

Reflection on the Spiritual Gift of “Fear of the Lord”

Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life (Jn 3:16). God loved you and me so much that He had his Son die for us, that we might be saved. There is no greater love than this my friends. No doubt many of us have heard this scripture passage, but have we really experienced God’s powerful love for us? Have you really let that love penetrate your heart? This is at the center of the gift of “fear of the Lord.” When we experience the all consuming love of the Lord through the Holy Spirit, we never want to be separated from Him. This instills in us an awe and reverence of who God is to us and how wonderful it is to be in his presence. This is why our spirit hungers to praise and worship Him. We know from scripture that God dwells in the praises of his people. He is the creator and we are the creature. Fear of the Lord is when we get ourselves out of the place where God should be in our lives. It leads us to avoid or forsake sin and disobedience to the Lord, in order that we may seek to obey, serve, and love Him.

I know when I was a young teenager preparing for confirmation, I really misunderstood the gift of fear of the Lord. I thought the gift meant to be scared or afraid of God’s wrath instead of focusing on His love for me. As time went on, I came to learn and experience God’s overwhelming love for me personally. Instead of being cautious and anxious about the spiritual gift of fear of the Lord, I now embrace it. It is the gift that fuels my praise

and worship of the Lord and keeps my foolish pride in check most of the time.

There are many people throughout holy scripture that demonstrate “fear of the Lord”, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Peter, and Paul to name a few, but none comes to my mind as quickly and as clearly as Moses being drawn to the burning bush.

[Read Exodus 3:1-12]

Moses sees the glow of the bush from a distance and is gradually pulled nearer and nearer, closer and closer. His desire and curiosity was drawing him to this remarkable sight. God was drawing Moses nearer to himself. When Moses came into God’s presence, what did God do? He called Moses by name, “Moses, Moses.” Then God revealed himself to Moses. He said, “I am the God of your father”, “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.” Moses fell to the ground and hid his face indicating that he didn’t feel worthy to be in God’s presence. He was just in awe of God’s presence. God then said He would be with Moses. God removed his doubts and insecurities and sent him on a mission empowered and equipped. From that point on, Moses desired to be in God’s presence and to be filled by His grace. This is the spiritual gift of “fear of the Lord.” Doesn’t God do the same with us? He gets our attention and slowly captivates us and draws us into His loving presence where He calls us by name. What is our response? Do we have such awe and reverence in God’s loving presence that we never want to be away from it? Let God draw us to Himself and into his

presence by his overwhelming love for us? Let that love penetrate our heart. May we have such awe and adoration for the one who created us and who loves us at this very moment into existence. May we forever praise Him and cherish his spiritual gifts. I would like to close with words from Psalm 34:

In my misfortune I called,
The Lord heard and saved me from all distress.
The angel of the Lord, who encamps with them,
Delivers all who fear God.
Learn to savor how good the Lord is;
Happy are those who take refuge in him.
Fear the Lord, you holy ones;
Nothing is lacking to those who fear him.
The powerful grow poor and hungry,
But those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
Come children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Let us pray brothers and sisters that we may draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Only in God is our soul at rest.

Come Holy Spirit, our sanctifier, teach us the fear of the Lord and draw us into your presence that we may be consumed by your infinite love. Empower us to embrace the mission of Christ Himself. Let us become an extension of Jesus' hands and feet reaching out to a broken world. May the spirit of the Lord reign upon us now and forever!....Amen