

Following the Path of Christ

Isaiah 50:10-11

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

How to listen to a sermon?

- Pray before the worship service and before the sermon, asking God to give you focus as you listen to His Word.
- Use your physical, printed Bible.
- Make notes in it.
- Write down the key ideas of the sermon in a notebook.
- Listen prayerfully and attentively.

• Unconditional Obedience

Is. 50:4-5 The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and **I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.**

Is. 50:6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

• Unshakable Confidence

Is. 50:7-9 But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Is. 50:10-11 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled. This you have from my hand:
you shall lie down in torment.

In saving people through His Son, God makes them like Him.

I. Following Christ

Is. 50:5-6 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

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A. The Fear of God

Is. 50:10-11 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled. This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

Jer. 32:40 I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.

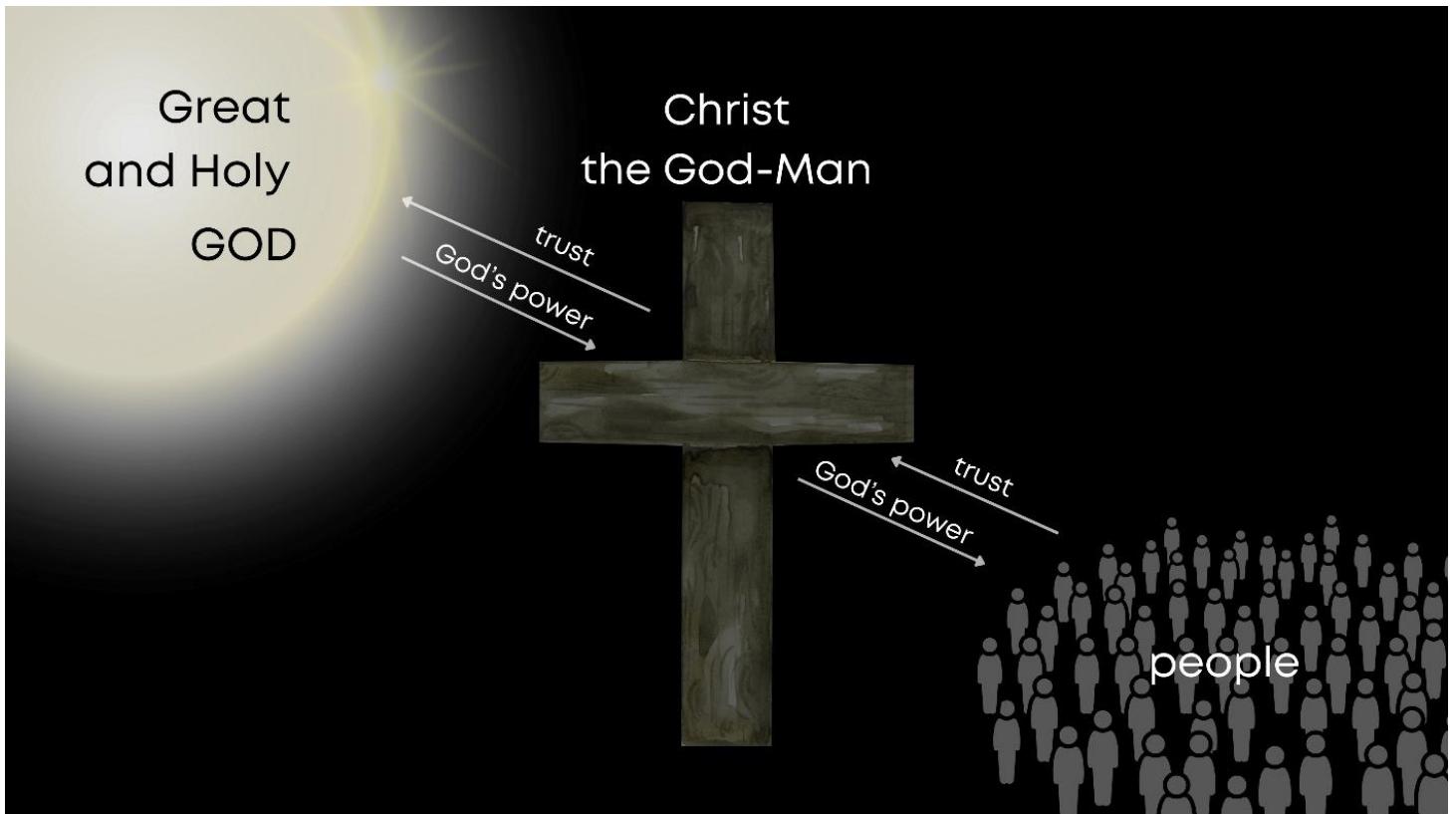
In order to overcome the fear of people, we must learn to fear God.

The Known Universe

- 2, 000, 000, 000, 000 galaxies.
- 200, 000, 000, 000 stars in each galaxy.
- 400, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000 solar systems.

Is. 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

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Rom. 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God **through** our Lord Jesus Christ. **Through** him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

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1 Pet. 2:21-23 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

B. Confidence in God

Is. 50:10-11 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled. This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

Luke 22:22 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!

John 18:10-11 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

John 19:10-11 So Pilate said to him, 'You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.'

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Confidence in God frees our heart from fear and frees it from evil.

1 Pet. 2:24-25 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

(LSB) **Hab. 2:4** Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him, but the righteous will live by his faith.

II. Rejection of Christ

Is. 50:10-11 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. **Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches!** Walk by the light of your fire, and **by the torches that you have kindled!** This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

Rom. 1:28-29 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, **God gave them up to a debased mind** to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness.

Rom. 1:30-32 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

How do you follow the path of Christ?

- Get to know God, so that you relate to Him with reverence and godly fear.
- Get to know Christ, so that through Him you have access to God's grace and God's power.
- Submit your thoughts, emotions, and desires to Christ.
- Receive from God's hand the path He is leading you on.
- Do not let fear and anxiety throw you into confusion; entrust yourself to God through Christ.
- Do not allow evil, resentment, or irritation to rob you of the peace you have in Jesus Christ. Leave justice and repayment to God.

And then you will have confidence of Christ rule in your heart!