

Forever Family That Walks In The Fear of The Lord

Acts 2:43

Introduction:

- A. Welcome
- B. Preparing to preach or teach...
- C. Acts 2:43 - *Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.*

I “everyone was filled with awe” 2:43a

- A. This translation does a great job of hitting one aspect of the meaning of this text.
 - 1. However, there is a great depth to the implications of this verse
 - 2. Different translations:
 - a. *ESV/ASV: And awe (fear) came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.*
 - b. *NASB: Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.*
 - c. *NKJV - Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.*
- B. “*was filled*” *ginomai*” –
 - 1. Means “come upon”
 - 2. The tense indicates a continual or repeated action.
 - 3. Literally kept coming upon them
- C. “*With awe*” – *phobos*
 - 1. It’s where we get our word phobia. Generally translated into English fear.
 - 2. Literally “fear kept coming upon them”
 - 3. Now that is a tricky phrase for us because fear is a tricky word for us.
 - 4. That’s why some translations will use the word “awe” to communicate the meaning of the word *phobos* or fear in this context.
 - 5. That’s why context is so important.
- D. Fear has many layers to it.

1. When we hear the word fear, usually negative connotations come to mind.
 - a. Being afraid, cowering, unsafe, unprotected, imminent harm.
 - b. We avoid those and try to cast those off.
 2. However, there is an aspect of fear that is a must in our lives.
- E. There are two levels:
1. Emotional state of fear and
 2. Fear of the Lord which is a healthy mature/maturing fear

II Emotional Fear

- A. This type of fear is built into us to be ...
1. Momentary – fight, flight freeze
 2. Situational – gives us pause.
- B. The emotional state of fear becomes unhealthy and toxic when it goes from momentary and situational to the driving force in our life.
- C. We were never designed to live in that kind of fear.

III Fear of the Lord – Healthy Mature/Maturing

- A. The fear of the Lord is to be lived in. Consider these verses
1. *Psa 19:9 NIV - The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.*
 2. *Psa 34:11 NIV - Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*
 3. *Pro 1:7 NIV - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,*
 4. *Pro 9:10 NIV - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,*
 5. *Pro 10:27 NIV - The fear of the LORD adds length to life,*
 6. *Pro 14:27 NIV - The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.*
 7. *Act 9:31 NIV - Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.*

8. *Phil. 2:12 NIV - Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,*

B. Walking in the fear of the Lord is not walking afraid of the Lord.

C. The fear of the Lord is characterized by...

1. **Faith**
2. **Expectation**
3. **Awe**
4. **Reverence**

D. The fear of the Lord has the opposite effect of the emotional fear.

1. It draws us close instead of remaining withdrawn.
2. It leads to surrender instead of control and resistance.
3. It frees instead of binds.
4. It opens our eyes instead of blinding.
5. It drives out other fears.

IV “many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.” 2:43b

A. The message of the gospel was accompanied by “wonders and signs”

1. Wonders – something extraordinary and momentous
2. Signs – confirmation; distinguished from something else.

B. The signs and wonders performed by the apostles confirmed their message though different was authentic and from God.

1. Healings, resurrections, speaking in other languages, people dying, prophecy, visions...

a. Weren’t present at every instance, meeting and interaction

b. When they were...

(1)...they were undeniable and out of the ordinary

(2)...always included the preaching of the gospel.

2. This is what Mark 16:20 is referring to when he wrote... *Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

- C. The result was people coming to Jesus and continuing to walking in the fear of the Lord.
- D. One of the most powerful evidence of the message of the gospel is a changed life.
 - 1. Watching that person go from dead to alive and then walking alive in the fear of the Lord is a powerful testimony to the redemptive work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - 2. When people walk in the fear of the Lord...
 - a. Blind eyes are opened to see the ever increasing wonder of God's amazing grace toward us.
 - b. Blind spots are removed and we see his working in the lives of other people. Where once I was skeptical and doubtful, I am now believing and confident.
 - c. Blurred vision becomes clearer and clearer. Kingdom direction and purpose come into view. We start doing kingdom work we never saw ourselves doing.
 - 3. We get a glimpse of this transformation in the lives of some of our people. [Roll video](#)

Conclusion:

- A. These three testimonies are a sampling of the signs and wonders God is still performing in the lives people walking in the fear of the Lord.
- B. The question is where are you walking?
- C. Offer invite.