



AWE

OVER
ANXIETY

Pastor Mason Phillips | October 4, 2026

[WATCH THE SERMON HERE](#)

Day 1: Moving Toward God

Devotional: Noah lived in a generation consumed by wickedness, yet he walked with God. That phrase -- walked with God -- is not casual. It describes a man who consistently moved toward the Lord while the world moved away. Faith is not passive. It is directional. Every day you are moving either toward God or away from Him. Noah's righteousness was not perfection; it was orientation. He kept his face turned toward the Lord. Consider today what direction your daily choices are pointing. Your habits, your time, your attention -- they are all moving somewhere. Choose to move toward God.

Reading:

Genesis 6:5-9 NKJV

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Hebrews 11:6-7 NKJV

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Reflection Question: What is one area of your life where you have been drifting away from God, and what would it look like to turn toward Him today?

Practical Application: Identify one daily habit you can establish this week -- prayer, Scripture reading, or worship -- that intentionally moves you closer to God.

Day 2: The Fear That Frees

Devotional: There are two kinds of fear. One imprisons and one liberates. Worldly fear is anchored in loss -- loss of reputation, security, comfort, or control. It drives you away from God and toward self-preservation. The fear of the Lord is different. It is reverence, awe, and holy respect for the One who holds all things together. Proverbs says this fear is a fountain of life. It does not drain you; it fills you. When you stand in genuine awe of God -- recognizing His holiness, His greatness, and His love -- lesser fears begin to lose their grip. Awe replaces anxiety.

Reading:

Proverbs 14:26-27 NKJV

In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.

Psalm 25:14 NKJV

The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.

Exodus 20:20 NKJV

And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

Reflection Question: What fears have been driving your decisions lately, and are they rooted in the fear of man or the fear of God?

Practical Application: Write down three attributes of God that are greater than your current fears. Spend five minutes meditating on each one and allow His greatness to put your anxieties in proper perspective.

Day 3: Obedience as Worship

Devotional: King Saul had every outward appearance of a worshiper, yet he disobeyed God because he feared the people more than he feared the Lord. He wanted the reputation of righteousness without the reality of it. Noah, by contrast, did everything God commanded him -- not partially, not conveniently, but completely. True worship is not limited to songs and services. It is expressed most clearly in obedience. When you do what God asks even when it is costly, inconvenient, or misunderstood, you are declaring that He is worthy. Saul's fear of man cost him a kingdom. Obedience rooted in godly fear builds one.

Reading:

1 Samuel 15:17-25 NKJV

So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ “Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?”

“But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilead.” So Samuel said:

*“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the Lord?*

*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.*

*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

*Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
He also has rejected you from being king.”*

Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.”

Hebrews 11:7 NKJV

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

John 14:15 NKJV

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Reflection Question: Is there an area where God has given you a clear command that you have been obeying only partially or selectively?

Practical Application: Identify one specific instruction from Scripture that you have been avoiding. Take one concrete step of obedience toward it today, and ask God to strengthen your resolve to follow through completely.

Day 4: Delivered From the Fear of Death

Devotional: The deepest root of worldly fear is the fear of death -- the fear of losing what you have, what you are, or what you love. Jesus entered our world specifically to destroy that root. He conquered death so that death would no longer have mastery over those who belong to Him. Nothing -- not death, not life, not any power -- can separate you from the love of God. This is not a distant theological promise. It is a present, daily reality. Because Jesus has overcome death, you do not need to live in bondage to the fears that death produces. You are free to live fully for God.

Reading:

Hebrews 2:14-15 NKJV

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Romans 8:35-39 NKJV

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Isaiah 11:2-3 NKJV

*The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
His delight is in the fear of the Lord,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;*

Reflection Question: In what ways has the fear of losing something -- security, relationships, comfort, or reputation -- kept you from fully surrendering to God?

Practical Application: Memorize Romans 8:38-39, which affirms that nothing can separate you from the love of God. Recite it each morning this week as a declaration of freedom over the fears that have held you back.

Day 5: Working Out Your Salvation With Awe

Devotional: The conclusion of the whole matter, as the Preacher in Ecclesiastes declares, is to fear God and keep His commandments. This is not a burden -- it is a liberation. To fear God above all else means you are no longer at the mercy of every other fear that competes for your heart. You are anchored. You are grounded. Working out your salvation with reverence and awe means living each day with a tenderness of conscience, a watchfulness against sin, and a deep awareness of God's presence. You are known by Him. You are valued by Him. You are loved by Him. Live like it.

Reading:

Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 NKJV

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.

Matthew 10:28-31 NKJV

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Reflection Question: If the fear of the Lord truly governed every area of your life -- your time, your money, your relationships, your words -- what would change most significantly?

Practical Application: At the end of each day this week, ask yourself one question before you sleep: "Did I live today in awe of God or in anxiety about the world?" Let your honest answer guide your prayer and your choices the following morning.