



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 14: The One to Whom God Looks

Isaiah 66:1–2 *Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool... But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Our God is the God beyond all limits. Heaven is merely His throne; the whole earth is only His footstool. No temple could contain Him, no human hand could build Him a house. And then this infinite, unsearchable, all-knowing God says something almost remarkable: there is a certain kind of person He searches for, gives His attention toward, and regards with favor. It is not the powerful, not the impressive, not the religiously accomplished or studied. It is “he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”

That phrase, trembles at His word, sits at the very heart of our ‘faithful’ segment. The Hebrew word is *chared*, and it describes an actual quaking, the way you’d tremble in the presence of something overwhelming, or after an adrenaline inducing moment that leaves your legs quivering a bit. Isaiah is describing a person who opens the Bible and feels the weight of it, who hears God speak and is genuinely moved; not casual reading, not familiar to the point of boredom, but reverent before the living voice of God. This is the fear of the Lord meeting the Word of God, and it is the exact opposite of the hearer-only does. The one who trembles at the Word will not treat it lightly; he will be moved by it. J.C. Ryle warned that in every generation, those who take the Bible this seriously will be mocked for it. Stand firmly on the great truths of Scripture, he said, and “you are called narrow, intolerant, old-fashioned.” The pressure to hold God’s Word loosely, to conform it to fit the culture, to be embarrassed by its harder commands, is enormous. But the person who fears the Lord would rather tremble at God’s Word than be applauded by men for ignoring it.

And here is the tenderness in this verse: this trembling is not cold terror. It comes, married with a contrite spirit. A heart soft and broken and teachable before the Lord. The one who trembles at the Word is not stiff with religious pride; he is humble, quick to repent, and eager to obey. That is the soil holiness grows in. Of all the people in all the earth, this is the one to whom the God of heaven turns His face. This is the one who has the full attention of the Almighty.

TAKE AWAY

The infinite God bends His attention toward a certain kind of heart; one that is humble, quick to repent, and trembles at His Word. Open your Bible today expecting to hear God speak, and let it move you.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to give you a humble, contrite heart that trembles at His Word rather than treating it casually.