15,16

In Acts 5:15-16, after they possessed the double anointing, after they had been obedient to the Holy Spirit, after they demonstrated the discipleship they learned from Jesus and followed His footsteps even in the hard places, they became “...ruler over all his goods...” “...so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.” Did the early church become “...ruler over all his goods...”? They certainly did in the realm of deliverance and healing. They gained a reputation. It was well earned. They had seasons where everyone who came was delivered or healed. Now the prophets have spoken of an end-time harvest in which both the former and latter rain will come at the same time. When that comes, it should double what we see here. Will we prepare for it? Is it the goal of our discipleship? It should be because God is ready to do it.

FRIDAY, October 8

Scripture: Second Corinthians 5:9-11a

In Second Corinthians 5:9-11a we are told, “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;...” Do we **know** the terror of the Lord? Do our congregations know the terror of the Lord? How can we persuade men if we don’t know the terror of the Lord? What are we finding here? “Terror” as translated from the Greek word **pho-bon** coming from **pho-bos** meaning a deep and reverential sense of accountability. Is there a reverential sense of accountability in the church where we attend? Is the **fear of the Lord** present or absent?

SATURDAY, October 9

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-26

In Matthew 14:22-24 Jesus commanded His disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the lake and then sent the multitude away. He went up on a high mountain and prayed. Now the boat was in the middle of the sea, tossed about with water coming in. In the middle of the night, in verses 25 and 26, Jesus visited the disciples in an unusual way, “Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out for fear.” The word “fear” is translated from our root word **pho-bos** and we have to ask ourselves what is the difference between **converts** and **disciples** on this issue? One of the main differences is converts never necessarily catch the fear of the Lord and disciples don’t have any choice! For disciples, the “fear of the Lord” is essential. The Lord will visit them in unusual circumstances and make sure they **get it**. Have we ever caught it anywhere we have been or is it something we can expect God to do as we move toward the last days? Where is the **fear of the Lord**? How does it come?

SUNDAY, October 10

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-4

In Matthew 28:1-4 we are told, “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightening, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear (**pho-bos**) of him, and became like dead men.” As we begin to study how the **fear of the Lord** comes to the church, one of the things we discover is it comes from supernatural encounters. This fear of the Lord was imparted because they **saw** angels. This was certainly not an ordinary event. The resurrection was dramatic. As we proceed through the gospels looking at how the fear of the Lord comes to the church, how will we catch it if such dramatic events are experientially absent? Does God have a plan for restoring the fear of Lord? The answer is “Yes”!

MONDAY, October 11

Scripture: Mark 4:36-41

Mark 4:36-41 describes another encounter on the sea, only this time Jesus was in the boat. A great wind storm arose, the waves were actually going into the boat so it was filling with water. Jesus was asleep in the aft area of the ship, until the disciples panicked, in 38b-41, “‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?’ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’” The fear of the Lord came to them in a very different way in this example. The **fear of the Lord** came to them through the manifestation of divine authority in their midst. Jesus demonstrated being “...ruler...” over all the Father’s goods. Didn’t Jesus say, “the works He did we would do also, and greater.” Is it not possible to speak to weather conditions and have them change? The fear of the Lord can come when God miraculously answers prayer or answers a faith command, as happened with Jesus. Is it possible that God will answer some of our faith commands in the days ahead and the fear of the Lord will come on those we are attempting to disciple? Perhaps that is something for which we need to ask God. Perhaps it is part of what He wants to do. Perhaps we should be believing for these manifestations. How many more perhaps are needed for us to pursue God’s fear?

TUESDAY, October 12

Scripture: Luke 1:11,12

In Luke 1:11-12 we are told, “Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.” Before the angel spoke, fear fell on Zacharias. The angel is bringing him really good news. The angel is announcing answered prayer. He is even going to tell him what to call the young baby when born. The word is impossible in the natural because his wife is too old to conceive. It’s another Abraham and Sarah incident. Fear falls through divine encounters. Can we ask God for divine encounters? When they come, people change. The participants walked with a whole different perspective from then on. Angelic visitations usually accompany seasonal and generational changes. God’s generals often go home to be with Him, precipitating season’s change. Perhaps God will allow us to impart His fear. How can we impart something we don’t have? When it comes **to** us then it can flow **through** us.

WEDNESDAY, October 13

Scripture: Luke 1:57-65

Verses 57 through 65 record the account of Elizabeth giving birth. Zacharias still can’t speak because he didn’t believe what the angel told him, initially. This passage says, “Now so it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. And his mother answered and said, ‘No; he shall be called John.’ But they said to her, ‘There is no one among your

relatives who is called by this name.’ So they made signs to his father – what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, ‘His name is John.’ And they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea.” When fear comes to you it can then flow through you. Fear that came to Zacharias at the first appearance of the angel is now released after a long season of silence. When released, it flowed through him impacting the entire hill country of Judea. The fear of the Lord, once possessed, in whatever way God wants to bring it, can from then on flow through us to others. Can we expect God to restore the **fear of the Lord** to the church? We can bet on it!

THURSDAY, October 14

Scripture: Luke 5:20-26

In Luke 5:20-26 Jesus is ministering when friends bring a paralyzed man and lower him down through the roof to meet Jesus. Immediately, when Jesus saw their faith, He said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” That pronouncement created a major problem for the scribes and Pharisees because they were convinced Jesus was speaking blasphemy. Jesus perceived their thoughts and spoke by saying, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts?” and went on to heal the paralyzed man. The result of this says, “And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, ‘We have seen strange things today!’” If we are to do the works Jesus did, some of those works will come with the express intent of doing more than just healing an individual. Some manifestations will come to impart the **fear of the Lord** to a group. What spiritual events release the **phobos** (fear) of God? Dramatic healing can bring impartation. A wave of divine healing releasing creative miracles and restoring limbs would also foster the fear of the God. Without the fear of the Lord, the church’s ability to persuade is substandard. How will God restore it? Either He needs some prepared people or the angels are going to be very very busy! I expect God will be looking for a people who are prepared. Asking and seeking is a good preparation. Its time to start asking for God’s fullness.

FRIDAY, October 15

Scripture: Luke 7:11-16

Jesus found Himself in a city called Nain. Many of His disciples were there and a large crowd. He came near to the gate of the city and behold there was a funeral procession with a widow bringing her only son to bury him. Jesus had compassion and said to her, “Do not weep.” Verses 14-16 tell us, “Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ And he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen up among us’; and, ‘God has visited His people.’” Should resurrection power bring the fear of the Lord? It certainly did in Scripture and why should today be any different? Is God going to release the anointing to resurrect the dead? “The works that I do will you do also and greater” – I rather suspect that He will. It is time we began to pursue a greater anointing for miracles.

SATURDAY, October 16

Scripture: Luke 21:25-28

Luke 21:25-28 says, “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” If men’s hearts are going to fail from fear, because of what happens: geologically, in the heavenlies, in the oceans and in nation rising against nation with great distress and persecution – how does the church witness in such circumstances? What will set the church free for such a season? Perhaps we’ve been told, – we won’t have to walk through persecution because we will be caught up with the Lord in the rapture! The rapture is already late for Christians in Muslim countries. What if it is

equally as late for North Americans? What if we are still here? What if we have to walk through persecution? Which group will we be among? Will we be among the group that dispenses the fear of the Lord, or will we be among the group whose hearts are failing from fear because of what they see coming? I suspect it will be a choice to be in one group or the other. Will our level of discipleship determine in which group we reside?

SUNDAY, October 17

Scripture: John 7:10-13

John 7:10-13 says, “But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, ‘Where is He?’ And there was much murmuring among the people concerning Him. Some said, ‘He is good’ others said, ‘No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.’ However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.” The Bible records three realms of fear: (1) we have the fear of the Lord, (2) we have the fear of religious authorities and what they’ll do, (3) we have fear of the Romans or government. What happens if these groups come into conflict? Which fear wins if government says **stop** worshipping Jesus? The question of where we reside is crucial. Part of the preparation for the last days is being a dispenser of the **fear of the Lord** and free from the fear of what happens in the earth. Natural catastrophes like earthquakes and floods are coming. Will we be free from the fear of what a religious system can do and the control it can exert? Are we free from the fear of man and what man can do? If we’re not, we will not be ready to walk through the last days. How is our discipleship? Should a discipleship goal be us walking in the fear of the Lord and free from the fear of man? I rather suspect that it should.

MONDAY, October 18

Scripture: John 19:38

Verse 38 says, “After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus;....” Once again we find a disciple operating in fear of the religious system. There is fear of government, there is fear of police, fear of the FBI, fear of Muslims, fear of Islamic terrorists – there are many groups attempting to generate fear. Some are not “attempting” – it just happens as a result of how they operate. But the question is, how are we preparing the church to walk in the end times with all these things happening? What will overcome the fear of government and the fear of those in authority? Only the **fear of the Lord**. Does the church have to have the fear of the Lord? It seems to me that it does. How are we as leaders doing in imparting it?

TUESDAY, October 19

Scripture: John 20:19

Verse 19 says, “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” Why would Jesus appear to the disciples in fear? They were hiding behind closed doors. The first thing Jesus said was, “Peace....peace be with you.” God has to give us peace when the fear of others has captured us. How many live their life in captivity with the fear of one group or another? God is calling us to the **fear of the Lord**. Jesus was very clear about **who** we should fear and it was not government. Perhaps one of the things we get from this is the question **who** do we fear? Is the fear of the Lord prevalent? What happens when the fear of a group, instead of the fear of God, dictates behavior? When fear of any other thing, group, entity, event is above the fear of God – we have a problem! Somehow the **fear of the Lord** has to come to the church. How will it come to us? Does the “fear of the Lord” reside in the American church? Are we converts or disciples?

WEDNESDAY, October 20

Scripture: Acts 2:41-43

In Acts 2:41-43 we're told, "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles." It looks like in the early church the **fear of the Lord** came as a gift. It was free. It just manifested one day on everybody, possibly as the signs, wonders and miracles were done, but possibly just corporately it fell. Isn't it nice to know that its possible for the fear of the Lord to come as a free gift, that God may just do it one day when we're gathered together? Wouldn't that be a blessing? If we've never asked for the fear of the Lord perhaps now is a good time to ask. God did it for the early church and He can do it for us!

THURSDAY, October 21

Scripture: Acts 5:1-5

Acts 5:1-5 says, "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.' Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things." Hopefully it won't take an Ananias and Sapphira to bring the **fear of the Lord**. If restoring the fear of the Lord requires an Ananias and Sapphira then that seems to indicate a high degree of hard-heartedness. Can we attain the fear of the Lord without losing too many people. God's fear comes in a variety of ways. It will undoubtedly come to some through a like judgment, but I would personally rather have it come some other way. How often do we preach this? How often do we prepare people for the potential or possibility of Ananias and Sapphira events? Why did the early church have this ingredient and we don't? When will it be restored?

FRIDAY, October 22

Scripture: Acts 9:28-31

Acts 9:28-31 says, "So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus. Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied." After Paul spoke in Jerusalem, he traveled down to Caesarea and out to Tarsus and verse 31 says, "Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied." Now isn't it interesting that Paul's testimony included trying to be killed – but they couldn't kill him. And Paul, apparently, brought an impartation of the fear of the Lord. They walked "...in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit..." "...the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit..." are not mutually exclusive. They should function together. "...the fear of the Lord and comfort of the Holy Spirit..." provide godly stability and with the **fear of the Lord** we persuade men. Where is the fear of the Lord? We're believing for a world-wide harvest, a harvest of nations, Psalm 2:8 has to be fulfilled. But can it be fulfilled without the fear of the Lord that persuades men? I don't think so. We have to possess it.

SATURDAY, October 23

Scripture: Acts 19:11-17

In Acts 19:11-17 we have the account of the "...sons of Sceva..." the itinerant Jewish exorcists who took it upon themselves to call upon the name of the Lord Jesus over people who had evil spirits. Verses 15-17 state,

“And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’ Then the man whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.” Verse 17 emphasizes “This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.” Isn’t it interesting how God uses unusual events to impart the fear of the Lord? This one was quite unique. It didn’t come from believers. It came from what happened to religious people who were attempting to move in an authority that they were not positioned for - authority for which they were not qualified. And God turned the situation and released His fear in the whole area. That area suddenly became a harvest field. That is why it says, “...and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.” Can we expect those things to happen again? I certainly think we can! We are coming into some very exciting days. The **fear of the Lord** is coming back to the church! And it is coming in a variety of ways. Seeking it is our assignment!

SUNDAY, October 24

Scripture: Romans 3:9-18

Romans 3:9-18 says, “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all gone out of the way; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit; The poison of asps is under their lips; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness, Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.’” Notice the difference between the believer and the unbeliever. The issue is, “...there is no fear of God before their eyes.” Is the **fear of God** before the eyes of the church? That is a **discipleship** question. When there is no difference between the unbeliever and the believer because neither one has the fear of God before their eyes, then we know the church is residing in a major discipleship deficit. How shall we recover? How long will it take?

MONDAY, October 25

Scripture: Romans 3:19-26

The difference between the unbeliever and the believer becomes obvious when we see the righteousness of God revealed in life through faith in Jesus Christ. This sets a person free but that freedom demands the **fear of God** in order to persuade men. If we have the freedom and not the fear of God there is no persuasion in our society from the church. The church loses its persuasion with the government, with the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court. Has the church lost its ability to persuade? It would appear we have. We’ve certainly lost it to persuade the courts. Is God going to restore the fear with which we persuade men? He certainly can. Are we willing to believe Him to do it? Are we ready to seek it? The time is at hand.

TUESDAY, October 26

Scripture: Romans 13:1-4

Verses 1 through 4 of Romans 13 says, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.” Notice that “...rulers are not a terror to good works but evil.” And government is God’s minister for good and should be a terror bringing fear on those who do *evil*. They are God’s ministers. They are suppose to execute God’s wrath on those who practice *evil*. We now have government entities who are sanctioning and blessing evil – homosexual

marriage. Where is the **fear of God** on the government? It doesn't exist. Its not there and it can't be if it is not in the church. How can the church pass the fear of God onto the government if the church doesn't have it? Government, when it works right, brings fear to evil doers. And when it is not working right, it brings the judgment of God on the land. Where are we in that progression of events? Will God hold the church accountable for the condition of the government? Its entirely possible that He may.

WEDNESDAY, October 27

Scripture: First Timothy 2:1-4

Verses 1 through 4 say, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." I rather imagine that God will hold us accountable since He calls us to pray for them and if we bring the fear of the Lord to them then we know they will be doing the right thing. How is our discipleship? Where is the **fear of the Lord**? The American church's failure to take converts on to discipleship has a plethora of repercussions, some of which include substantial devastation for the land.

THURSDAY, October 28

Scripture: First Corinthians 2:1-5

First Corinthians 2:1-5 says, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling, And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." When Paul went somewhere to preach, one of the things he imparted was the **fear of the Lord** and that impartation of the fear of the Lord came through the power of God. Isn't that a model we need to follow? Didn't Jesus bring the fear of the Lord with the power of God? He did. And that is a call on our generation. The question is, what are we going to do about it? There is no greater gift for one generation to leave to another than the "**fear of the Lord**." How is our discipleship?

FRIDAY, October 29

Scripture: Second Corinthians 5:9-11

In Second Corinthians 5:9-11 we read, "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well-known to God, and I also trust are well-known in your consciences." If we know the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. It is heavenly weight on the words we speak. It becomes part of what we say. It is part of the anointing on our life. By it, God gives credibility to our words. It is a spiritual impartation that changes hearts when they hear us. Does the church have that today? If we do, we're certainly not imparting it to the government. How is God going to restore that? James said, "we have not because we ask not." Maybe He will start by answering our *a-s-k-i-n-g* of Him. Are we asking? Will God answer what we are not asking?

SATURDAY, October 30

Scripture: Second Corinthians 6:15-17

"And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.' Therefore 'Come out

from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” How do we prepare when we’re asking God for the **fear of the Lord**? Part of that preparation includes a “...separation...” from what is worldly, “...not touching what is unclean...” and being “...received by God...” so we can have His impartation. Are we doing that? If we’re going to ask for the fear of the Lord, we better understand separation **IS** the preparation. How is our discipleship? What is the condition of our preparation?

SUNDAY, October 31

Scripture: Second Corinthians 6:18-7:1

“I will be a Father to you. And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.’ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” Notice how this ends. “...having these promises,...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” **That** is part of the preparation for what is coming. If we will prepare, God will come and do the rest. Our part is the preparation. God is ready to do His part. **Our nation is desperate for it.** We can tell that by the condition of our courts and the condition of our government. God is going to hold the church responsible and what are we going to say? Did we possess the fear of the Lord? Did we walk in it? Did we pass it on? Did we impart it? The time is **now**.

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ITINERARY

Al Houghton

October 7-10	New Wine Christian Fellowship 689 Bee Street Placerville, CA Phone: (503)622-8054 Services: 7th - 10th Contact office for times
October 15-17	Ministry Of The Living Stones P O Box 682 Sterling, AK Phone: (907)344-2263 Services: Anchorage 15th 7 PM Sterling 17th 10:30 AM
October 29-31	Daystar Ministries 105 W 3 rd Street S Summerville, SC Phone: (843)875-4370 Services: 29th 7 PM 30th 7 PM 31st 10 AM
October 31-November 1	Dayspring Ministries 965 Longpoint Road Mt Pleasant, SC Phone: (843)884-8212 Services: 31st 6:30 PM Nov 1st 6:30 PM