

Avoiding Irreverence

Fearing God is much more than we think - 2 Sam 6:3-7 - 3 They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart 4 with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. 5 David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals. 6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of HIS IRREVERENT ACT; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

***Uzzah may have had a fear, but it was NOT a fear BASED ON GOD. Therefore, he was irreverent**

The essence of life is based on fearing God - Eccl 12:13-14 - 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: FEAR GOD and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, for this is the whole [duty] of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Christians are to live their lives Fearing God and we must always recognize who we are and where we came from - 1 Peter 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

Living through faith, not sight, and living to serve God is "fearing God" exemplified - 2 Cor 5:6-11 - 6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 We live by faith, NOT BY SIGHT. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to PLEASE HIM, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 FOR we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 11 Since, then, **WE KNOW WHAT IT IS TO FEAR THE LORD,** we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

Christ was heard from God because of his Fear of God - Heb 5:7-9 - 7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and **HE WAS HEARD BECAUSE of his reverent submission.** 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him...

The access to the real treasures of God is "fearing God" - Isa 33:5-6 - 5 The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. 6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; **THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE KEY TO THIS TREASURE.**

Fearing God guides us to quality in life - Prov 19:23 The **FEAR OF THE LORD LEADS TO LIFE:** Then one rests content, untouched by trouble. ***Pay close attention to what it DOESN'T say.**

Just to be clear, a major reason to revere God is to avoid God's Wrath - Heb 10:26-31 - 26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a **TERRIFYING** expectation of judgment and **THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.** 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "**THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.**" 31 **IT IS A TERRIFYING THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD.** NASU

HOW TO AVOID IRREVERENCE

We must understand it's not about us - Rom 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on **God's mercy.**

Learning the Fear of The Lord - Ps 34:11-14 - 11 Come, my children, listen to me; **I WILL TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.** 12 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, 13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. 14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

We need to remove everything spiritually unclean in our lives out of reverence for God - 2 Cor 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from EVERYTHING that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness **OUT OF REVERENCE FOR GOD.**

Steps to knowing the Fear of God - Prov 2:1-5 - 1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 **THEN** you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

- **Accept God's words**
- **Store up God's commands within you**
- **Turning your ear to God's wisdom**
- **Applying your heart to understanding**

1. Call out for insight, 2. Cry aloud for understanding, 3. Look for it as for hidden treasure