

Thank you!!!! Goal was \$325,000 - Here's the final update on the Missions Pledges: The amount is \$390,788 – You are wonderful and God is wonderful – every dollar will go to missions.

## Delighting in the Fear of the Lord

The calling – a stump will be all that's left but that stump will carry the holy seed. Judgement again and again in the first ten chapters – the last verse of chapter 10 says that God's judgment will cut them down like cutting down a forest.

Isaiah 11:1-3 ESV “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And 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 the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.”

\*Messiah would operate as a man under the anointing of the Holy Spirit – pictured by the menorah in Exodus, and the seven eyes of the Lamb in Revelation. Two things are confusing: Fear and delight don't seem to go together. Second, if you were going to delight in a superpower why wouldn't it be power or knowledge? Why was Jesus' delight in the fear of the Lord?

- I. The benefits of the fear of the Lord.
  - a. When we fear God, we lose all of our other fears.
    - i. Isaiah 8:11-14a NASB “For so the LORD spoke to me <sup>1a</sup>with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, “You are not to say, ‘*It is a conspiracy!*’ Regarding everything that this people call a conspiracy, And you are not to fear <sup>1b</sup>what they fear or be in dread of *it*. It is the LORD of armies whom you are to regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. Then He will become a sanctuary...” \*2001 September 11<sup>th</sup> – One Year Bible – “It may seem like I’m surrounded but I’m surrounded by You.”
    - ii. Proverbs 14:26 ESV “In <sup>1a</sup>the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence,”
  - b. The fear of the Lord unlocks the treasures of salvation. Isaiah 33:6 NIV “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.”
    - i. The treasure of intimacy with God. Psalm 25:14 NASB “The <sup>1a</sup>secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.” Intimacy, ESV – Friendship – someone you share intimate secrets with.
    - ii. The treasure of the generosity of God. \*The older brother – you are always with me (intimacy) and everything I have is yours (generosity) Proverbs 22:4 ESV “The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.” \*What? Everything America wants but can't have if you pursue them.

- iii. Isaiah 1:19 Amplified “If you are willing and obedient you will eat the best of the Land.” Verse 18 is about sins spiritual benefits, this is about physical benefits. \*Kenneth Hagin’s story.

## II. Defining the fear of the Lord.

- a. 2Corinthians 5:10-11a ESV “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord...” \*Dec. of 1995 – I was learning about the fear of God – Mark 15:15 You can do it but you won’t be innocent before Me.
  - i. As I’ve grown in receiving His love, the fear is no longer of punishment if I disobey but the fear of friendship – I don’t want to disappoint Him.
  - ii. 1John 4:18 Fear has to do with punishment so he who fears is not yet perfected in love.
  - iii. Verse 9 “We seek to please the Lord.” We want to please Him because we love Him. For Paul the judgment seat of Christ is only about rewards He has for those who please Him. Judgment for sin has already happened. 2Corinthians 4:5 ESV “Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.”
  - iv. Living for an audience of one.
- b. This is how Jesus lived and it’s why His burden was light and His yoke was easy. John 5:19 NLT “...He does only what he sees the Father doing.” He didn’t try to impress the disciples or convince the Pharisees, and He wasn’t trying to unravel the conspiracies of darkness - He just walked with God day by day.

## III. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

- a. The days of Noah and Lot made God sad. They were living life without thinking about Him. It will be just like this. But God found a remnant...
- b. God has purposed to help us do our part. “Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.”
  - i. Jeremiah 32:39-40 “I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. <sup>40</sup> 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.” We can pray for a greater fear of the Lord.

ii. The protector within. 2 Timothy 1:14 NLT “Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.” \*Before the giving of the Holy Spirit: “Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.” After the Spirit is given: “Whoever has ears to hear, hear what the Spirit is saying...” Let’s honor Him today – He is our Helper, He will help us stay focused in a world of distraction!