

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

3.12.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Seeking Godly Fear over the Spirit of Fear

Genesis 3: 8 – 10

God created us so that we might enjoy his presence, and so that he might enjoy ours. Yet, because of our sinful nature, we are all prone to turn away from God's will in our life, to do things our own way, in our own time. Ultimately, it is sin that stands between us and our relationship with God, therefore, we need God's grace to overcome sin. We need to be brought back into the plan and the purpose for which we were created. One of the greatest obstacles in our relationship with God is our spirit of fear. The word of God portrays unto us wisdom, and knowledge concerning two types of fear. There is godly fear, which is beneficial to our spiritual life in Christ, and godly fear is to be encouraged. Then there is worldly fear, which is harmful and damaging to our spiritual life in Christ, worldly fear must be overcome. Now godly fear, or the fear of the Lord, is a total acknowledgement of all that God is. A reverence for his power, and glory, and also a proper respect for his wrath and his anger.

Psalm 111: 10,....the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom....

Proverbs 19: 23,....the fear of the Lord tendeth to life, and he that hath it shall abide satisfied, he shall not be visited with evil....

The fear of the Lord has many blessings and benefits, with the greatest of these being the blessing of salvation, and the benefit thereof being that of eternal life with God. Worldly fear, or the sinful spirit of fear, on the other hand does not come from God, and if we will allow it, it will overcome us.

2 Timothy 1: 7,....for God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind....

No one is perfect, and God knows this, that is why, he has liberally given words of encouragement, throughout his word, to aid us in our battle against worldly fear. From the beginning of his word, to the end of his word, we are reminded not to fear, because the one who allows the spirit of fear to control his life, cannot be made perfect in Gods love.

Once we have learned to put our trust in God, we will no longer be afraid of the things of the world that may come up against us, then through the power of the Holy Spirit we will have the ability to understand, and bring into perspective the acknowledgement of all that God is.

This morning, we want to talk a few moments about seeking godly fear over the spirit of fear.

Genesis 3: 8 – 10,....they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden....and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord....and the Lord God called unto Adam....where art thou....and he said, I heard thy voice....and I was afraid....

Worldly fear, or the spirit of fear can often time be difficult to recognize because of the many different ways that it can manifest itself in our lives through temptation. Satan would like nothing more than for us to hide from God as a result of being deceived into feeling unloved by God. When life is hard, and things are not going the way that we think that they should, which is due to the consequences of the sinful choices that we have made in disobedience to God and his word, it is during these times in our lives that makes it very difficult for us to believe in Gods love. Do to a lack of godly fear, we turn to worldly fear, and allow it to control our life.

Even though at times, it can be scary to trust that God does love us, and that he does have a purpose and a plan for our life, he will show us through his word, that faith in Christ Jesus his Son, is the beginning to overcoming the worldly spirit of fear.

1 John 4: 15 – 19,....whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God....we have known and believed the love that God hath to us....he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God....herein is our love made perfect....there is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment....we love him, because he first loved us....

Worldly fear cannot exist alongside of faith, hope and love, because the strength of Gods perfect love will overcome the influence of worldly fear. Godly love describes the acknowledgement of all that he is, which is the definition of Godly fear. If we will allow Gods love to fill our heart, our soul, our mind , and our body, then the anxiousness of worldly fear will not be able to overwhelm our thoughts. It is only through godly fear that we will be able to show forth the love of God unto others in our service to him.

John 13: 34 – 35,....a new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another....by this shall all know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another....

We must never forget that perfect love is not selfish, it is not immature, it is not childish, it does not have attitude, and it does not take advantage of any situation. On the other hand, worldly fear produce's all of these qualities in a man. Godly fear, or the perfect love of God is mature, it is responsible, it is patient, and it is kind. It is this responsible love, produced by Gods mercy and his grace that dismisses the spirit of fear and glorifies God.

Genesis 3: 10,....and he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid....

The spirit of fear entered into the heart of man because of disobedience unto God. Disobedience transforms into sin, and sin brings about shame and guilt, which produces a worldly fear that controls our emotional state of mind, and our actions, and this is all because we do not completely trust in the promises of Gods word. We do things that we should not do, and we do not do the things that we know that we should do, and all of this in order to acquire things which we seek after, things which God has commanded us not to become a part of. When making these choices in our lives, we are saying that we do not trust that God will take care of us. This feeling of distrust, which is often time well hidden within our emotional state of mind, provides a means for a worldly spirit of fear to overcome our thoughts and our actions.

Psalm 56: 3 – 4,.... what time I am afraid, I will trust in thee....in God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust, I will not fear what flesh can do unto me....

Will we ever fully conquer our spirit of fear, not in this mortal body, and this is because of the shame and the guilt of sin that often time makes it hard for us to know that, yes we are in Gods will, and fulfilling his purpose in our life. Too often, as Christians, we do not fully access the hope of Gods calling that is within us. Through prayer, we ask, we plead, and we beg for the Lord to give unto us that which is already ours, I am talking about those abilities that are instilled within us, which we have already acquired through faith believing in Christ. God has given unto us, all that is required to live a holy life, through the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of his word, which comes through our faith in Christ Jesus. Which means that we are already victorious in Christ, we just have not claimed it, we must learn to claim it. As Christians, we must learn to be bold in the fear of the Lord by accessing the promises and privileges that we have through our salvation, set forth before us, in the word of God. May we come boldly before the throne of grace, and declare Gods word in the presence of worldly fear, so that we may obtain his mercy and his grace, and the power to seek godly fear over the presence of a sinful spirit of fear.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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