



# FEAR GOOD

IT'S THE WHOLE  
DUTY OF MAN

STEPHEN BENNETT

*The Hard Core Truth Series - 3*

# Fear God

*'It's the whole duty of man'*

*By  
Stephen Bennett*



***An Awesome City Ministries Publication***

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## ***Dedication***

*To my Father and Mother who serve the Lord together  
Who have paid a price to love God and fear Him.  
Dad – there are new eyes in heaven  
Thanks for being my prayerful parents*

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*Harry and Mina Llufrío in Hong Kong,  
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Our awesome Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,  
In whom we learn to trust more and more.  
To walk in the reverential fear of the Lord,  
On the finer narrow road of faith.*

## ***The Duty***

*‘Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:  
**Fear God and keep His commandments.**  
**For this is the whole duty of man.**  
For God will bring every work into judgement,  
Including every secret thing,  
Whether it is good or whether it is evil’  
**Ecclesiastes 12:13.***

## ***The Possibility***

*There is a possibility that this pain of frustration  
Purposes us to dig for finer soil, find purer seed and hotter oil  
Because no matter the mountains we climb  
There is always further needs to find  
**Stephen Bennett***

*“The jungle is never far from the surface of our skin.  
No, I’m never surprised by evil, but  
I’m more excited about what people are capable of”  
**Bono U2***

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*'The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them' Psalm 34:7.*

The Insides

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## ***Beginning***

*'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God'* **Hebrews 10:31**

*"Prophets are formed not born, and God's chiseling tool is your cross"* **Dena Smith - Minister**

The fear of God is a mystery, and is not easily defined by many believers; nonetheless, it is absolutely clear from the word of God that reverential fear is something we must have as Christians. It's God's desire that we have it. We need the fear of the Lord for our faith to be mature and strong: it is something we must find, must live in, and understand - to be wise. It is a fearful thing to have our lives in the hands of God. He is the Alpha and Omega - the beginning and the end. The ***fearful thing*** is the certainty, and the finality that the Lord is the very end of all things; He is the great judge of our lives.

In life there is cause and effect - consequences to our actions and behaviors. When you are a Christian, considering life without God is a scary thing, yet, when we are *in Him*, there is a deep reverential fear toward God we must understand. It is the place where you find true safety, wisdom, hope, and a revelation of the immense love, grace, and mercy of God. It is living in a position of humility, trust, and faith in the Lord for everything. Often the road that leads to this is not an easy one. The result of a life lived this way has the potential to release immense power and effectiveness in changing the world.

We live in a fast entertainment, pop culture, that is image, brand, and merchandise driven; all things are instant and on demand. Many believers in contemporary Christian culture don't understand the fear of the Lord at all. *"Why go there?"* they say. *"It sounds so negative, and scary."* Giving precious time and energy to understand it is difficult in a busy world. Success and an upbeat life, is all that matters – over familiarity with the Lord as a buddy or mate is safer. Many Christians just want to party, have a good time, or rest in the material success of modern church cultures, however the culture of the kingdom of God has a different angle. Even though we are at the beginning of this book, *'let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments. For this is the whole duty of man.** For God will bring every work into judgement, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil'* **Ecclesiastes 12:13.**

In Christ, God is certainly our friend, and someone to talk to, but he is not just a casual buddy to slap on the back and drink latté with now and then. He is not someone to whom we only give money to, visit on Sunday, or occasionally read about to appease our minds. God should consume us, He is the creator of the universe and all that is therein; He deserves our fear, reverence and respect - it is our duty and His rightful due. *'Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him'* **Psalms 33:8.**

If we are to fulfill our destiny on earth we must fear the Lord. It is the desire of Jesus that all men fear God. In this place you will find what is *true* blessing; it is where the power of God and His glory is released.

In this book we will discover what God desires, and how we are to walk in the fear of the Lord in these end-times. If you are reading this text it means you are hungry for God, you know there is more and you want to walk in it. It requires faith, discipline, immense love and God's grace, to walk the finer line of life with Jesus.

The fear of God is your whole duty. It is foundational to being transformed into the image of Christ. The end-times require us to think like the Lord – they are big thoughts, for big changes, in a big turbulent world. Jesus only ever did what he saw the Father do and say. That requires humility walking in the fear of God – being like Him.

The Church is being redefined today in a world wide apostolic reformation. We must measure ourselves in the light of the stature of Christ in whose image we are being changed into. Jesus was very radical, yet deeply compassionate and powerful. He was the fear of God in living motion. The Father living before us - He is our measure, and the model of faith and action in how to fear God.

American President Teddy Roosevelt wrote a piece many years ago called *The Measure of a Man*. The Bible says to examine ourselves - our measure is Jesus, to be transformed in our journey, to be like Him. We will always make mistakes and err on our walk with the Lord. Yet His grace, forgiveness, mercy and love is sufficient for us. He is God, and He walked in the arena of the earth in the fear of the Lord; we also must walk that journey in His grace, taking bold steps for the worthiest of causes – the kingdom of God.

*“It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strongman stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who's actually in the arena – whose face is marred by dust and sweat – who strives valiantly – who errs and may fail again because there is no effort without error or shortcoming. But he who does know the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”*

***The fear of the Lord is the beginning...***

## **Chapter 1**

# **What is the Fear?**

*Fear - 1. To revere, have reverence, to hold in deep affection or respect.*

*To venerate - highly revere on account of sanctity or character, to be bowed down to.*

*Fear - 2. The feeling of alarm, dread, or great terror, to be frightened.*

*Unpleasant emotion caused by exposure to danger, expectation of pain, anxiety for safety.*

Jack W. Harrow quivered at the knees as he slowly hit the coarse ground. He had been standing up praying as he always did. It had never occurred to him that there was a better place to be. Over familiarity with spiritual things in his church culture had bred a strange flippancy in Jack's heart toward God. Sin came and went like the slow turning of a wheel, yet he never significantly overcame anything. This time the Father's hand was firm. Tears rolled down Jack's cheeks as he spluttered out words in-between spit, and licking salty liquid away from his top lip; his nose dripped repentant snot, and he just let out his heart - all the good and the bad. The locks were off, and he was finally abandoned to the Lord.

Jack felt like a failed turkey, he never thought...He knew what it was to fly with successful eagles - he was one; he knew that, the word said that, but he didn't care any more. Now he felt the invisible feathers of a loving wing. The words of life resonated in him; he spoke them out from deep down in the storehouse of his soul. He had lost everything - it seemed - yet, the feeling of gain was all over him in the darkened room where he knelt. Emotions swathed him like embalming cloth: hate, love and passion, all mixed together - he began to sing with tearful passion.

Jack, like many believers, was sold the world, and to embrace all of its successes. He was told to run for it and be a champion, but really it was empty, fleeting, and he knew it. Today he darn well knew it. In the pit of his stomach he was also sick of evil in all its forms. Today he only wanted God's ways. Today he yielded, gave up, gave in, caved in, whatever, he was God's son and that was enough. He was tired of trying to be good: get it right, get it all nice, look cool, be rich, be an example, be aloof. Today the graying fog in his mind cleared, the desire sharpened - Jack finally understood. He had been undone to be done up. He was scared, yet at peace. The presence of Jesus amazed him - this is what he had really wanted; to be close, to feel...loved - to be...him-self.

He bowed his head and stopped blubbering. Glory washed him from head to toe. New wisdom filled his mind; things became clear - now he began to understand and feel *the genuine fear of God*. Jack's Christianity had finally taken on real muscle. He had paid the price. In the future, signs and wonders would follow Jack, and he would lay hands on many sick people and they would recover - as a man recovers when he finds the fear of the Lord.

### ***What is the Fear?***

It is a question often asked? It is not just something you can learn in an instant from a book. It is God's character, gleaned and assimilated into the very fabric of who you are on life's journey.



To have any measure of the reverential fear of God, you have to be entwined in a deep committed relationship with Him over years; committed in the valleys of adversity, as well as on the mountains of succeeding. Your veneration of Him is rooted in faith in Jesus Christ, His unending love, and the knowledge of what God is *really* like.

The fear is a revelation in our hearts. We may think we finally know most things, but in fact we are just beginning; it is then we can walk with faith's assurance - in His immeasurable grace, and in the true reverence of the Lord. The Fear of God is an adventure of discovery: it is dug deep for, sought after, and paid for with a great price - it is understanding, listening, being obedient, living righteous, working out your salvation with fear and trembling day to day.

### ***The Discovery***

In the turbulent world, wisdom for living life as a Christian is only *truly* discovered in the fear of the Lord. The more I traverse my own pilgrimage with Jesus, the more I study His word, the more I seek Him, the more I realize how much I lack, and need more of the fear of the Lord. Yet, I love Him: I'm sold out, God is my passion, I succeed, I fail, I win, I lose, I walk by faith when the road is dark or light, or when I'm either happy, or in pain. Like Solomon though, when the years move on, you start to conclude the same thing he did – it is our *whole duty to fear the Lord*. God wants it that way; He wants all of us for Him, to come out of all the snares of men, and totally trust God.

Solomon had everything: wisdom, riches, creative expression, admiration, women, glory, and all the world had to offer. He lived the vogue life *et al*, yet all said and done, he realized why he was really on the planet – to learn the fear of the Lord and do what He says. *'Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments. For this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgement, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil'*** **Ecclesiastes 12:13**. It is good to know Solomon's conclusion at the beginning of this book, because the *whole duty* is what the fear of God is about – to arrange our life, our words, our actions and all that we are for Him. He saved us by grace through Christ – it is our duty in our faith to hold Him in the highest esteem, and to align ourselves in harmony with God's ways. It is then we can know true security, success, and fulfill all that we are called to be in life.

### ***The Place***

For some, the concept of the fear of the Lord sounds somber and boring in our colorful high tech world, but it is a place of freedom and liberty where we realize how awesome and great is the God we serve. A place where we know of His grace, love, and compassion - that He is for us and not against us. God is with us *all the time* in the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is a smiling place, because we are secure in Him and His grace - not in the things of this world. It is the place where we begin to understand the simplicity and the complexity of living life with God.

The fear of the Lord is the zone where we yearn constantly for God (His zeal eats us up! John 2:17). We know emphatically that our life belongs to Him, and in Him alone we must trust - in that place we begin our *true* mature Christian understanding.

### ***Understanding the Fear***

***'Receive my words...treasure my commands...incline your ear to wisdom...apply your heart to understanding...cry out for discernment...lift up your voice for understanding...seek her as silver...search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord' Proverbs 2:1-5.***

Jack Harrow got up from his knees. He had never cried so much before the Lord. He had heard the word of God many times, but only applied bits of it to his life. The *buffet* bits that promised success and wealth. Treasure? To him that was money in the bank, investment properties - security he could rely on. To him God's word was the pathway to that, along with mostly hard work and long hours away from the family.

Now after all these years Jack felt like he was *in love* with the book called the Bible. It was weird for him, because he had become such a man's man, who liked a beer, and hanging with the contemporary Christian boys watching footy. Most of his wisdom was worldly principles mixed with the word, a mix he often found in church life.

He had never learnt to cry out to God with the passion he was touching now. Seeking for silver was related to his dealings on the stock market. In retrospect, it all paled like bad skin on a sick day. He realized how completely spiritually dull he had become. The word of God was now the treasure chest to seek at the end of his Christian rainbow, up until his day of understanding the fear of God it had not yielded much gold. He felt like a little boy that just wanted to be obedient and do what Abba Daddy said. His voice of supplication was a cry now, not a whisper, and man... he was so willing to listen.

God healed Jack and his family. He discovered the secrets of God's love, and sowed it voraciously and reaped it lavishly. His faith was now true – it was ***in God***. He was finally on the Lord's page - man's page had eventually let him down and cast him out. God's true power was now with him, signs followed, and life in the Spirit of God was exciting. He traded in his BMW Z4 convertible for truth. The pose he now struck was the word of God; it resonated in his family life, and the TV was often silent in the presence of worship.

## ***Chapter 2***

# ***The Fear Is***

*'The fear of the Lord is **clean**, enduring forever' Psalm 19:9.*

In this fallen world, humanity, at the core of its soul, really desires to live clean. But the *genuine clean* that we need, comes from *living by faith in Christ with the fear of God*. The fear of the Lord brings to our character, the desire to live in ethical and moral purity with a sense of innocence - uncontaminated with evil, worldliness, along with a desire to purge anything in our lives getting in the way of our relationship with God. This quality of character endures long term. It can only happen with His strength working in us by His love, grace and mercy. Enduring forever requires us to yield and surrender all to the Lord, also acknowledging our weaknesses, so the Lord can fill them with His strength. Enduring character develops long term, because the older we get, and the closer we are in relationship with God, the things of this world fade in their importance and the hold they have on us. We want to live unobstructed by the distractions of the world; we desire the righteousness of the kingdom more than this world.

*'The law of the Lord is **perfect**, converting the soul, the testimony of the Lord is **sure**, making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are **right**, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is **pure**, enlightening the eyes; the **fear of the Lord is clean**, enduring forever; the judgements of the Lord are **true** and **righteous** altogether. **More to be desired** are they than gold; **sweeter** also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is **warned**, and in keeping them there is **great reward**' Psalm 19:7-11.*

The *clean* from God is embedded in His word (see my book *'The Word is Your Art'* – [www.awesomecitymusic.com](http://www.awesomecitymusic.com)). Our *converting* of soul is to turn back from our old ways, and start again from whatever point we are at in life. Embedded in the word gives us wisdom where there seems no answer, it gives the joy of the kingdom because it feeds our spirit. It opens our eyes to the truth, and fuels our desire for God and His word – it keeps us on a narrow path away from danger, leading us to abundant reward and favor.

### ***The Fear is Hate***

*'The fear of the Lord is to **hate evil**; **pride arrogance** and the evil way and the **perverse mouth** I hate' Proverbs 8:13. 'Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil' Proverbs 3:7.*

As Jack grew in the fear of God, a passion arose in him that stayed. It was a strange emotion for him – it was a strong hate for the devil and the perverseness of the world, which in all his business he had become blind to and often tainted by.

He never thought hate could be a Christian godly characteristic. Now he understood the power and the passion *godly hate* gave him to overcome anything beyond the formulas he had learnt. It gave him strength to fight the fight of faith, and to reach out to others where before he didn't really care that much, or have the time. He was now on the devil's hit list as a major threat to the kingdom of darkness.

### ***Loving the Fear***

In previous days, Jack often just went along with whatever was going. His insecurities allowed his boundaries to shift according to the situation. He never really questioned anything too deeply, or studied that much (he was always too busy), he just tried to be positive and upbeat, looking right, and going with the flow.

Even at church where negativity was frowned upon, he just accepted whatever happened because it all looked so good – he just wanted to be in with the in crowd. Now he was seeing with heaven's eyes. Now he discovered that the Lord he had given his life to didn't like certain things. Even though he regarded himself as filled with the Spirit, Jack used to swear blind sometimes, using all the fiercest curse words in the midst of his business frustrations. **'A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident' Proverbs 14:16. 'Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you' Proverbs 4:24. 'The perverse mouth I hate' Proverbs 8:13b.**

Jack was a proud man, proud of his achievements, proud of his faith, and quietly thought himself better than others. Brokenness wasn't in his vocabulary; now he saw it differently. Jesus had become his *chief cornerstone* '...whoever falls on that stone will be broken' **Luke 20:17-18**. It was the key to changing his life, in his loss he had found gain, humility, love, the power to overcome sin, and the *real power* of God to help and heal others. He loved the fear of God – and the Lord was ever close, teaching him more and more (Psalm 115:14).

### ***The Fear is the Beginning of Wisdom***

**'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever' Psalm 111:10. 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding' Proverbs 9:10. 'I am understanding' Proverbs 8:14.**

Jack W. Harrow had thought he was the savviest person around in his business world, but he had learnt a different truth, for he had discovered how deceived he was. **'Let no man deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God' 1 Corinthians 3:18-19.**

In the eyes of many Jack had become a fool in his failure. Even those at church who had befriended him because of his wealth now never called - the inner circle was a closed door. He wasn't a success anymore; his wings had been clipped. However, he didn't care now for he understood the paradox.

**'God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty...that no flesh should glory in His presence' 1 Corinthians 1:27,29. 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction' Proverbs 1:7.**

Jack's eyes had been enlightened; he now understood that weak was ok, and that his flesh had enjoyed the praise of men far too much. Gloating in his own glory had puffed him up. In his loss he had finally died to himself in a big way. He died to wanting to be successful in his own eyes and to be accepted by men for it. He had now discovered the true treasures and power of God.

Jack now understood what Paul meant when God said to him, *“My strength is **made perfect in weakness**”*. Therefore most gladly **I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me...for when I am weak, then I am strong**’ **2 Corinthians 12:9,10**. The power of Christ was now resting on Jack's life – he was weak and he loved it, yet he was strong as an ox. Jack shouted, *“Bring it on Lord!”*

Jack was also drawn into Solomon's wisdom - it flooded his soul. *God Himself was actually understanding personified*; through the fear of the Lord Jack began to understand what the Lord is *really* like, and that man's ways could deceive you - if you remained passive in your relationship with God. The Lord Jesus himself was also *‘crucified in weakness, yet **He lives by the power of God***. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with **Him by the power of God toward you**’ **2 Corinthians 13:4**.

Jack had discovered this power and the genuine new way to live in Christ that he had yearned for deep in his soul; a yearning that had never been fulfilled in all his busy Christian activity, meetings, and the endless shallow fellowship where the highest conversation was about sport.

Jack reflected that to fear God was his whole duty, in this crucible he began to find true wisdom. The conclusions of Solomon and Job were the same for Jack. Job was another wealthy man who discovered wisdom on his journey. *‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, **that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding**’* **Job 28:28**.

### ***Fear is the Instruction of Wisdom***

*‘The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility’* **Proverbs 15:33**.

In time, Jack's life unfolded anew, and he was invited around the planet as a catalyst of change. The healing and deliverance ministry flowed from his life and he preached the word with such grace and power. He became known as a man with a humble heart. The honor he received astounded him, yet he just offered it up to God. He gave millions of dollars into ministries and lives, as it poured through his hands. He only cared about the will of God and doing it. He had battles of faith to overcome like every one, but his family and life were stable; he knew that any strength he had was because of the Lord, and that God alone was absolutely his greatest treasure. The stock market and all his wheeling and dealing was a pale shadow to the life of adventure he lived now. *‘Wisdom and knowledge will be the **stability of your times, and the strength of salvation; the fear of the Lord is His treasure**’* **Isaiah 33:6**.

The fear of men had nearly destroyed Jack's life, and had confused what a relationship with God was meant to be. He had once just wanted to feel accepted and loved - a part of something great, yet, the very people he had yielded to had shunned him in his failures. What was meant for his pain however, became his pathway to the fear of the Lord and a ministry that now touched the world.

As the plane took off, Jack smiled to himself as he reclined in a very comfortable business class seat – he felt safe working for the Lord. How wondrous were the ways of God. His heart cried out for all those who had become dull of hearing; today he was on another mission. *'The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trust in the Lord shall be safe'* **Proverbs 29:25.**

### ***Fear finds the secrets***

*'Who knows the power of your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. So **teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom'** Psalm 90:11-12.* In Jack's new future he never wasted his days. Each day was precious, a gift from the Lord: to love his family, fulfill his call, and touch the world that he came into contact with. The fear of God had taught him not to coast along anymore or look to men for his answers. He looked to God, obeyed, and did life God's way. He was now over 40 years old, he measured the rest of his life and realized it was really short!

Jack figured he maybe had another 40 years to go; he had made the choice to make each of those 2080 weeks count for God. He was now a long-term planner who trusted God one day at a time! He considered the bigger picture and the possibilities of his future with the Lord. It was so great now, but what could it be for the rest of his life?

In the privacy of that business class seat, in the quiet of night over a cool pacific ocean, Jack - like other men and women traversing the planet for God - was in a closed session with the Lord.

In their consultations of wonder, men and women of God listened to prudence and wisdom - from the One who was Wisdom. They felt rich in their partnership with the Lord; secure in His Testament with them, as they discovered the secrets to opening the heavens over the cities they were sent to. They also had discovered what the fear is. Some had wished they had understood years before, yet it didn't matter, they were well and truly making up for lost time, for now was their hour of triumph.

*'The **secret** of the Lord is with those who **fear** Him, and He will show them His **covenant'***  
**Psalm 25:14.**

## *Chapter 3*

# *Learn the Fear*

*'Come, all you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord' Psalm 34:11*  
*'Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall he teach in the way He chooses' Psalm 25:12.*

Jack had been a Christian for a long time, but had never learnt the fear of God. When he ceased striving in his own strength, when he realized his weaknesses, when he walked in the valley of loss, he discovered his absolute need of God in everything; he then became one of the blessed. *'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'* **Matthew 5:3.**

Jack was a business eagle that flew with other eagles, but then he learnt true wisdom in this paradox - though he seemed strong in the Lord, he was weak and poor without Him. Jack needed to learn *trust and total reliance* on the Lord. The fullness of the kingdom became his when he was humbled and open to being taught by the Lord.

### ***Taught the Fear***

*'Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and **taught them how they should fear the Lord...**But the Lord your God you shall fear, and **He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.** However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals' 2 Kings 17:28, 39-40.*

Like Jack, many Christians sit in church buildings, follow programs, systems, religious agendas, and doctrines they may not even understand. They believe, some fear God, some are even scared, yet, their Christian walk is a ritual, a habit - devoid of the fullness of truth, heart, or revelation. Some of the children of Israel feared the Lord, but they still worshipped idols rather than God – *even at the same time!* We may love and reverence God, but what idolatry is in our lives that keeps us from the *fullness* of what God has for us? The Israelites were following other religious rituals that were alien to the truth, bringing the power of God and the effectiveness of His word to nothing. When we learn, and are taught the true fear of God, we are set free to be at liberty in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*'So they **taught in Judah,** and had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and **taught the people.** And the fear of the Lord fell on **all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah,** so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat' 2 Chronicles 16-17.*

When the truth is taught, when the truth is listened to, when we are yielded to God with the spirit of humility, even our enemies will find it hard to make war against us. The devil hates the fear of God. He does not want Christians to understand it or come into that mature level of relationship with the Lord; believers who *fear God* are dangerous for they are unshakeable. Their spiritual armor is rich and thick, and their trust is deep and wide. God is their source. They change nations.

## **Teach the Children**

*'...That they may **learn to fear Me** all the days they live on the earth, and that they may **teach their children**' Deuteronomy 4:10.* It is God's absolute desire that we learn the fear of Him who made us. When we learn to fear Him, He teaches us on our journey in the way that **He chooses**. Learning to fear God is a journey that will be with us all the days of our lives. The Lord is the God of generations. He wants to teach us the fear of Him, so we can pass it down to our children; they can then do the same - each generation becoming stronger and stronger.

In this time of apostolic restoration as at 2005, it is vital that we learn, discover, and teach the fear of the Lord to this end-time generation. For many children, church is still a place where they go to play games, party, or get bored. In the days ahead on planet earth it will take more than that for our children to be strong in the power of the Spirit of God.

*'... He shall **read it all the days of his life**, that he may **learn to fear the Lord his God** and **be careful to observe** all the words of this law and statutes' Deuteronomy 17:19.* In the Old Testament, the exhortation for kings was to be in the word of God every day, being careful to observe and do all the words of God that they may learn to fear. As fathers and mothers it is our duty to teach our children this reverence so they may grow up strong and unshakeable *kings and priests* in Christ (Revelation 1:6). The future state of the nations in these end-days depends upon it; that time is now on our doorstep.

The fear of God is learned.



## **Chapter 4**

# **Hear and Fear**

*'Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may **hear** and that they may **learn to fear the Lord your God** and **carefully observe all the words** of this law, and that their **children**, who have not known it, may **hear and learn to fear the Lord your God** as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess' **Deuteronomy 31:12-13.***

Jack Harrow knelt and prayed, and the glory of God seemed to just wash him clean. He had endeavored to learn about God, but he was a gung ho go-getter who liked to make things happen in his own strength - he had never learnt the art of being still and listening.

In that life changing moment of glory on his knees, Jack heard the voice of God. It was still, yet loud and resonating inside of him. It was an awesome feeling to *feel* God right there in his midst. God simply said to him, *"It's going to be ok, don't fear, I am with you."* That one sentence spoken to his opened ears, was the turning point in Jack's life. He knew that the Father was present, talking to him as a son. God reassured him: even though he may have failed, and fear for the future had entered his soul, he should just trust the Lord. Inside of Jack, the loving reverence of the fear of God began that day - he *heard it* for himself and touched the pure grace and mercy of the Fathers love. We can learn about God, but not necessarily have an ear to hear what He is really saying (Revelation 3:6). Hearing and learning are married together. That divine marriage changed Jack's life.

### ***Dull of Hearing***

In the New Testament, Jesus told His disciples that the Jews and religious Pharisee's had become dull of hearing the words of God. It is the reason why Jesus hid the truth about His word in the *parable of the sower*, as He did with other parables teaching about what the kingdom was truly like. In doing so people would need to be *spiritual hearers* to understand what He was really saying.

Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah. ***"Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see but not perceive; for the heart of this people has grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their heart and turn, so that I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes for they see and your ears for they hear"*** **Matthew 13:14-16.**

Your spirit has to be alive and your spiritual ears truly open to really understand God's wisdom. The Jews not only had hard hearts, but hard ears as well! They were all waxed up with no waves of revelation to ride!

The Apostle Paul also understood this truth, announcing that the Holy Spirit was right when speaking through Isaiah the prophet - the religious Jews were truly dull of hearing. Why? Because they didn't listen - he then prophesied, *'Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it'* **Acts 28:26.**

Jesus was seeking true worshippers when He went to the Gentile woman at the well (John 4:23). God gave salvation to the rest of the world, because He was looking for listeners who would truly hear what He had to say and be obedient to it. Today the whole world has that privilege and legacy from 2000 years ago - to hear and learn the fear of God through Jesus Christ.

It is important that we *hear as we learn*. Like Jack, people can learn, but spiritual pride and arrogance can stop them *really* hearing. The apostle Paul said, '*Do not be haughty but fear*' **Romans 11:20**. When we are yielded to the Lord with humble hearts it is then we can be taught the truth. The reward - according to the word of God - your children will also be genuinely blessed.

### ***False Fear***

Jesus warned of great deception in the end-times (Matthew 24), that even the most elect and attuned to God could be deceived; this deception produces a false fear, where men, and all his ways, are revered more than God. Even religious systems can be surrogate relationships for God in people's lives, rather than an intimacy with God Himself. Isaiah also prophesied, '*Inasmuch as these people draw near to Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandments of men...*' **Isaiah 29:13**.

Religiosity, old and new, can dull your heart so you cannot hear or see effectively anymore; the blind end up leading the blind. The devil does not want believers to be set free in their hearts, to be hearers and doers of the word (James 1:22). He wants them caged in a false cloak of religious ineptitude. It is a false fear, not of God, but of men - religious leaders who teach their own brand of Christianity, replacing the fear of God with their own commands. This can be subtle, or very obvious, either way it is a snare that can keep you from the true fear of God. '*The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe*' **Proverbs 29:25**.

God wants us all to be at liberty; the devil hates this because our heart is where the kingdom of God dwells, and it is the foundation of power for the Holy Spirit living in us. When our hearts are set free we can become dangerous weapons against satan's devices, and his incessant desire to destroy the Body of Christ. The road to that liberty is the fear of the Lord. It is there our hearts turn, it is there our lives change, healing can flow, and power is released.

### ***All shall fear***

'*So all Israel shall hear and fear...*' **Deuteronomy 13:11**. It is God's absolute desire that all believers hear and fear him. Anyone can listen if they have ears, but *really hearing*, is an art in itself. God has a perpetual invitation to all that fear the Lord. David wrote this - '*Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul*' **Psalms 66:16**. He was a man who feared the Lord.

Those that fear the Lord will know the mysteries and secrets of the kingdom. God has things that he will only reveal to those that fear him. ***“To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that seeing that they may not see, and hearing they may not understand” Luke 8:10.***

### ***Faith comes by Hearing***

***‘So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God’ Romans 10:17.*** When Jesus arrived on the scene, many could not receive faith in Him because their religious diet and tradition had made their ears hard. Their ears were full of gungy, yellow, religious wax!

The Word Himself, the Highest of Priests who stood to minister, was amongst God’s people speaking the words of life, but amazingly they just couldn’t hear it. Some did and were changed forever. Yet many just went on the old way in the presumption that they were right. ***‘Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the Lord your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil person from Israel. And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously’ Deuteronomy 17:12-13.***

### ***Presumption***

Presumption is an arrogant state of mind, where we think we are better than everyone else – we are the best church, we have the best music, the best ministers, the best look, the best everything. It is a place where we transition from relying on, listening, and walking with the Holy Spirit, to leaning on our own flesh. Individuals and churches can travel this way and not even know that they are spiritually dying in their pride - just like the Pharisee’s. Paul called those fools. He asked the question of the Galatian church ***‘...Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you know being made perfect by the flesh?’ Galatians 3:2-3.***

Without yielded faith in Christ we cannot hear; this requires humility and the road of the cross - dying to ourselves. Without hearing we cannot have the fear of the Lord. In the Old Testament law we are told to *choose* blessing or cursing, blessing requires obedience that requires us to listen as well. When we don’t, our lives will not move forward and can literally be destroyed. ***‘Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes...’ Deuteronomy 28:45.*** But thank God for His grace toward us in the New Covenant, however, we still have to choose; we still have to obey His word, and still have to hear His voice.

### ***Keep us from Evil***

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, part of that prayer was to ask God that we be not led into temptation, and the Lord ***‘deliver us from the evil one’ Matthew 6:13.***

Jesus knew that evil and temptation would be great stumbling blocks for the believer, and the devil would be seeking to devour those who walked close with God.

Part of being kept from evil is the ability to have your spiritual ears open to the Lord and being obedient to Him. *'But whoever **listens to me will dwell safely, and be secure without fear of evil**' Proverbs 1:33.*

God's promise is a life and walk with him that has safety and security, without being in fear of the devil and all his evil. Why? Because our faith and trust is in God alone: in the loving reverence, respect, and honor of the Lord in all that He is. There is a principle from the Old Testament Law that when evil is put away, people who remain firm in God will hear and fear. *'And those who remain shall **hear and fear**, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you'* **Deuteronomy 19:20.**

The fear of the Lord is a shield against evil. Godly fear gives the paradox of peace, rest and security – *'For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind'* **2 Timothy 1:7.** The devil's fear wants to kill your power, make cold your love, and screw up your mind – it's his deception of the truth.

Why does the God of heaven want us to fear Him? For His own ego? No! He wants us to listen and discover the purity of reverence for Him, because it protects us and sets us free from the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Jesus said, *'**Do not fear**, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom'* **Luke 12:32.** The blessings of the kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy, is ours when we hear and fear – it's God's pleasure, invitation, and promise.

## Chapter 5

# Serve and Fear

*'Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.  
Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way'* **Psalm 2:11-12**

Jack was a sincere guy, yet he began to perish in the merry way he was walking with God. When he first became a Christian he was enamoured by everything church had to offer. The great music, the bright lights, the lovely people, all the activities, the well produced products, the promise of success and wealth, and a great place for his children to play. It was good. As a businessman he was into it, lock stock and two smokin' barrels. He was used to being full on busy, so it was nothing to throw himself into absolutely everything. He had the money and he poured it in. It was great for a season, and like many new believers he just wanted to serve God, and was encouraged to do so.

Jack thought that going to every meeting, and being involved with everything he could, was serving God, after all, to serve God was work and to be able for service. He understood the good attitude of serving. Yet in all his spiritual activity and genuine desire, he found that he was relying on all these things rather than God, they had *become God* for him, and after awhile he became tired. His personal disciplines just didn't have the space they needed, and he never realized how important they were in genuinely discovering the Lord.

He had never learnt to *kiss the Son*. The busy atmosphere at church led him away from intimacy rather than to it, even though his involvement was positive in many ways. He yearned for the intimacy of love and worship, but only ever seemed to skim on its surface like a bouncing stone. His rejoicing was when he could sit down in the short services at church and relax. As good as that was in principle, his life was getting worse, and he felt empty. He tried to do more and more, and give more and more to fill the void, but he knew he was hitting a wall. He was missing an important ingredient in his life – the fear of God. *'You shall fear the Lord and serve Him...'* **Deuteronomy 6:13**. Jack's journey took him to his knees where he finally fell in love with Jesus Christ his Lord.

What Jack didn't realize, is that God wants *all of us first*, not just all of our activity; he realized that true serving comes with the fear of God. Jack thought the vision of his church was the most important thing, and it seemed that was the way. As a businessman he knew vision was important for growth, however, it took a great humbling, and a failure that saw his world beginning to perish, to find the truth in his own life.

### ***Serve in Sincerity and Truth***

*'...Fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the river and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!'* **Joshua 24:14**. Business and its success was one of Jack's idols, when he became a Christian he didn't see much difference from what he did in the world and the way the church approached business, other than God was somehow included. To him, serving the Lord and being a great Christian was having success and making money. Unfortunately Jack didn't see his own true poverty.

Jack looked out the window of the plane. He had just had a great time with the Lord. The Holy Spirit had given him his message for his forthcoming meetings in the USA. It was about the woman at the well (John 4). She had searched for truth but never found it in religion. All the priests in Jerusalem had been sincerely busy in all their religious activities in merchandising doves and money changing for the people of Israel, but their hearts were really far from God and the real truth (John 2). Tradition and the glories of the flesh had taken over. Jesus had cleansed that temple with violent rage. Jack felt like he had been through that in his life. All the tables of religiosity had been overturned inside of him, and the wheeling, dealing, scheming businessman, had died in the process.

Jack's message was about truth, and how Jesus was seeking true worshippers who served Him in spirit and truth. Jesus went to the woman, because in his own temple he couldn't find any true worshippers. People whose lives were a breath of fresh air, carrying the Spirit of God in power and love. People who could bring lasting change. Spirit and truth worshippers have the fear of the Lord and know Jesus. They put away their idolatrous ways and serve Christ with total reverence. *'Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you'* **1 Samuel 12:24**. Jack's life had nearly crumbled, and he still couldn't quite believe the great things that God had done for him.

### ***Serve and obey***

*'If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord'* **1 Samuel 12:14**.

Jack had seen a lot in his short time in ministry. He had seen men he knew, that greatly feared God, yet even they had gone off track. In his own fear of the Lord he knew how much he needed God daily to maintain it. To spend time with Him, listening, and being sensitive to the desires of the Holy Spirit. Jack knew you could easily lose that sense of reverence if you allowed pride and arrogance to creep back into your life – an attitude that could make you cynical and bitter.

Jack wanted to follow the Lord always; what he had now was so good. It wasn't always easy, and Jack had learnt much along the way, but the one thing he knew, the one thing that had driven him to his knees, was a new found reverence and respect for a holy God. He kept that diligently at the forefront of his thoughts and actions. It was the anchor for his ship, and it fueled his desire to be obedient when he didn't want to. At times he fell like everyone does, but he was very quick to pick himself up, repent, and keep going. He knew God's grace and treated it as treasure.

### ***Serve with Grace***

*'Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire'* **Hebrews 12:28-29**.

Serving God with grace and the fear of the Lord are all intimately woven together like a fine coat - Jack wore that now and was changing the world.

God's kingdom cannot be shaken. When that kingdom is truly working in us, we can become unshakeable. However, the context of serving God as written by the writer of Hebrews, is a warning to us who follow the Lord – that our God can also utterly consume everything in a moment, and in His grace toward us He will shake our lives for the better. *'See that you **do not refuse Him who speaks**. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who **speaks from heaven**, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates **the removal of those things that are being shaken**, as of the things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may **remain**' Hebrews 12:25-27.*

Jack's continuing desire is to be obedient to the voice of Him who speaks from heaven. He laid back in the nice seat on the plane, satisfied that he had heard Christ's message for the people in the U.S. On the airborne TV, the news of the Asian Tsunami, and the thousands of dead people, glared out from the little screen. The world was being shaken and Jack wondered how many were in hell and how many made it to heaven.

He thought back to how the Lord had shaken up his own life that had led him to a supposed failure. He had blamed the devil, man, himself, lack of wisdom, wrong purchases, sin, circumstances, his wife, his past, his childhood, his parents, the dog, the cat, he had dissected every moment. He laughed at himself now, but it was no laughing matter back then. It was all meant for his good - such is the wisdom and grace of the Lord. The God who spoke from heaven, and could consume his little world with a short blast of fire from his nostrils, had shaken him up - an undoing that ultimately led him into his future and hope. Jack only wanted one thing – to be a man that would remain always, and continue in it all the days of his life.

### ***Continue in Fear***

*'Do not let your heart envy sinners, **but in the fear of the Lord continue all day long**' Proverbs 23:17.*

Doing things continually was the great challenge. Jack was not enamoured by anything anymore: nice houses, four wheel drives, money, and all the other enticements of life meant nothing to him, when once they were everything. The irony is, once he lost it all, he got it back, but the difference was, these things now served him. What was his idolatry, were now tools for family stability, and advancing the kingdom of God. His heart had envied those who were successful, and he once just wanted to be like them - both in and out of the church. Of course he ended up serving the wrong things. He consequently had a small taste of what ruin was like. *'The lamp of the wicked will be put out. My son, **fear the Lord and the king**; do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring' Proverbs 24:21-22.*

The only calamity Jack wanted in his life was to destroy the works of the devil in people's lives. As he reclined in his airplane seat he thought about the wonderful people the Lord had put around him. They were solid and unshakeable because they had walked the road of life and paid the price to serve the Lord in fear. He praised the Lord quietly as the plane lights went out signaling time for rest. He snuggled safely under the blanket and drifted into a peaceful and restful sleep.



## Chapter 6

# Walk in Fear

*I stand at the crossroads of Samaria  
I think of the well and how I would like to dive in  
To resist the temptation to give up but swim  
What radical ways are there ahead for my babies and me? SB*

*'...Keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him'  
Deuteronomy 8:6*

Jack now knows *the real radical*. Once he wanted to give up, yet he wondered what could be ahead for him. He had found the truth in his Samaria - on his knees. A new well of reverence where the true living waters of God flowed with power. He discovered being with Jesus was a walk as well as a run - *pace* and *wisdom* were now his friends. The walk was hand in hand with God. Moving forward in His ways, trusting him in the fear of the Lord. Jesus said, *"I died but now I am alive."* That was Jack's journey, now he just kept walking regardless of anything, seeing miracle after miracle in his life.

### ***Testing in the Walk***

*'...For the Lord God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him' Deuteronomy 13:3b-4.*

Many Christians give up when adversity hits their lives. Many trials in life are tests to see if you will keep walking, hold fast, and press into God when you want to give up. *'If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small' Proverbs 24:10.* In his testing Jack had to redefine what his strength really was. His love for God was tested - in fact his love for everything was tested. He found out what sort of love he had. In many areas of his life, it was selfish love, or idolatrous love. God wanted Jack to live in what he was yearning for deep down in his heart – God's love – in big strength.

### ***Keep the Commands***

Jesus said, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another' John 13:34-35.* *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets"* Matthew 22:37-40.

The whole of the Bible hangs on love. Jack had vision, business success, all the trappings of the world, but he lacked the very things he needed. Amazingly even at his church he didn't really find it. The vision consumed most people's lives, and if you didn't fit in people just moved on as they did with Jack.

In Jack's testing, the phone stopped wringing and he found out who his real friends were. They were true disciples of Jesus, ones who loved in success and adversity, ones who called everyday, praying for him and encouraging his life. They were the ones now working with him in a worldwide ministry of healing and deliverance. The bonds forged in trial cemented them for the future - like King David and his band of turkey warrior misfits in the wilderness. Their love was all heart, all soul, and all mind - to God and one another. It kept them walking in the great trials and tests that can come in ministry.

### ***Walk after the Lord***

Jack had found a new wisdom in the fear of the Lord. The proverb hailed true with him. '*A wise man is strong*' **Proverbs 24:5**. Walking, fearing God, keeping the word, obeying the voice of the Spirit, and serving are all part of the great journey with Jesus in venerating Him. It is a narrow road, where you could easily fall off either side if you don't *hold fast to God*. The art of holding on is found in the fear of the Lord, in complete trust and reliance on the Lord - His strength not ours. The art of walking is a daily discipline that can never let up, because the devil, the flesh, and the world are waiting to bring calamity. Jack found true victory in his walk and '*through wisdom a house is built*' **Proverbs 24:3**. The strong house of his life and the fullness of ministry were founded on the right position of his heart in the fear of the Lord.

### ***Walk in Authority***

Many people want to walk in a ministry but have no real authority. Outwardly Jack used to look like he had authority. He was favored at church because of his business acumen and success. But his authority was based on the world's ways and in time that authority crumbled and was eventually replaced by God's authority and power. Jack had to learn to walk in the fear of the Lord. His contemporary religion did not teach him that.

In the days of Nehemiah the prophet, the Jewish brethren were charging excessive interest on money lent to their own people and consequently oppressing them. Nehemiah got up and proclaimed, '*What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?*' **Nehemiah 5:9**. The prophet challenged the very machinations of economics in his society. The way business was done was killing the people. Nehemiah exhorted them to change and fear the Lord. He knew the fear of God could change the heart of nations - the very thing Jack discovered. The nations had become his inheritance (Psalm 2:8).

What is it that you are doing that is *not good*? Are you in a bewildering test and trial? Has your walk ground to a halt? Is there no way out? Are you a worshipper at the crossroads of Samaria seeking truth like the woman at the well? There is a future and a hope for you - it is God's promise (Jeremiah 29:11). Your answer is the same as Nehemiah's advice for Jack. '*Should you not walk in the fear of our God?*'

## Chapter 7

# The Word and Fear

*It's a pity religion sucks our face and sucks at our hearts  
Sucks our blood sucks the Word sucks in general really SB*

***'Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever'***  
**Psalm 112:1-3.**

***'Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord'*** Psalm 128:1-4.

### ***Blessed***

The bedrock of walking in the fear of the Lord is not “*Yaba Daba Doo*” instant coffee Christianity; it is a life journey that has a mature commitment and a wonderful delight in the word of God. Christ is our Rock, and His word must be our delight and pursuit if we are to be strong. Everyone wants to be blessed, much more than the consequences of anything opposite. When Jack became a Christian, success was his candy store, anything that looked like success he was enamoured by. However, true blessing that is enduring comes with the fear of God - the promises of God in this are absolutely incredible, giving us the power to prosper and live a stable happy life with our families. Jack discovered there is a way to do it right and be *righteously blessed*.

*Blessed* is from the Hebrew word *Asher*; it means to live straight and on the level, to go forward, in honesty and integrity, and to prosper in happiness. It also means to go and guide others with effective leadership. To relieve and be relieved. Jesus said, “*Come to Me, all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. My Yoke is easy and My burden is light*” **Matthew 11:28-30**. The rest and easy light burden that Jesus promises, comes with the fear of the Lord. There is a price to pay for that discovery as Jack found out. But the rewards are immeasurable. *'He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded'* **Proverbs 13:13**.

The conclusion of the blessed man who fears the Lord in Psalm 128 is one who kneels and blesses God back in adoration. That man is a humbled man, that man is amazed at what God does in his life, that man wants to walk in the fear of the Lord, that man trusts in God emphatically. *'I know that whatever God does...God does it that men should fear Him'* **Ecclesiastes 3:12**.

### ***Well with you forever***

***'Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever'*** Deuteronomy 5:29.

God's absolute fathering desire is that our lives be well. His thoughts are *forever* thoughts - mindful for generations, thoughts for the future only He knows about. His cry is that we have our hearts changed to find the fear of the Lord and live this kind of life – a life we can hand down with great legacy to our children and all those we influence. Walking this way requires us to keep the word of God dear to our hearts: love it, learn it, and do it. That takes time, commitment, and maturity, but in that, we discover the glorious and awesome nature of the God we serve. In this discovery, the only thing you desire to do is fear Him, because it is so good. *'If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD'* Deuteronomy 28:58.

### ***What God Requires***

*'...Now Israel, what does the Lord require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good'* Deuteronomy 10:12.

God asks this of those who love him - in fact it is a demand, something He requires so we can fulfill the walk He has planned for us. The fear of the Lord is for our good. It isn't a negative heavy thing. It becomes a delight on the road of discipline, walking with the Father who loves us. The mercy of the Lord is with those who fear Him and keep His word; the consequences are for the generations that follow us. It is important that when we measure our lives, we must see them in all that we do on earth in terms of generations. *'But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and those who remember His commandments to do them'* Psalm 103:17-18. The reality of this comes by revelation, and the only way to get it is by staying in the word of God.

### ***Do the commands***

*'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever'* Psalm 111:10. Jack found wisdom he could get no other way - by fearing God and keeping His word. No manner of Christian busyness and activity gave Him that. It required Him to change big time. Nowadays when people see Jack as he ministers, they can hear God in his voice, they hear a man who has spent time alone with God, a man who knows His word, a man where signs and wonders follow his ministry. *'Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your word'* Psalm 119:74.

Jack's hope used to be in the things he could see and touch - all the things that are the pride of life. *'Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever'* **1 John 2:15-17.**

Jack eventually walked in a fresh hope that he found in God and His word. He found the true will of God for his life, that he could not find when he set his heart on worldly success. He could safely say, *'My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgements'* **Psalm 119:120.** He discovered that abiding in God forever required the fear of the Lord, there his heart was changed, and his ministry was born.

### ***In The Beginning***

*'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it'* **John 1:1-5.**

Reverence was from the beginning. The word of God was from the beginning. Jesus was from the beginning. He is God. He is the Word. Jack found the life that all men and women yearn for. Without the word there is no fear, there is no light, or life. Nothing can be made, no *true vision* can be executed, and without it, the darkness of evil cannot be repelled. If we abide in God's word we can ask what we will and it will be done for us (John 15:7). That kind of absolute promise, being a reality in our lives, comes with the word, and the fear of the Lord.

## *Chapter 8*

# *God and Fear*

*'And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to **test you**,  
And that **His fear** maybe before you, so that you may **not sin**" Exodus 20:20*

Sin was an easy thing for Jack; the boundaries were never clear to him, and conviction was often lost in the mist. He believed in God of course, but to be afraid of God, to revere him greatly, was not a revelation in his early Christian days. He was wealthy, and pursued by people; many of Jack's former ways carried over into his new found Christianity. God became all mixed up with things that Jack could see, acquire, and go to. When he gave his life to Jesus, it was not with tears of repentance, but it was more like meeting a new buddy at a pub or eatery, who lived in a beautiful building surrounded by trendy good looking people. They all seemed to drive nice cars and have very few problems. He loved the look of success. When he confessed a *Sinners Prayer* he knew he had somehow changed, but he still wasn't sure *what he had given his life to*. He certainly wanted to go back to the nice place with attractive youthful rock music, because somehow in an enthralled moment, it was the lifestyle he wanted. God and church was the same thing (something he had difficulty separating as he matured); the revelation of a deep personal relationship with Jesus was yet to come.

Jack went on for several years just going to everything he could; giving as much money as possible, trying to get blessed, and fill an emerging spiritual craving that never seemed to be satisfied. Until of course his life hit the wall and the mother of all tests seemed to cascade on top of him. God had come to test him; it was Jack's time. God wanted all of his life now, to show him how to truly live by the Spirit, to be a true over comer of his old ways, and to prepare him for the ministry he had for him. The time for Jack being a church attendee was over. Testing brought the fear of God into his heart - a rock solid wall that kept him from the old cycles of sin continually raking away at his life.

Now in ministry, Jack led a life of daily reverence. He had a daily awareness of his need for a total reliance on the Lord for everything. Nothing enamored him anymore; his heart, mind and soul were laser focused on all that God had for him. He could certainly testify through his life's journey, *'that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may **fear the Lord your God forever**' Joshua 4:24*. God did a great work in Jack's life; now he had *forever fear* in his heart, and was doing great works for others in his ministry.

### *Testing*

When we come through the time of the Lord's testing it brings the fear of the Lord. It is God's desire that we fear Him. In the moral and ceremonial laws of the book of Leviticus the word says several times *'...**fear your God: I am the Lord**' Leviticus 19:14*. The prophet musician Asaph in the Tabernacle of David said, *'You, Yourself **are to be feared**' Psalm 76:7*. Solomon observed much vanity in man's pursuit of life, just like Jack, but in the midst of it all he exhorted us to fear God. *'For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. **But fear God**' Ecclesiastes 5:7*.

The great Patriarch Abraham, the father of nations, was severely tested in the fear of the Lord. He laid his only son on an altar ready to sacrifice him to God. The dear son he loved and had nurtured from birth. The dear son he laughed and cried with over the years. Yet he did not withhold him from God, he was prepared to lay him down. It was a test that proved by action his fear of the Lord. At the last minute God provided Abraham a ram for sacrifice and the son lived. *'Do not lay you hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now **I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me**' Genesis 22:12.* In Abraham God saw Himself. In his willing act of faith and sacrifice, Abraham touched the very heart of God.

In Jack's life, he had got to the end of himself; all he had held dear was in danger of going forever. It took him to his knees, where he knew he would never let go of the Lord, no matter what the cost. Like Abraham, God saw and felt Jack's heart. The Lord himself was the lamb of sacrifice - 2000 years B.J (before Jack!). Jack had been tested but God restored him beyond his dreams. *'Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all'* **Psalm 34:19.**

### ***Healed***

Jack had many unhealed areas in his life. His drive for success was fueled by a great desire to please his Dad who had never really loved him, or told him so. Hence he was easily snared and controlled by men. Success was imperative to his life, otherwise in his mind he was just another failure. The type of Christianity he had found affirmed that drive, yet he remained unhealed in his heart toward his father, and he had continued in that deficit in his relationship with God. But on his journey with the Lord, God dug into Jack's heart, and Jack found the true foundation of success that came from the security of knowing who he was with Jesus. He had learned the truth uttered by the prophets of old. *'But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings...'* **Malachi 4:2.** In finding healing, Jack was able to bring healing, and to be a testimony for the Lord all over the world.

### ***Moved with Fear***

*'By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became the heir of the righteousness which is according to faith'* **Hebrews 11:7.** With faith and godly fear we can overcome the world and be heirs of all that the Lord has for us. Noah was moved to action by his godly fear of the Lord. He took his steps by faith and changed his world, and in fact saved the world at the time. Many people sit in churches with faith, but their faith is never moved to action their destinies - there is no fear of the Lord. They fear man, or their faith is in an institutional culture. Noah prepared for decades to save his household and hence the future of the world. He had faith in a God that was real and close. Jack went from just going to church, being enamoured by the institutional culture that suited him, down to his knees and at the end of his rope; it was there God's wisdom truly began. In the fear of God that followed, the worldliness in him that had held him back, was condemned for what it was. He then began to experience what it was to be a true heir with the righteousness given to him by Christ.

Jack's faith was now accompanied by godly fear, and in that journey his gifts exploded. In that journey he exposed the worldliness in others through the message and power that he brought, helping to save many households, heal the sick, and open the door for many to walk by faith in the fear of God.

### ***Change the World***

Sometimes we have to go beyond the norm of the accepted status quo to change the future. The Bible tells us to submit to authorities, yet, the Jewish midwives went against the order of Pharaoh to kill their babies – they feared God. It was severely wrong to kill children, and in that testing they feared God rather than the man Pharaoh, who at the time was also revered as a god. Multiplication, mightiness, and provision came to these women and their people because they feared God rather than man. They were unshakeable. *'But the mid-wives **feared God** and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive...therefore God **dealt well with the mid-wives**, and the people **multiplied** and **grew very mighty**. And so it was, **because the midwives feared God**, that **He provided households for them**' Exodus 1:17,20-21.*

The fear of the Lord saved a baby boy called Moses, and the destiny of a nation was also saved. Like Noah, people with faith moved by godly fear changed the future. How many future changers have been aborted from wombs? How many Jack's sit in churches, fed, fat, and unaware that an amazing destiny is awaiting them - beyond the religion that binds them up and controls them?

Queen Jezebel massacred God's prophets in the days of Elijah. Obadiah feared God rather than Jezebel, and hid 100 prophets in caves and saved their lives. *'But I your servant have **feared the Lord from my Youth**' 1 Kings 18:12.* The Bible says to seek God early in your life. *'Rejoice, O young man in your youth' Ecclesiastes 11:9.* Paul said to Timothy, *'Let no one despise your youth, but be an example...'* **1 Timothy 4:12.** Paul wanted him to be a godly example in his life and ministry. Jesus counseled a rich young ruler who had kept the commands of God from his youth. But his riches owned him. The world had its grip. He had the treasures of earth, but lacked the fear of God to go and sell it all, give it to the poor, and make a deposit in heaven - following the Lord totally (Luke 18:18-23). You never hear about him again in the Bible.

The best thing any young person can do is to find the fear of the Lord. God wants us to fear him. The future is in the hands of history makers, and world changers, who truly fear the Lord.



## Chapter 9

# Fearing God

*'The Lord of hosts, Him you shall **hallow**; **let Him be your fear** and let Him be your dread' Isaiah 8:13.*

Prayer beads, and nervous fingers, harmonized with a fearful mumbled prayer said over and over again, yet, the heavens remained still. Many pray the Lord's prayer. Many love the Lord's prayer. Many try to be in fear of God, but their lives never change. Many pray to the baby Jesus, the virgin, the saints, the ancestors, or whatever is hanging around, yet God's intended abundance and blessing is blocked. The prayer of the Lord becomes a mantra from an uninformed past, a tradition handed down by families and religions – an undiscovered mystery.

### *Hallowed*

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, *'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name'* **Matthew 6:9**. It is a statement about the purifier, the one who makes holy – God. In that prayer is also embodied the desire of the person praying, to be consecrated and dedicated in holiness to God: to live in sanctity, to make holy, to be clean – hallowed. The fear of the Lord is clean. Fearing God and living hallowed go hand in hand. It is then we can pray and experience, *'Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...'* God's *true* kingdom, power, and will, comes to us when we live in the fear of the Lord. Daily bread, forgiveness of debts, not being led into temptation, and delivered from evil, is rooted in the fear of the Lord within a hallowed life.

Jesus said that he came to give us abundant life (John 10:10). He said that the devil comes to destroy lives. Jesus said he is the door of the sheep, *'If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved'* **John 10:9**. Entering into the fullness of the things of Christ requires us to have the fear of the Lord: to hallow his name, live in His righteousness not ours - that all power and glory are Gods. Jesus said that many have tried to enter another religious way, *'All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them'* **John 10:8**. The sheep - the true believers - did not hear or receive the false ways because God was not present. Jack was saved, but he could not enter into the fullness of what Christ had for him until he feared the Lord, it was then his life changed, albeit with pain and suffering. It was then that the mighty works of the Lord worked through Jack. For everything he did in life had the context of *being hallowed*: his prayer life, his family life, and his public ministry.

*'Jacob shall not now be ashamed. Nor shall his face now grow pale; but when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, they will **hallow My name**, and **hallow the Holy One of Jacob**, and **fear the God of Israel**. These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmured will learn doctrine' Isaiah 29:23-24.*

The Lord's prayer can only be fulfilled by fearing God. Jesus said, *'do not be like them'* **Matthew 6:8**. He was referring to religious people, who vainly prayed repetitions with no heart, revelation, or power; people who loved to be seen praying, receiving the glory of men. Jesus called these men hypocrites.

Jesus said that the Father knows already what we have need of before we even open our mouths. The key to fulfillment, and answer to prayer, is to go *'in the secret place'* to speak to the father who will reward you openly. The secret place is the place of intimacy with God; that is where we are heard - when we pray with faith, sincere love, heart, and revelation, even with few words. The Bible says that the secrets of God are with those who fear Him. The Pharisee's of the day didn't fear God. They did not hallow his name any more, albeit in their own religious way. Jesus gave the model prayer because he absolutely hated religion - it kept men from the fear of the Lord. It kept men and women from truly knowing Him and all the liberty and abundance that he desired to bring. It kept the Jacks of this world from fulfilling their destiny and call in life.

The first two lines of the Lord's prayer lay the foundation for the rest of the prayer being answered - through the Lord having a true place of consecration in our hearts. He is hallowed, we fear God – this is the beginning of wisdom.

### ***Fearing in Sincerity***

*'Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, **fearing God**. And **whatever you do**, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you **serve the Lord Christ**' Colossians 3:22-24.*

The Pharisees were generally men pleasers; most of what they did was either in the fear of men, or to receive glory for themselves. The hallowed of heart have genuine sincerity in all they do. People that fear the Lord do everything as unto the Lord. Jack ran his business unto himself, to impress, to feel secure, and to be above others, in a way it was like his own form of salvation. When he became a Christian much of these old ways remained. He had already been materially successful without God, yet now he showed fellow believers how the Lord has showed him *true success*. The church leaders had loved him - he was cool and wealthy, had an attractive wife and family, and seemed a good example. Jack was elevated way to fast into the upper echelons of contemporary Christianity and came down with a crash. He wanted to please his leaders and stay successful, yet God had other plans. The Lord had a reward of inheritance that men could not give him. Jack discovered the hallowed ground of serving Christ and discovered a success he could never have dreamt up himself.

### ***Greatly feared in the Church***

It is the desire of Christ that the sincere fear of Him is to be in all the Church, *'God is **greatly to be feared in the assembly** of the saints, and **to be held in reverence** by all those who are around Him'* Psalm 89:7. This is a corporate fear - one that is abundant in its increase, brought about by a people who have cast their lot together in Christ. It is a fear that multiplies in the journey of faith. The people who hold a great reverence for God, and exhort and teach others to have that fear also, see great fruit at every level of life.

*'Happy is the man who is **always reverent**, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity'* **Proverbs 28:14**. A genuinely happy church is a reverent church. Jack seemed happy in his worldly success, but he wasn't always reverent. It took a calamity for him to find true reverence; it was there that he found the key to true happiness and fulfillment in being what he was meant to be. *'He who walks **in his uprightness fears the Lord**, but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him'* **Proverbs 14:2**. Jack found a different uprightness that wasn't about impressing people or keeping up with what was perceived to be a great Christian image. He found the truth in fearing God.

## Chapter 10

# Jesus and Fear

*Our faith*

*It always has a new seed in its bag the size of the moon on your pinkie  
That's all it takes to do the works just believe said Jesus just believe  
Losing will be winning you will see **SB***

*'There shall come forth a rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of His roots. 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**' Isaiah 11:1-3.*

The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus like a Dove. John the Baptist and others stood in awe as they heard the booming voice of the Father in heaven saying, '*You are my beloved son, **in You I am well pleased***' **Luke 3:22**. What pleases the Father is Christ. What is *in Christ* pleases God. Isaiah prophesied of Jesus the coming Messiah. In the spirit, Isaiah saw the Holy Spirit resting on Jesus. He named the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of *wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and **the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord***. The fear of the Lord is actually part of the character of the Holy Spirit. The delight of Christ is in the fear of the Lord more than anything - for Christ's judgements and ways were being obedient to what He saw the Father saying and doing. This is the very heart of the fear of the Lord, and to Jesus it was a delight. If we are in Christ, it pleases the Father. If we are in Christ we will want to be like Him and live like Him. If the Holy Spirit lives in us, it is our duty to find the delight that Christ has – in the fear of the Lord.

### **Jesus High Priest**

*'So also Christ **did not glorify Himself** to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "**You are My Son. Today I have begotten You.**" As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and **was heard because of His godly fear**, though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered**. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to **all who obey Him**, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing**' Hebrews 5:6-11.*

When Christ prayed, it was with vehement passion and tears. Christ had godly fear and the Father heard Him because of it. The fear of the Lord unlocks and unleashes the passion of Christ within you. It is a burning zeal like Jesus had for the House of God. It ate away at Jesus, and stirred Him to godly action when He saw his Temple becoming a den of merchandise (John 2:17). Jack learnt obedience to Christ through suffering loss. This he discovered *after he became a Christian*. He learnt obedience and the fear of the Lord the only way we often can, by the things we suffer and go through. This was the way of Jesus our High Priest. Suffering was not a popular message in Jack's contemporary Christian culture. When Jack was going through his loss a Christian friend told him coldly to "*get a life*" (as Job experienced with his friends). Jack never heard from that person again.

The writer of the Hebrews was trying to convey ‘solid food’ to the reader, but like the Pharisees they had become dull of hearing truth. Part of that truth was the godly fear of Jesus Christ – it made him able to touch heaven, bringing heaven to earth. He had the Spirit of the fear of the Lord and so should we – *if we are to be like Him*.

### ***Fear Him***

Some say that the whole subject of the fear of the Lord is old hat, Old Testament, or old school. Yet, Jesus Himself, by His example and His exhortation, tells us to fear God. ‘*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*’ **Matthew 10:28**. Jesus was saying not to fear man but God – put God first. The reason he gave was because of God’s great love for us - that is why the fear of the Lord was such a delight to Jesus. He then tells of how intimate the Father is with us even when He is not feared. The Father knows even the sparrows that fall to the ground and die, and that all the hairs on our head are numbered. Jesus then said that fearing man is pointless because we are of far more value than many sparrows. In other words fearing the Lord was true wisdom (Matthew 10:29-31).

In the book of Luke this passage is said even stronger with exclamation. Jesus showed us by his life and example that the fear of God was the key to everything. “*And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But **I will show you whom you should fear**: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has the power to cast into hell; yes I say to you **fear Him!**” **Luke 12:4-5**.*

### ***Miracles***

As Jesus walked in the Spirit of the fear of the Lord, His example brought miracles, signs, and wonders. They happened because the Savior had power by the same Spirit, and His miracles brought the fear of God to those who witnessed them. ‘*And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were **filled with fear**, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”*’ **Luke 5:26**. After Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain, the fear of the Lord came. ‘*Then **fear came upon all** and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.”*’ **Luke 7:16**. God turned up through signs and wonders - this was Jesus example for those who feared the Lord - He showed us whom we should fear. Jack discovered this truth through his loss, and then went on to touch the world in power – *like Jesus*. We will see this manifestation of signs and wonders more and more in this apostolic end-time era.

### ***Greater Works***

Jesus said, “*Most assuredly I say to you, **he who believes in Me**, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father”*’ **John 14:12**. Jesus also said, “*And these signs will follow **those who believe**: In My name they will cast out demons: they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover”*’ **Mark 16:17-18**. These verses are not just a casual statement to anyone who believes there is a God – they are for those who *truly believe*.

The demons even believe in one God but tremble (James 2:19). The believing referred to in Mark 16 is rooted in the fear of the Lord. It means to have complete entrusted faith and respect in God, fully persuaded of the truthfulness of the Lord - this is the fear of God, and signs and wonders is the promise that will follow. Many contemporary Christian churches today have become spiritually safe and middle of the road, now only alluding to signs, healing, wonders and miracles, yet, in Christ this should be the norm. It is something the Lord is restoring again in the current apostolic reformation in the Body of Christ.

### ***The Spirit Yearns***

The Spirit of the *fear of the Lord* that rested on Christ yearns deeply for our full affection and attention to be on Him. *“Or do you think that the scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” James 4:5-10.*

The Lord is a jealous God. There comes a time in every believer's life when the full force of God's jealousy comes our way. He yearns for us, because of what He has for us. In our humbling He gives us more grace to be able to fulfill our destiny. In that process humility cures worldliness in our life. The Spirit yearned for Jack; he came to his knees and lamented and mourned. The joy of what he had previously known became a dark place of gloom, but in that place he poured out his heart. In that cold place of aloneness, he felt the loving hand of a Father lift him up and say, *“Look what I have for you son!”* The Spirit of the fear of the Lord came upon Jack. Drawing near to God became a delight he had never known. Walking clean was a passion and an imperative in life. He then walked in the fear of God, submitted to Him. The devil fled from this man, and signs and wonders followed his life. Jack had been lifted up, his vision was now God's vision – he looked through heaven's eyes like Jesus.

### ***Truly the Son of God***

When Jesus died on the cross, many did not truly believe in Him. Roman centurion's who were assigned to guard Jesus found faith when they saw the signs that happened at His death. The fear of the Lord came upon them. They saw the veil in the Temple had been torn in two, and giant rocks split in half. Graves miraculously opened, and dead bodies were raised, walking about in downtown Jerusalem. This was more awesome than Michael Jackson's *Thriller!* *‘Now when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!” Matthew 27:54.* What happened to the Roman guards we do not know; yet, we can see the great love and yearning of Jesus for people to know Him with great fear – even in His death signs and wonders followed. Many all over Jerusalem would have been humbled in what they witnessed and then found faith like the soldiers - exclaiming, *“Truly this was the Son of God!”*

Today Jesus is raising up a Body of people on earth, who like Christ will carry the Spirit of the fear of the Lord in all they do. Signs and wonders will follow them and many will come to fear the Lord like we have never seen before in history.

## ***Chapter 11***

# **Leaders and Fear**

*‘Moreover you shall select from all the people **able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers...**’ Exodus 18:21*

When selecting leadership, God said to Moses to choose ones that fear God, and are able men, full of truth. True worshippers are people of truth (John 4:23). True worshippers are people who fear God. Jack was elevated into leadership way to early in his Christian walk and he paid a dear price. He was *used* for his business acumen, he looked the part with all the trappings of success; he was smart, sharp and intelligent. Yet he was far from being spiritually able to bear the weight of church and ministry leadership - that would come in later years. Jack believed in God but didn't fear the Lord. The covetousness of money and possessions were still his old friends, and *the truth*, he was still coming to terms with. Love, would have been patient and waited for Jack to mature in the relationships of normal church life, but he was thrust onto the colorful mountain of a high church profile way too early, and he fell down the other side. On his knees in the valley there was no one but Jesus to lift him up. The church party atmosphere was now a dim sound – he was on his own.

Jesus is our great leader and example; He walked in the fear of the Lord. Jack found the same narrow way and eventually became a notable godly leader. King David's last words to leaders, *“When one rules over men in righteousness, when he **rules in the fear of God**, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth”* **2 Samuel 23:3-4**.

### ***Ruling in Fear***

*‘He who rules over men **must be just, ruling in the fear of God**. And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises...’* **2 Samuel 23:3-4**. You can be an effective leader, but you can't be a *true leader* in God's kingdom without the fear of the Lord. A just leader is one who is righteous in their ways in every sense of the word, a person that makes things right. This is not self-righteousness, but living in the righteousness that Christ gives the believer – righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17), a person that leads people into the better way – the true ways of God.

*‘The Lord our righteousness’* **Jeremiah 23:6**. *‘He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous’* **1 John 3:7**.

He who rules pursues dominion in their lives, and the releasing of others to live that way, ruling with power. People can also do this without God, however, true dominion and power comes from the Lord. When we truly fear Him, it is then we will be like the dawning of a new day in all we do; a person who is luminous, happy and bright, one who brings illumination, knowledge, wisdom and godly revelation to life. *‘**Ordered in all things and secure**. For this is all my salvation and all my desire; will He not make it increase?’* **2 Samuel 23:5**. Order, security, and increase are the result of ruling in fear – it is God's desire for all of us.



### ***Fear in Covenant***

*“My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, and I gave them to him that he might fear me; so he feared Me and was reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and equity and turned many away from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is a messenger of the Lord of hosts’ Malachi 2:5-7.*

God gives covenant with man so we will fear him, so we can enter into the true godly life of peace. It is His desire that we walk our lives in the reverential fear of the Lord, true worshippers living in truth, not in sin and evil, for a leader is a messenger of God - be it a husband, wife, minister, or business person. Christians are in covenant with God – we must walk in the fear of the Lord if we are to fulfill all that the covenant gives the believer in Christ.

### ***Judge in fear***

In the reforms of Jehoshaphat he set leaders over Israel to judge the people. Their leadership, their decisions and wisdom, could only be enacted in the fear of God – this is the foundation of all godly leadership. *“Let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes...thus you shall act in the fear of the Lord, faithfully and with a loyal heart’ 2 Chronicles 19:7,9.*

True godly wisdom to lead people begins with the fear of the Lord; this is how leaders are to serve God and others, not because you just want a position. Godly leadership comes from a worshipper’s heart: ones who kiss the Son, ones who are intimate with Christ, ones who have an ear to hear Him, walk in the Spirit, and are faithful and loyal to all Christ requires of them. *‘Be wise, O kings; be instructed you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way’ Psalm 2:10-12.* Jack’s worldly ways eventually perished and were replaced with God’s ways; then he became a man of power in the Holy Spirit walking in covenant with God. It was then he truly changed his world.

### ***Leaders not rebels***

*‘If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord’ 1 Samuel 12:14.* To walk any other way, other than leading in the fear of the Lord, is to walk as a rebel. Leaders are to fear, serve, and obey the voice of God. When godly leaders do this, it affects the leadership of our community and our nations. Here is a spiritual dynamic: when all Christians walk in the fear of the Lord we will see our nations turning to godly leadership. America, the most powerful nation in the world, has an openly Christian leader. There are millions of American believers, and Christian leaders, who walk in the fear of the Lord with far greater maturity today.

There is strategic prayer, and a desire for national change that is unprecedented in Christendom around the world. There are 4-10 million people praying for the U.S President at anyone time, all coordinated on the net. The promise of scripture is those who rule over us will continue to follow the Lord. This is why we are exhorted in the word to pray for those in authority and governments, so the nations can live in the ways of God, and in peace.

### ***Godly Leaders***

**Joseph** is a favorite story with everyone, many movies, plays, and books, have been created about this great godly leader. Musical playwright, Andrew Lloyd Webber, began making his theatre fortune from this story. Joseph became the foremost leader in the known world, next to the Egyptian Pharaoh himself. Yet, he managed to stay untainted by the world and continue in the fear of the Lord – Pharaoh, the world president, even respected his fear of God. Joseph was a great leader in the world because he feared the Lord of heaven. In doing so he was able to save his family and the lives of countless thousands of people. He said to his brothers, “*Do this and live for I fear God*’ **Genesis 42:18**. He was saying to them that his wisdom, motive, and strategy, was from God, and they were to trust him. They did, and their family was re-united and blessed.

**Nehemiah** appointed leadership after the wall of Jerusalem was repaired and re-built. They were faithful men who had *great fear* for God - to handle the responsibility of being in charge of the city of Jerusalem. ‘*I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he was a **faithful** man and **feared God more than many***’ **Nehemiah 7:2**. The criterion for leadership in the city was faithfulness and a great fear of God. There are people who are hungry for God, and there are people who just snack in the Lord. The hungry have their hearts set on being faithful in all things. Their hunger brings them into a fear of the Lord that is above the line of many others – these people are leaders in cities and nations, these people change the world.

**Job** was the richest man on earth in his day. The center of his uprightness was his fear of God. In trial and test, he lost all his possessions and his family. Those he thought were his friends turned against him. His grief was wide and deep, but in the end he was unshakeable in his faith, and God restored him far greater than he had been. ‘*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless** and **upright**, and one who **feared God** and **shunned evil***’ **Job 1:1**.

The man from Uz could have been Jack - it could be you. Your journey may have taken you to the end of your rope, or down on your knees, but Gods heart is to elevate you in the fear of Him, so you can truly succeed and be unshakeable. King Solomon was the wisest man of all. At the dedication of the temple he built for the Lord, He prayed for all the people of the nation of Israel. ‘*That they may **fear You all the days that they live in the land** which you gave to our fathers*’ **1 Kings 8:40**.

***Where is your reverence?***

*'A son honors his Father, and a servant his master. If then I am a Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is **My reverence**? Says the Lord of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, "In what way have we despised Your name"'*  
**Malachi 1:6.**

In the days of the prophet Malachi, the leader's offerings were polluted because they lacked the fear of the Lord. God said to them "*where is my fear and honor?*" Without it these leaders despised the name of the Lord they served and they didn't even know it. Leaders can lead without the fear of God, but at their own peril. Jesus said, "*If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors me*" **John 8:54.** Where is your reverence positioned today?

## *Chapter 12*

# *Enemies and Fear*

*'No man shall be able to stand against you; the Lord your God shall put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you'* **Deuteronomy 11:25**

God has a scary fear – *fright, horror and terror*. When we walk in the fear of the Lord, He will put it on your enemies making them run away. *'Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you'* **James 4:7-8**. Nothing can stand against you living in the fear of the Lord. The key to this is humility and humbleness; the fear of the Lord is couched in this. In our total surrender to God, drawing near, and in our submission, the power and fear of the Lord is released - making the devil run, and thwarting the ways of men that may come against you. The power of resisting the devil is not just about shouting at him and binding him, it is when we walk normally in the fear of God, close and submitted to Him - Jack found this out, as did Job. They experienced loss, but they found who they really were in God and became strong through it; the Lord lifted them up. This is the kind of person the devil flees from; it's God's promise to reverse the fear against your enemies, so that nothing can stand in your way. You can then become a land possessor, a person who brings great change at whatever level.

### *God sends fear*

*'I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you'* **Exodus 23:27**. What an incredible promise to those that fear the Lord! The Bible says that the Lord is not the author of confusion but of peace in the churches (1 Corinthians 14:33). But – he will cause confusion on your enemies making them so disoriented that they won't know whether they are coming or going. This fear and confusion from God brings fright, horror and terror to *all of your enemies*, no matter what shape and form it may come against your life. Because you walk in the fear of God, and in a light like the sunrise, it repels darkness – the enemy turns his back on light.

*'Then the fame of David went out into all the lands, and the Lord brought the fear of him upon all nations'* **1 Chronicles 14:17**. David's fame was not of his own doing, it was not something he set out to market, or merchandise, or promote himself. He had a heart after God and feared the Lord greatly. It was God who brought the dread of David's leadership to all nations – God was with him. David said, *'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?'* **Psalms 27:1**. As long as David stayed submitted to God nothing could resist him.

### *God's fear causes defeat*

*'On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them...no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell on all the people...thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword...'* **Esther 9:1,2,5**.

In the days of Queen Esther her enemies wanted to wipe out the Jews – sound’s familiar! However, right at the last minute, when the enemy thought he had won, an amazing thing happened – the opposite occurred! God’s fear fell on the enemies, the Jews were empowered, and killed those who were about to kill them. This has been a picture with God’s people down through history. Hitler thought he was going to wipe them out in the Second World War, he sadly killed over 6 million, yet the opposite occurred. Hitler ended up a defeated, miserable man; he took his own life in a Berlin bunker, and Germany lost the war. Three years later, in 1948, Israel became a nation again and fulfilled the prophetic words of God. The battles continue, but God always has something up his sleeve that will cause the opposite to occur in your life - as you fear Him.

### ***Half baked fear***

In the days of the Assyrian Empire, *‘They feared the Lord yet served their own Gods’ 2 Kings 17:33.* God’s people feared the Lord but they served their own way also, rituals they had learned from the world, worshipping idols and things - God was just another religious attachment to their week in the midst of everything else. *‘They did not obey, but they followed their former rituals’ 2 Kings 17:40.* *‘So these nations feared the Lord, yet served their carved images’ V41.* These can be anything that we create, or carve up in life, be it possessions, deities, careers, properties, and all the other adornments of the world. This did not please God. *‘...They did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them’ 2 Kings 17:25.*

When we don’t fear and love the Lord with all of our heart, mind, and soul, we can allow our enemies the ground they need to affect our lives. The devil roams like a lion seeking whom he *may devour*. He may only devour you if you let him - the fear of God leads you in a life that protects you from that. The word tell us not to *‘give place to the devil’ Ephesians 4:27.* Satan found nothing in Jesus that he could cling onto, because the Lord Jesus walked as a perfect example of fearing God.

During the time of the Assyrians the people of Israel had a fear of God that was compromised by idolatry and the world’s ways. Many believers live like this today. The devil is not scared enough to flee from people like that. God will send his fear on your enemies when we are fully submitted to Him, then nothing can stand in your way.

## Chapter 13

# No Fear

*I don't really know but I must trust  
My heart aches for truth beyond all the agendas  
Love and truth is pure*

*We can find it with a price tag that would make the richest man shudder **SB***

*'There is **no fear of God** before his eyes. For he **flatters himself** in his own eyes' Psalm 36:1-2.*

When Jack looked in the mirror he smiled at himself as he gelled his hair. His self-image was a buoy bobbing on a darkening ocean. His own reflected flattery covered the real man within him that God wanted to reveal. Jack didn't even realize who that spirit man was inside him. He already thought he had made it in life, after all he was a template, a model to follow – he had the possessions, success and acumen to prove it – so he thought. Jack was still on a roll; he had barreled through the cross of Calvary in a fanfare of up-tempo music, fancy lights, sponge seats, coffee and full color brochures, it was all so dazzling. It felt good, real good - like being at a party after a hard weeks work. It was time to eat drink and be merry. One day the merry wore off, he was no longer the life in a party - he was alone on his knee's seeking for something he didn't perceive in the mirror. He realized he had to radically change – he had no fear of God.

### **Change**

*'God will hear and afflict them, even He who abides from of old, **because they do not change, therefore they do not fear God**' Psalm 55:19.* Those that fear the Lord are hungry to change all the time. In a growing relationship with God you realize how much more there is, and how much you don't know. Your desire to change increases rapidly. You want to lean on God more and more. Pride is often the culprit that holds back change. *'God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble' 1 Peter 5:5.* He also resists areas of pride in our lives, not because he doesn't love us, but because he wants us to see our need for Him - so we will change to embrace all He has. God will afflict us: chasten, deal with, depress, humble and weaken our prideful selves. It is better to choose humility in the fear of the Lord first! *'Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you' 1 Peter 5:6-7.* In due time Jack was exalted. He walked through his ripped veil of pride into humility; it set him free to become all he was meant to be – this is the passion of our Father toward us.

*'Because you disdained all my counsel...I will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror comes...destruction comes...when distress and anguish come...because they hated knowledge and **did not choose the fear of the Lord**...but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil' Psalm 1:25-29,33.*

We must fully embrace God's word, and learn to love knowledge in the fear of the Lord. Then we will live in true safety and security in His ways. To choose the fear of the Lord we must change. Sometimes that road is a painful one, but there is always light at the end of every tunnel, especially with God.

### ***Not in you***

“Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will reprove you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have **forsaken the Lord** your God, and **the fear of Me is not in you**” says the Lord God of hosts’ **Jeremiah 2:19**. You can be a believer and not have the fear of God in you. Flirting with evil, sin and backsliding are all connected to forsaking God. God doesn’t want anybody to backslide from their faith, or get caught up in wickedness, but it unfortunately happens; the circumstance you may find yourself in maybe very ugly and it’s then you may look in the mirror and see your own reproof staring you in the face. “How did I get here?” In that conviction you find repentance and humility and a fresh desire to change – you are on the road to having the fear of the Lord in you. ‘They have **not been humbled**, to this day, **nor have they feared**; they **have not walked in My law or in My statutes** that I set before you and your fathers’ **Jeremiah 44:10**.

### ***Swift Judge***

Some people think God is not that tough in the love of the New Testament, but the word says He doesn’t change. His grace allows major time for repentance, but there comes a day when He will allow things to happen that will take you to a crossroads in life where you are tested, and you will need to exercise your will to change. ‘And I will come near you for judgement; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and the fatherless, and against those who turn away an alien – **because they do not fear me**,” says the Lord of hosts. “For I am the Lord, **I do not change**...”’ **Malachi 3:5**. He wants people to fear Him, because everything that is good in the Lord comes from that level of reverence of God. He allows judgement when there is no fear, so you can find it, and walk in the security of fearing the Lord as a son and daughter of God.

### ***End-time apostates***

In the book of Jude he prophesies of end-time apostates - those that have renounced or moved away from *true* faith. The core of their problems is that they have no fear of the Lord. ‘These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you **without fear**, serving only themselves’ **Jude 12**. They are in the church, but are self seeking, ‘Serving themselves; they are clouds without water carried about by the wind, wandering stars, ungodly, murmurers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts, flattering people to gain advantage, sensuous persons who cause divisions, not having the Spirit’ **Jude 12-19**. The Bible says the blackness of darkness is reserved for them. ‘But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because **he does not fear before God**’ **Ecclesiastes 8:13**.

To walk as a proclaimed Christian without the fear of the Lord is clearly a dangerous place to be. Humility and a humble heart is an important road to find and travel. It is the place where we can begin to move from difficulties, to experiencing the rewards of faith in the fear of the Lord.

## Chapter 14

# The Reward Gallery

*Who wants a box when you can have a dream?  
It has got to come this Oasis it has got to come SB*

*'By **humility and the fear** of the Lord are **riches and honor and life**' Proverbs 22:4.*

Jack was a wealthy man, he had the honor and esteem of men, and he lived in the fast lane, but it was all by his own strength, his own ways. The Lord melted those ways, reshaped them on the potter's wheel and re-built Jack by the Spirit of God. Jack thought the honors of the world were great, until he walked through God's reward gallery into the true ways of life.

In my book ***The Word is Your Art***, I wrote – “*The world around us is held together by His words – His picture frame. Life is created, ordered, and equipped with words. These words come from the invisible world. Life is a gallery full of priceless art. We need to learn how to paint masterpieces.*” In this chapter, we are going to slow the pace to one of straight meditation on the scriptures in the rewards of truly fearing the Lord.

We would walk through an art gallery in London, or the Louvré, taking in the texture, color, hue, and shapes within the picture frames. Stopping still, we would sit down on waxed red leather seats, aware of the gallery guard snoozing in the corner, but our eyes would be fixed on the pictures we love. The *real* big picture is that the fear of the Lord brings life – therefore we would be wise to understand it. Focus on the gallery of these words and let the truth of them sink deep into your spirit.

### **Reward - Life**

There is no way around it – without humility and the fear of the Lord we cannot experience all the wonderful things God has for us. Accumulated wealth, to be heavy with splendor and glory, and to live fresh, strong, effective lives, are some of the rewards in the gallery of God's words. If you want to live long productive years in His words, *'fear the Lord...that you days may be **prolonged**' Deuteronomy 6:2*

*'The **fear of the Lord** prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened'* Proverbs 10:27.

*'Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that **it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him**' Ecclesiastes 8:12.*

*'The fear of the Lord is a **fountain of life** to avoid the snares of death'* Proverbs 14:27.



**Reward - Honor**

*'But He honors those who fear the Lord...he who does these things shall never be moved' Psalm 15:4,5.*

**Reward - Goodness**

*'Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear you, which You have prepared for those who trust You in the presence of the sons of men!' Psalm 31:19.*

**Reward – Mercy**

*'For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him' Psalm 103:11-13.*

*'Let those who fear the Lord now say, "His mercy endures forever"' Psalm 118:4.*

The context: Those who fear God *know* that the Lord is good. They are unshakeable in this revelation. They *know* He is on their side. *'I will not fear. What can man do to me?'* **Psalm 118:6.** Mature trust and confidence as a Christian is embedded in the fear of God. *'It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man'* **Psalm 118:8.** This is the central verse in the Bible - it is the heart of God that we fear Him, having complete reliance and trust in Him.

*'And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation'* **Luke 1:50.** Mary prophesied in her song after the angel Gabriel had come to her. Her melody spoke of the future generations walking in the same mercy of God that she had been bestowed with in bringing forth Jesus from her body. She went to Elizabeth's house rejoicing. She was a woman who feared God; her reward rested in her womb. When you fear God Jesus is brought forth in your life.

*'The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy'* **Psalm 147:11.**

**Reward – God Watches Over You**

*'Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy'* **Psalm 33:18**

**Reward – Unity**

*'...And the fear of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out with one consent'* **1 Samuel 11:7b.** Real Christian unity comes from the genuine fear of the Lord not religion.

### **Reward – No Lack**

*'Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is **no want** to those who fear Him' Psalm 34:9.*

*'He will **bless** those who fear the Lord, both small and great. May the Lord give you **increase more and more**, you and your children. May you be **blessed** by the Lord, who made heaven and earth' Psalm 115:13-15.*

*'**Better is a little** with the fear of the Lord, than great treasures with trouble' Proverbs 15:16.*

### **Reward – Protection and Deliverance**

*'You have given a **banner** to those who fear you, that it may be **displayed because of truth**. Selah, that Your beloved may be delivered...' Psalm 60:4.*

*'You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield' Psalm 115:11.*

### **Reward – Heritage**

*'You have given me the **heritage** of those who fear Your name' Psalm 61:5.* King David understood his lineage of holy reverence from his ancestors. The revelation inside of him motivated a desire to sing and *'daily perform my vows' Psalm 61:8.* It motivated him to give generously. David understood the blessing of generations.

Like Mary sang, and as we also fear God, we can pass on the wonderful mercies of the Lord to our children through the heritage we lay up for them through our faith. *'But the mercy of the Lord is from **everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him**, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and those who remember His commandments to do them' Psalm 103:17-18.*

### **Reward – Food**

*'He has given **food** to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant' Psalm 111:5.* This is meat, or food that has been recently *torn off*. It is fresh, meaty, bloody, moist, full of revelation. This is not milk, but provision for those mature in Christ, mighty ones, those that are totally devoted to God because they fear Him.

### **Reward – Devotion**

*'Establish Your word to Your servant, who is **devoted to fearing you**' Psalm 119:38.*

*'You who fear the Lord **bless the Lord**' Psalm 135:20.* To kneel down and adore God with thankfulness of heart.

### ***Reward – Friendship and the Fear***

*'I am a **companion** of all those who fear You' Psalm 119:63.* When you truly fear the Lord you desire fellowship and friendship with those of like heart; you see the light from the dark, the true from the false, the lukewarm from the hot, the religious from the worldly, and the genuine from the shallow.

### ***Reward – Fulfilled Desire***

*'The Lord is near to all those who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him **in truth**. He will **fulfill the desire of those who fear Him**; He will hear their cry and save them' Psalm 145:18-19.* These are the people the Lord Jesus is seeking, *'true worshippers... in spirit and truth' John 4:23* - those that fear the Lord.

### ***Reward – Depart from Evil***

*'Do not be wise in your own eyes; **fear the Lord and depart from evil**' Proverbs 3:7.*

*'By the fear of the Lord one **departs from evil**' Proverbs 16:6b.*

*'The fear of the Lord **leads to life**, and he who has it will **abide in satisfaction**; he will **not be visited with evil**' Proverbs 19:23.*

### ***Reward – Strong Confidence***

*'In the fear of the Lord there is **strong confidence**, and his children will have a place of **refuge**' Proverbs 14:26.*

God confidence is not proud or arrogant; it is not always upbeat, unnaturally super positive, or overly self-confident and pushy because of some success maxim – the world trades in this.

God's kind of confidence is one that has a security immersed in humility and an unshakeable trust and hope in the Lord. People that walk with the melodies of praise in their hearts, voicing sounds that come from heaven. They are clothed with majesty and carry a momentum of force and influence that is supernaturally bold. It is a confidence that is a refuge, and provides security and safety.

There is a great battle for this by the powers of darkness, but they walk in the power of the Holy Spirit in the fear of the Lord, defeating the enemy. They truly know the Son of God. They have meditated on the pictures in the gallery of rewards. Sign and wonders follow their life.

## Chapter 15

# Wonders and Fear

*"Organized religion has domesticated the crucified Lord of glory,  
And turned Him into a tame theological symbol.  
Theological symbols do not sweat blood in the night." Brennan Manning*

The apostolic voice releases the genuine fear of God. When Paul the apostle spoke, *'Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had **peace** and were **edified**. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied'* Acts 9:31. Multiplication came when they walked daily in the fear of God and the very presence of the Holy Spirit was with them. In this atmosphere they were strengthened and truly built up. They multiplied because it was real, God was there and people desired to change. Paul spoke with the kind of *voice* the devil wants to kill, and religion wants to destroy. His voice was *bold* and confrontational in God. It demanded attention, change, and to be reconciled in the hearts of those who heard it. It stirred the demons of religiosity and falseness to want to shut him down. It divided light from darkness. *'And he spoke boldly in the name of Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him'* Acts 9:29. The church truly prospered because of genuine apostolic authority, and signs and wonders followed; the sick and dead were raised and many believed on the Lord.

Great organizations can be raised up, through money, aggressive marketing, creating a culture of attraction, or be entertaining, but in them you may not find signs and wonders of the God kind. The genuine fear of the Lord is not present and people are not built up to be unshakeable and strong in the Lord, *conforming to His image*. When the tests come they run, or their lives fall apart - it took Jack to crash to find this out.

### ***Fear through Signs***

*'Then **fear** came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles'* Acts 2:43. This reverence for God came because Christianity had become *absolutely real* to people who had seen much ineffective religion. Thousands came into the kingdom and they continued in the apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (V42). Church growth came through *apostolic authority*, not just through CEO style leadership. This was God style leadership that brought sweeping change, challenge, and the power of God. It brought an immense unity of spirit amongst the people that would even be phenomenal in our modern world if it happened today. *'Now all who believed were together and had **all things in common**, and **sold their possessions and goods** and **divided them among all, as anyone had need'*** Acts 2:44-45. This would certainly be a sign and wonder today!

*'Now the multitude of those who believed were of **one heart** and **one soul**; **either did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own**, but they had all things in common. And with **great power** the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.*

**Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold and laid them at the apostles feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need' Acts 4:32-35.**

In this atmosphere of incredible liberality of heart, kindness, and sharing, Ananias and Sapphira sold some land but kept back some of the money for themselves. Satan had filled their hearts to lie in front of the apostles and they died on the spot; '**Great fear came upon all those who heard these things**' Acts 5:5. There was no mention of any luvy dovey compassion because of their deaths, or lets have a break from church for a while to get over it. The fear of God galvanized all the people in the reality of following Jesus.

The Bible says that '*great fear came upon all the church... And through **the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done** among the people...and **believers were increasingly added to the Lord**, multitudes both men and women*' Acts 5:11-14. The point is, great apostolic power, authority, and grace was with men - no one lacked. There was a unity beyond anything that people had experienced in life. Great fear was in the midst. Christianity wasn't weak and limp, trying to be like the world - this was truly radical, and multitudes responded and were changed by it quickly.

### ***Fear through Miracles***

When Paul performed unusual apostolic miracles – healing sickness, and delivering demons - '*fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified*' Acts 19:17. Many believed, and the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. Paul laid hands on handkerchiefs; people were healed and delivered of demons when touched by the cloth's (V12).

Religious exorcists, like the powerless Catholic priests in the movie '*The Exorcist*,' tried to do the same and *copy* the apostolic authority of Paul. They called on the Lords name trying to cast a demon out of a man. The demon did not recognize their attempt at apostolic authority and said, '*who are you?*' Acts 19:13-16. The man beat them up, ripped off their clothes and sent them running – just like in the movie! All that film did was exalt the devil and release binding fear into the lives of people who watched it. It did not represent real truth, because if the truth was in that film at the beginning it would have been over before it started! Religious spirits will try and copy apostolic authority in either old or new paradigms of religious presentation.

The apostolic power Paul walked in brought the fear of the Lord and the magnifying of the name of Jesus; it destroyed witchcraft and brought people to confession of their sins (V18-19). '*The word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed*' Acts 19:20. People had great respect for God's word as they saw the real from the false. Christ was not mocked in the media anymore! The apostolic miracles of Paul glorified Christ and brought the fear of God. As the Lord is restoring true apostolic authority to the Church again in these end-times, it is this greatness of power, grace, and amazing love for one another - in the fear of the Lord - that will bring mighty change to the lives of multitudes.

## **No Fear**

Paul summed up the condition of the heart of men when he quoted the words of David from Psalm 36:1. He said, *'There is no fear of God before their eyes'* **Romans 3:18**. When there is no fear of the Lord there is lack of righteousness, understanding, no seeking for God, the people were unprofitable, no one did good, their words were deceitful, destruction and misery are their ways, and they did not know peace.

## **The Book of Revelation**

In the very last days the Lord will have two prophets in Jerusalem that prophecy for 3\_ years. The world will watch – probably on CNN! They will have great power to destroy their enemies with fire, and to shut the heavens, stopping the rain. They have power to turn water into blood, and strike the earth with plagues just like Moses. The devil ascends from his pit to war against them and kill them. But like the crucified Jesus he again forgot about the resurrection power of God. *'Now after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them'* **Revelation 11:11**. While they are dead, the people of the earth will party and celebrate because the prophet's voices that convicted them are shut down, but when God moves in might and power fear comes upon them. They even hear God speak to the prophets and saw them fly to heaven like Elijah in his chariot, *"Come up here" And they ascended to heaven in a cloud'* **Revelation 11:12**. This is at a time when great woe is on the earth and the Lord is concluding all things in this modern era of mankind. Yet even in the destruction, death, and chaos of these times, the Lord wants men to fear him. *'And the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven'* **Revelation 11:13**.

The end-times is when the Lord moves on the earth to make the nations His. *"The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"* **Revelation 11:13**. This is the truth echoed in heaven in music, sung by the angels and the twenty for elders before God. *'And that you should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great'* **Revelation 11:18b**.

God will reward those who fear Him and destroy those who don't – that is, people who destroy the earth (V18).

## **Angels Preach Fear**

*"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people - Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgement has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water"* **Revelation 14:7**.

The gospel, according to the voice of the angel who proclaimed to the earth, was to *fear God*, give Him glory, and worship Him. This is the very essence of the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). It seemed that believers needed a hand in proclaiming this at the end!

### ***The Song of Moses and the Lamb***

The apostle John saw another great sign in heaven that proclaimed the fear of the Lord. Even Jesus and the great patriarch Moses had got together in heaven and wrote a prophetic song of proclamation for the victorious saints to sing. On my album *'The Gathering'* recorded in 1997, I borrowed these lyrics and set them to music. In the midst of the lyric of their song they asked the world the question:

***"Who shall not fear you O Lord and glorify Your name?" Revelation 15:4a.***

That question is asked right in the midst of the nations coming to worship God and the time when the judgments of God are manifested on the earth. Those concluding end days written of in scripture are coming upon us. We can have the fear of God now by revelation and understanding of God's word, rather than as a reaction to calamity. Will those who know God party like the world when the prophets die? Or will we walk in the fear of God right now with our eyes wide open?

*"It's the blink of an eye, isn't it? What's the difference? Twenty, forty, sixty, eighty, a hundred? In comparison to eternity, it's only a split second. We live in a world that is obsessed about our temporal selves. We focus too much on that, and it makes us very unhappy, because the body is getting weaker, and it's difficult. But actually the journey of the spirit is very important. We should think a little more about that"* **Bono U2**

## *Chapter 16*

# **Behavior and Fear**

*“Be holy for I am holy.” And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each ones work, **conduct yourselves through the time of your sojourning here in fear**’ 1 Peter 1:16-17.*

The New Testament is very clear in how we are to conduct ourselves in our time on the earth. It is a challenging road to travel, far more than just yielding to the liberal ways of the world. It is a road less traveled by many. It is the highway of holy living that can only be fully understood and keenly embraced in the fear of the Lord. It is not restrictive, but a new way of living that ultimately sets you free.

I coined a term many years ago - perhaps not new, but true nonetheless: *Discipline = Freedom*. I challenge myself constantly with this statement. I find the more we know, the less we know - as every day, we become so aware of how much we fall short of God’s best. I have heard it said from pulpits that God doesn’t judge, yet, the Bible says He does, without partiality. However, it is with much love, grace, and mercy, so believers can walk in the fear of God and fulfill all that He desire’s for us as a Father would. He has rewards for us to live in, but our behavior, conduct, and the revelation of the fear of God has a bearing on whether we live those out. *‘Therefore having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God**’ 2 Corinthians 7:1. ‘Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all that the rest also may fear’ 1 Timothy 5:20.*

### ***Submission***

Some people hate this word, but it is part of our Christian behavior exhorted by the word of God. *‘Submitting to one another **in the fear of God**’ Ephesians 5:21.* The reason why people dislike this word is because it can only be properly understood when true submission is *lived out in the fear of God*. Many people balk at any form of submission, perhaps they have submitted blindly to religions, cults, abusive people, bad governments, bad spouses, or bad employers and they have suffered immeasurably. The reaction is understandable in many cases, but true submission is not a weak thing whereby you allow yourself to lose all intelligence or control of life. It is a pleasurable thing, from a yielded heart that should be rooted in faith, revelation, relationship, and an unshakeable security in God. This submission comes when we walk wisely, filled with spirit, and are worshippers of God.

In the apostle Peter’s exhortation to husbands and wives, he shows us the miracle of how pure conduct can win people. *‘Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be **won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear**’ 1 Peter 3:1-2.* Again this is not just doing all the right things by some seven-step plan. It is accompanied by that essential of godly ingredients from the heart – the fear of the Lord. It produces a winning behavior that carries the presence and glory of God; when observed and collided with, it is undeniably attractive, it breaks open the hardest of hearts to come and know the Lord.



## **Precious**

*'But let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is **very precious** in the sight of God' 1 Peter 3:4.* The character that bears this kind of incorruptible conduct is one that fears the Lord. This winning behavior is formed in the hidden place of the heart before God. The King James Version of the Bible states that this kind of spirit *'is in the sight of God **of great price**'*. The value of a heart that fears the Lord and walks in holy conduct is priceless to the Lord. He deems it precious like the most beautiful of jewels. It comes from the internal fortitude fashioned by faith, and has nothing to do with image, clothes, or position, in fact - *'Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but **a woman who fears the Lord, shall be praised**' Proverbs 31:20.* *'Do not let you beauty be that outward adorning of arranging the hair, of wearing of gold, or of putting on fine apparel' 1 Peter 3:3.*

In our contemporary Christian culture, we have become obsessed with how we look to the world, that we must be adorned with all the outward things of success to prove that God is real – then people will come to God. Success on the other hand is imperative to moving forward well with abundant resources to fulfill dreams, yet, guys like Jack were enamoured by the charm of it all, and he still had to come to his knees to find the real.

There is nothing inherently wrong in looking good and wearing fine clothes - everybody likes that in various degrees. Religions of old have also oppressed people through extreme rules of dress code. But outward things are just that, they perish in time, you get sick them in time. It is the inward parts that God bestows preciousness to. It is in that place that the price is paid for a quality of life and character that is priceless - the hidden person of the heart that fears the Lord.

People who don't understand this make their judgments on what they see - this can blind them. What the world needs now, are those who are submitted in their life in the true fear the Lord – this is precious. *'Therefore **submit yourselves to every ordinance** of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors...honor all people. Love the brotherhood. **Fear God. Honor the king**' 1 Peter 2:13,17.*

## **Fear and Trembling**

*'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**' Philippians 2:12.*

Our responsibility before God is to walk out our Christian lives in fear and trembling, in obedience to God. This is not a popular phrase in our modern easy-going culture, because on the surface it seems such a downer. In fact it isn't, because when we set our hearts to walk in obedience to all the Lord's ways it becomes a great joy. This often happens when we have experienced the consequences of not walking in the fear of God, as Jack experienced. Paul was saying to his flock, *'your leader is not with you, but you have to be mature now as I am away and you need to grow up and work it out for yourselves'.*

Paul didn't want them to be enamoured, or just relying on him, but that their reverence was with the Lord. He further said '*For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*' **Philippians 2:13**.

The bottom line, of working out our salvation with fear and trembling, is that it allows God to do *a great work in you*. This results in good pleasure for him and for you. Your life, conduct, and behavior are then wonderfully effective for God in this world. It is a powerful thing to fear God in the strong boundaries of a holy life - not weak. This is also a constant challenge for all to walk in.

### ***Enter the Rest***

When we live a life of good conduct in the fear of the Lord by faith, we then can walk in the fullness of the rewards and promises of God. Part of that is to cease from the striving of our own ways, in our own flesh. Jack found this, like many believers on their journey. It is there that the apostolic governmental authority of God's power is discovered and released in people's lives. It becomes a joy because things are done in the rest of God where He alone gets the glory. '*Therefore, since a promise remains of **entering His rest, let us fear** lest any of you seem to have come short of it*' **Hebrews 4:1**.

The desire of God's heart is that we do not fall short of all He has for us in these days. There is a way to walk in godly behavior and conduct, and we must walk in it to complete our destiny.

## **Chapter 17**

# **Giving and Fear**

*‘Then those **who feared the Lord** spoke to one another, and **the Lord listened and heard them**; so a **book of remembrance was written** before Him for **those who fear the Lord** and who meditate on His name. They shall be Mine says the Lord of hosts, on the day that I make them my jewels, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him. Then you shall discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him’ **Malachi 3:16-18**.*

The startling fact is that the Lord listens to those who fear Him even when they talk among themselves. In fact, it moves Him so much, and He values what is said so highly, that He writes it all down in a book. There is a connection between the fear of the Lord and belonging totally to God. Those who fear the Lord are like special treasure; God is the jeweler fashioning his diamonds. Fearing the Lord guarantees that you are being polished in every facet of your life, to be set and displayed for all to one day see.

The context of this verse is in relation to giving of tithes and offerings. People who fear the Lord are uncomplaining unrelenting givers; they have a heart to serve the Lord and lead a life of righteousness. Generally, the spirit of giving people shines like jewels, they have a sense of wealth, purpose, and great value in all they are and do. When Malachi was prophesying about how much the Lord wants to bless those who give and tithe, the people complained harshly, and said things like “*what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance*” **Malachi 3:14**. They had given with the wrong selfish attitude and nothing happened. Those who truly feared the Lord didn’t complain but kept their eyes on the God, and were obedient. The Lord heard the complainers but *listened* to those who feared Him – the complainers had nothing of value to say, and even their offering didn’t mean anything to God; they were the robbers, the ones without the fear of God.

The conclusion of this famous chapter on tithing and offerings is to show the root of the real power behind your giving – the fear of the Lord. The promise in these end days is “*to you who **fear My name**, The Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and **grow fat** like stall-fed calves*” **Malachi 4:2**. Like Jack you will not have to go at it in your own strength, but the Lord will heal your life and give you all the real food you need to prosper.

God is teaching us through Malachi that people rob God and themselves from prospering because they don’t fear the Lord. There are many Christians who give into church life and into projects for years, but they still struggle financially, have broken marriages, or have gone broke. They perhaps gave because they are told they *have to* or because of a formula mentality – *give so much and receive so much*. The real issue with God is the heart, like the women who gave 2 mites (less than a couple of cents) in Jesus time. “*Then He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and he saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow **has put in more than all**, for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty has **put in all the livelihood** that she had”*” **Luke 21:1-4**. The women caught Jesus attention because of her heart – she feared the Lord.

It is very important to nurture a giving heart in Christian life; tithing and offerings are all part of the mix of Christianity and Church involvement. Yet there is another reason for giving – to learn the fear of the Lord.

### ***Tithing Teaches Fear***

“*You gotta give man!*” shouted the preacher. There have been many voices on finances and most are good. We have all heard the many reasons to give: your success, prosperity, not robbing God, honoring God, blessing the House, to get blessed, to worship, 100 fold return, Abraham’s blessing, yet, rarely will you hear that *truly tithing* is also for you to learn the fear of God.

*‘You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstlings of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always’ Deuteronomy 14:22-23.*

Being a person with a giving spirit teaches you the fear of God. One of the greatest ways of doing that is being liberal with your money and your resources because you do it knowing God is your ultimate source - not you. There are periods in our ministry, when we have given away tens of thousands of dollars of ACM resources to just bless the House of God - to seed into lives wherever we can. It was a challenge to deeply trust God for everything. It came out of a revelation in a season, where to give was more important than to sell (not that selling is wrong). The Lord has *always* honored our giving, not always with cash, but opportunity, clearing debts, releasing vision and in many other ways, but above all that, we would walk trusting in God alone as our source.

There is a war by the devil against the believer having abundant resource to touch the world. However, if we nurture a giving spirit in the fear of the Lord, we will be well fed and provided for. That road will not always be an easy one; it is a road with valleys like Jack discovered. Even though he was prospering in his own strength, the fear of the Lord was not wrapped around his resources - when it was, Jack’s heart was changed. Whether it was 2 cents or 2 million dollars, the weight of it eventually became the same to Jack, because now the Lord was the author of it all.

### ***Vows and Presents***

The Bible is clear, *God ought to be feared*. In this position of our hearts we make pledges, vows, promises, commitments, and payments to God’s work as He direct us. But there is also an atmosphere of fearing God in the heart of that giving. A vow is not made in your pocket, wallet, or even your mouth - it begins in your heart. *‘Make vows to the Lord your God, and pay them; let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared’ Psalm 76:11. ‘I will pay my vows before those who fear Him’ Psalm 22:25.* We are bringing presents to Him because we love Him – it is our joy to do so.

The revelation of this kind of giving comes from the *Spirit of the fear of the Lord*. It releases power for tangible change, but it comes at a price.

### ***Fearing God with Generosity***

*‘There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian regiment, a devout man, and **one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always**’ Acts 10:1.*

About 10 years after the day of Pentecost there was an Italian soldier who captured the attention of God with his pure heart of generosity. So much so, while he fasted and prayed (Acts 10:30), God sent an angel to him with a message. *“Your prayers and your alms have come up for a **memorial before God**” Acts 10:4.* This man was a living record of how it should be with everyone. He was a memorandum to God, a living record of truth as a non-Jewish believer. Cornelius’s effectiveness as a leader, with great character, was rooted in his devout heart and fear of God. When he prayed heaven listened, many of his words will be in the Book of Remembrance – he was always talking to God. In that atmosphere of heart he loved people immensely; he demonstrated this with great generosity. God was obviously moved so much that He sent an angel to Cornelius.

The fruit of his life led him to be a part of turning around the Jewish religiousness of the great apostle Peter and seeing the Holy Spirit poured out on his fellow Gentiles. Peter declared to the Gentile Cornelius and others, that *“God shows no partiality. **But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him**” Acts 10:34-35.* The fear of the Lord and the works of generosity can bring great change to nations.

### ***Justice to the Poor***

In 2005 we are seeing in the media more and more a shift toward releasing the poverty and crippling world debt in the nations - God is in this. Many who are becoming significant voices in these initiatives are famous musicians working together with governments. Bob Geldof of *Live Aid* and Bono of U2 (see { HYPERLINK <http://www.data.org> }) are a major part of this and have seen billions of debt cancelled through their governmental activity. On final edit of this text, we have just seen history witnessed with the global *Live 8* concert, calling for the G8 world leaders summit to focus on the eradication of poverty and third world debt. Bono is a very strong Christian whose artistic gift is without doubt prophetic as he matures – the band’s influence on the sounds of much of modern Church worship in western culture is unsurpassed. (I highly recommend his book *Bono – conversations with Michka Assayas*. This book clearly portrays Bono as a passionate man for the Lord whom God is clearly using to bring justice to the poor, and in doing so, like many others, fulfilling the words of God.

*‘He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations’ Psalm 72:4-5.*

It is very clear that the poor will be heard and helped in the nations in all generations – including at global levels in this generation right now.

God's heart for the oppression of poverty being totally broken is to see all the nations rise up, fear the Lord, and walk in His blessings. We will see great moves of Gods Spirit in nations like Africa and other countries oppressed by poverty. In these nations are people who have known awful hardship, horrible war, death, abuse, disease, and totally under privileged living. But many survive with great dignity, faith, and a resilience, that leaves many in the comfort of the West, very pale in comparison. In that hard road are many valuable life lessons learnt. Through the love of those who fight for them on all fronts, many will come to the Lord, and the fear of the Lord will be great on those people in the nations. They will experience the glory of God and His blessing – it's decreed by the prophets of old.

*'So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer' Psalm 102:15-17.*

The Lord will build the Church mightily in the nations that fear Him. The leaders and governments of nations will fear God and His glory. They will see God at work through those that truly fear Him with generous and giving hearts. God Himself will appear in glory in those nations. These are the apostolic, or governmental days we live in. The evidence of this end-time fulfillment is all around us, on TV, and in all our media. The promise from the Great Giver in heaven is ***the nations shall fear the name of the Lord!***

## *Chapter 18*

# *Prophets and Fear*

*'Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the Lord' Haggai 1:12.*

True prophets bring the fear of God and His tangible presence through their ministry. It is undeniable, you know when you are sitting at the feet of ones who have been with Jesus in their daily lives and who fear the Lord. Those times are memorable, and can stir you to such a degree, that you just want to be in God's presence all the time. There is an atmosphere that is different, it deeply touches, and taps into your hunger for God. It releases you with clear revelation - *life* that often doesn't come with contemporary Christian hype and superficiality. These men and women fear God, you can hear it in their voice; their words carry weight. You can see it in the way they present themselves. They have power and presence that is absolutely godly. They are clothed with majesty, boldness, courage, conviction, humility and love. They are very different.

### *Prophets Desire To Fear*

**Nehemiah:** *'O Lord I pray, please let you ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day...'* **Nehemiah 1:11.** Nehemiah was a prophet and leader who feared God, but he also echoes the heart of any true believer - a continual desire to learn more of the fear of the Lord. Prayer, meditation and intercession, are hallmarks of a true prophet, along with humility and a desire to serve. Prophets who fear God have much grace and mercy and are not arrogant. They are not frightened of hard work and paying whatever price it is to do the will of God and fulfill His purposes. *'...Because of the fear of the Lord. Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there for the work'* **Nehemiah 5:15-16.**

Nehemiah was appointed to be governor over Judah. He chose not to be a leader that laid burdens on his people like the former governors; they had taken the people's bread, wine and silver, ruling them heavily. He was angry at debt and dealt with oppression and justice for those in the bondage of debt and poverty – sounds like Bob, Bono, and *Live 8!* He called for debt cancellation and excessive interest – something God hates. *"Let us stop this usury"* **Nehemiah 5:10.** He said to the lenders, *"What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God..."* **Nehemiah 5:9.**

Again we see the difference between the actions of those who fear God and those who don't. Nehemiah was addressing God's people – not all of them feared the Lord. The weight and heart of Nehemiah's calling as a prophet was that he feared the Lord.

### *Prophets Bring Help*

*'Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord'* **2 Kings 4:1.**

**Elisha:** A certain woman, who had been married to a prophet, had become a widow. As she spoke to Elisha we see that her husband who had died, had feared the Lord. She also made this specific point to Elisha, as she was in debt, at her end, and needed help. Her need was great, and Elisha asked what he could do for her. The prophet had the strategy for her to get out of debt and prosper – a miracle. When you fear God, help will come to you, even by the most extraordinary means.

**Obadiah:** Elijah the prophet was on the road, on his way to confront Jezebel, and break the back of her demonic stronghold over Israel. He met prophet Obadiah who was in great fear of Jezebel, but he had feared the Lord enough to help save the lives of 100 prophets by hiding them in a cave while she massacred many more of God's prophets. *'But I your servant have feared the Lord from my Youth'* **1 Kings 18:12**. The strength of Obadiah's resolve was that he had feared God all his life. Oh how much we need to teach our children the power of the fear of God in their lives! Our young generation must learn this to survive and be strong in the future days on earth. *'Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly'* **1 Kings 18:3**. The great fear of the Lord saves lives.

### ***Prophets are an Example***

**Daniel:** *'I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one that shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end'* **Daniel 6:26**. Daniel's faith and example was so great that he changed the mind of the government and brought them to faith. King Darius had tried to kill Daniel by throwing him in the Lion's den, but God was clearly with Daniel, saving him from death. That example moved the worldly king, and influenced the amazing decree that all in his kingdom must fear the Lord. This was a breakthrough for Daniel and he prospered mightily in the reign of that king (Daniel 6:28). Daniel was an unshakeable rock because he feared God. That devoted reverence put his life on the line, and procured a miracle, ultimately bringing him through to a place of prosperity where he influenced a nation.

### ***Prophets have Unusual Adventures***

**Jonah:** *'I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land'* **Jonah 1:9**. Even though Jonah feared the Lord, he still tried to run away from the will of God. The price was too high for him to go to the wicked city of Nineveh and preach to them. He ended up on a boat in the Mediterranean with God chasing him with a fierce storm. The sailors threw him overboard. *'So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows'* **Jonah 1:15-16**.

They saw a miracle – the sea stopped raging as Jonah was dumped in it. God wanted these men to fear him and they did. *'The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah'* **Jonah 1:17**. Jonah did not know that the Lord was also preparing him to be a prophetic sign for generations, of the death and resurrection of Jesus.



Jonah went through his ‘own death to self’ in the belly of that whale. When you fear the Lord your resilience and faith will be tested in that fear, but God will make a way. *‘So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land’* **Jonah 2:10**. God it seems has many humorous and unusual modes of transport! He then basically said to Jonah, *“ Now do as you are told and go and do what I ask – preach to Nineveh!”* It is a fearful place to live, having your life in the hands of the living God. When you do, you will sometimes find the reality of what it means to truly belong to God, and have some very unusual adventures on the way that you didn’t anticipate. The prophets often do! Why did God do this to Jonah? The Lord loved him because Jonah feared Him, and God wanted him to fulfill his destiny.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He was on a beach preparing other fish for breakfast for his disciples. They had been out in a boat all night doing their own thing and catching nothing (John 21). Jesus said to Peter, *“Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”* He said to Him, *“Yes Lord; You know that I love you.”* He said to Him, **“Feed my lambs”** **John 21:15**. Jesus said this three times to Peter to confirm his will for him, *“feed my lambs...tend my sheep...feed my sheep”*. This was God’s heart for Jonah also – go and do my will and feed those I love. Jesus said some simple words to Peter, *“Follow Me”* **John 21:15**. *“Hey Peter, I know that you know you love me and fear me, but don’t try and work it out, just trust me, and go where I go, and do what I say.”* This was God’s heart for Peter the son of Jonah as well as the prophet Jonah of old. Both these men feared the Lord and were tested. Like Peter, about the only thing Jonah was going to catch on his boat was a cold. In their testing their adventures became stories of legend, and through them they learned to fear the Lord in a greater measure.

### ***Prophets Bring the Fear of the Lord***

*‘So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel’* **1 Samuel 12:18**. Miracles and great deeds often follow the prophet, bringing the fear of the Lord to people, and all the blessings that it brings. This is why Satan does not want to see the prophets restored to the Church in this apostolic era, because of the great powerful change true prophets bring. The devil hates the fear of the Lord - he has no recourse against that quality of character. Samuel feared the Lord greatly, and the Lord listened mightily to his praying – prayer that moved heaven to send rain. This was not a chanting rain dance, but a God moved by a prophet who feared Him.

### ***Prophets fear***

In scripture, we read that many prophets who feared the Lord, had their own human fears and insecurities to overcome - like every believer. Prophets are tested, often to the point where they don’t want the call because the price is too high; yet God always makes a way. He provides a fish or two to feed us, or transports us forward in unusual ways (sometimes, that we cannot understand), into dimensions of ministry and life we had not perhaps realized could be possible.

**Job:** Job was a great wealthy man who feared God, yet, he had fears like all of us. Satan came to the Lord after going to and fro on the earth and the Lord said, *“Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”* **Job 1:8.**

*“Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land’* **Job 1:9-10.**

Satan was out to attack the very heart of Job’s character – his fear of the Lord that gave him the strength to shun evil – even Satan himself. Job’s fear of God had brought a great hedge of protection around his life, yet, God allowed Satan to test Job. He lost everything, all his security and those he loved, but his fear for the Lord kept him strong in the testing, and at the end of it, Job was better off than in the beginning.

His closest friends even questioned him about his fear of God: *“Is not your reverence (fear) your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope”* **Job 4:6.** They accused him of folly: *“Yes, you cast off fear, and restrain prayer before God”* **Job 15:4.** Even his wife had a go at him, *“Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die!”* **Job 2:9.** Great lady!

Another friend said, *‘Dominion and fear belong to Him’* **Job 25:2.** Job knew this, but in his testing he was reduced to nothing. He went through the valley of humility, and disgrace, and in it God revealed to Job more of who He truly was. Even though God loved His servant Job, the Lord allowed huge loss in his life, so Job could truly be great in the fear of the Lord.

At the end of Job’s trial he was not bitter but had a repentant heart (Job 42:6). *‘And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as he had before’* **Job 42:10.** Those that berated and excluded him, he prayed for, and was restored - this is love, and the fear of the Lord in action.

The prophet’s journey is not easy or predictable, and many things may happen. At the end of the day what makes prophets strong and effective, is at the center of their character is the fear of the Lord. Reverence that divides the true from the false, the wicked from the righteous, and in the end, gives, and brings glory to God.

## **Chapter 19**

# **Music and Fear**

*“It’s rare that the gift comes with grace. You get the gift – you don’t get the grace.  
Some of the biggest assholes I’ve ever met are the most gifted.  
Those who have both the grace and the gift leave an indelible impression” Bono U2*

*‘But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; **in fear of You I will worship** toward Your holy temple’ Psalm 5:7.* King David left an extraordinary impression for the future Church. He walked in incredible giftedness, yet, with the humility of grace. David also managed to make a complete ass of him-self at times! (See my book - ***The Power of Apostolic Music*** – chapter 18 ‘David the imperfect leader’).

David gave us a clue in how to live in a lifestyle of worship, and what heart we are to hold, to come into God’s presence with glory releasing song and sound. He said, *‘In the fear of you I will worship’*. David understood God’s mercy and forgiveness; he knew how much he needed it - David was a man who killed a husband and took his wife.

In David’s Song of Ascents he sang, *‘But there is **forgiveness** with You, **that You may be feared**’ Psalm 130:4.* In God’s forgiveness toward our weakness, and all our failures, He has an in-built design - that we learn the fear of the Lord.

David was a man of humility, who asked to be led in the ways of righteousness and straight living (Psalm 5:8). This great model and template for worship, understood that real worship was walking in the fear of the Lord. In his worship to God in the House of the Lord, David shows us it *must be in reverential fear*, along with the revelation of the abundant mercy and grace that the Lord has toward us. You pay a price to worship God this way; it is this worshipping heart that brings the glory of God.

### ***Worship in Fear and Holiness***

Jack Harrow had been born again into a contemporary church culture where the fear of the Lord that David spoke of was little understood. Image, performance, and never enough time, steamrolled the conditions of many hearts. Jack could sing along, clap and shout, but the spiritual power cable between his mouth and his heart was unconnected. In the short one-hour service each Sunday, holiness was just a word that he heard drift by his ears now and then. Jack was immensely gifted, but in many ways he had become hard on his road to success. Being an ass was easy, and he had never really cared if he was. It was the goal, the vision, and the win that was more important, that is, until the day he came to his knees, having had his life stripped away like leaves from an autumn Oak tree.

King David had cried out a prophecy to all the earth to *‘sing a new song’ Psalm 96:1*, here is part of the heart of that proclamation - *‘Oh worship the Lord in the **beauty of holiness! Fear before Him all the earth**’ Psalm 96:9.* That decree echoes today for the whole earth to fear God. True worship that moves the heavens is enmeshed with the fear of the Lord, and a holiness that only Jesus Christ can give us.

U2 sang a song called *40*. The lyrics echoing from Psalm 40, “*He has put a new song in my mouth – praise to our God: many will see it and **fear**, and will trust in the Lord*” **Psalm 40:3**. We live in an era of the most incredible outpouring of new song we have ever seen on the planet. The musical style and sound of U2 has been one of the greatest influences on the explosion of contemporary worship music in the nineties than any other band. They had a new sound and song that stormed the world and has influenced the praises of a new Christian generation. The long-term result of new song is that many will fear the Lord and come to Him - it’s God’s desire that the whole earth fears Him. The sounds released by people with holy fearing hearts, who are in love with God, has the power to rend the heavens and release God’s glory to earth.

### ***Praise in Fear***

‘*You who fear the Lord, **praise Him!** All you descendants of Jacob, **glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel***’ **Psalm 22:23**. We are those descendants and offspring who are bringing the great bright *halal* celebrations of song and sound to the earth in the modern era. But we can party, and play all the right things, yet, still have no real spiritual power in what we do as singers and musicians - the difference is the fear of the Lord. David did not say, “*You who look good on stage praise Him*”, or “*You who have success and a high profile praise Him*”. David was prophesying to those who would fear God and rise up and bring the new songs of power. These are the ones that make the devil and his cohorts of darkness tremble, for these are the ones who walk in the governmental power of the Holy Spirit. “*Authenticity is about an honest discourse between heart, mind, body, and soul. It’s nothing to do with the clothes you wear*” **Bono U2** – and he should know. ‘*He has put a new song in my mouth – praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord*’ **Psalm 40:3**.

### ***Greatly to be Praised***

‘*The Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods*’ **1 Chronicles 16:25**. When the ark of God’s presence came back to Jerusalem David sang a long song of thanks to the Lord. Prophetic song follows the establishment of God’s presence. Since 1980 we have seen an amazing acceleration of change on the earth. In that time great prophetic and apostolic restoration has been taking place in the Church. All around the world God is being praised greatly more than ever, because he is great above all gods, including the smiling fat Buddha, Allah who allows suicide bombers, all the weird looking Hindu demon gods, and any one else you can care to mention. It is God’s presence and glory that will change nations. If you are a worshipper of the Lord, the key in David’s lyric is that God is also to be feared. ‘*For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods*’ **Psalm 96:4**.

### ***Fear for Battle Strategy***

‘*And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah*’ **2 Chronicles 20:3**. There is a great spiritual war for the nations in our time. A healthy fear came upon this king of old, pushing him deep into God.

In that place Jehoshaphat found the strategy for battle that would defeat his enemies – a war that seemed against all odds. That strategy included something odd - sending forth singers and musicians with a prophetic new song before the army of Israel. The result of that strategy - *'the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel'* **2 Chronicles 20:29**.

In these end days there will be great music that will carry the governmental power of God to change nations. Those distinct melodies and sounds will be released through people that fear the Lord their God. At the very end of time, when the music and art of the world is quieted (Revelation 18:22), a voice will come from the throne of heaven saying, *"Praise our God all you servants and those who fear Him, both great and small"* **Revelation 19:5**. Even heaven is expecting praise to ascend from fearing hearts; praise with the power of God's glory that will exalt heaven over the Babylon of the world.

## **Chapter 20**

# **Nations and Fear**

*A nation is a drop in His bucket  
What is man that He thinks about us all the time?  
Especially when we fade shrink and lose what is precious.  
Bali blows another ground zero with New York  
Bombed Spaniards and Londoners mourn the dead on trains  
There are more rumors of war and earthquakes  
Flesh lines the blackened upholstery in cars in the Middle East  
We all dream of nice comfortable houses, Pajeros and plasma screens  
In a Zion of Gum tree's, sand, and rolling surf by shopping centers  
Woe - SB*

*'Arise, O Lord, Do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah' Psalm 9:19-20.* God's righteous judgements will come upon the nations; King David thanked the Lord for that, because the fear of the Lord will definitely come upon men, and will kill the pride that keeps those nations from coming to the Lord.

### ***Let us now fear the Lord***

*“Do you not fear me?” says the Lord. “Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, yet cannot prevail; though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; they have revolted and departed. They do not say in their heart, “Let us now fear the Lord our God...”” Jeremiah 5:22-24.* On Boxing Day 2004, the Asian Tsunami roared, and tossed to and fro over God given national boundaries. Many of the nations that were affected, worship gods other than the Lord Jesus Christ; as devastating as the floods were, God is saying to the world again, *“Do you not fear me?”* Thousands of years ago, the prophet Jeremiah declared our right response into the spirit. *“Let us now fear the Lord our God...”* In this time, part of the great apostolic reformation in the Body of Christ, is the restoration of the true fear of God. In that restoration the nations will be turned around for salvation in Jesus Christ.

### ***God - Refuge of Nations***

Mid-2005, earthquakes continue with amazing regularity. Jesus said, *‘For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows’* **Matthew 24:7.** The new millennium has seen 9/11 in New York, and the sorrows of the nations increasing and increasing: war in Iraq, poverty, famines, wars, and aids in Africa, global drought, terror bombings in Israel, Spain, and now London, to name but a few. This is not negative doomsday hype but a fact. What Jesus prophesied is happening now, 24/7, just as he said it would in these end-times.

Even so the Lord provides a way of help - the whole world has responded to the Asian Tsunami disaster with unprecedented giving: through governments, many generous people, Christian relief organizations and churches. *'God is **our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.** Therefore we **will not fear**, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God'* **Psalm 46:1-4**. All these things may be happening on earth but there is a river flowing in the spirit world for the nations – it is the river of God: His Spirit, His glory, to be poured out on the earth. Many nations and peoples are in an unhealthy state of fear, a satanic fear, a fear of the future, fear of survival, fear of aids, fear of war, fear, fear, fear at every turn. Where will it go, and where will it all end. Again in the words of the prophet Jeremiah **“Let us now fear the Lord our God...”** The fear of Him is the beginning of true wisdom – it is this juncture that the nations are poised – it is time to fear the Lord.

### ***God – Shaking the Nations***

The sun is out, so warm on my skin, and the birds are twittering - the surf is rolling in with such beauty, as a wistful west wind brushes the surface smooth as silk – the children of the land dance on its waves. Our children play on the swing in the front garden laughing with happy abandon. They love school, their friends, relationships, and a future that is educated bright and full of hope. We don't want to think about negative things and woe. We want to protect, cover, and keep innocence from being tainted. But the truth is the truth. We have given our lives to a real God who owns the planet and who owns us - as the Potter's pots we cannot undo what He has ordained. It is His earth. He is shaking it, and undoing it as He said He would. So the eyes of men will be set on Him alone. Those who do, those who fear, those who trust, will walk in the rewards of heaven.

*'In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made for himself to worship, to the moles and the bats, to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the crags of the rugged rocks, from **the terror of the Lord** and the glory of His majesty, when He **arises to shake the earth mightily'** **Isaiah 2:20-21**.* What is that day Isaiah speaks of? It is the day of the Lord, the time of the future Church in the nations, where all that has been relied upon will become worthless. A time when the glory of God will be so great on earth that whole nations will turn to the Lord. God is arising now, the Church is arising now - it is time to fear the Lord.

### ***God – Blessing the Nations***

*'God shall bless us, and **all the ends of the earth shall fear Him'** **Psalms 67:7**.* God's heart and desire is to bless the nations. David prophesied this inevitability for these days. The word bless is to kneel, worship in adoration, and to give thanks to Him. Blessing a nation is when the people within that nation are brought to their knees in prayerful, reverential fear and love – like Jack - where they have become totally yielded and dependant on Him. In that place will emerge a mighty spiritual momentum that will bring the fear of the Lord to all the earth. Tangible blessing will be released in that journey.

We will see the reality of Isaiah 60 unfold, where God's glory will be on the Church, governments will turn to God, and great wealth will be released for the work of the Lord. *'So **the nations shall fear the name of the Lord**, and all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer'* **Psalm 102:15-17.**

### **God – The Standard Raised**

*'So shall they **fear** the name of the Lord from the west, and **His glory** from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him'* **Isaiah 59:19.**

The bar is being raised in every area of Christian life in these apostolic times. The road is narrowing for a finer walk, a finer spirit, a finer consecration, a finer love, and a refined mind - stepping into line with all that God has, and all He is doing in these end-times. The devil is on the rampage to resist the fine and glorious Church arising on the earth (Revelation 12:17). However, God is raising the standard to flood the earth with His glory. That standard is meshed with the fear of the Lord - they cannot be separated, or be independent of one another. Reverential fear comes before the standard of God.

*'Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy (**fear** – KJV); because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you'* **Isaiah 60:5.** There are great shifts happening in the spirit world right now. We are on the brink of amazing things happening on the earth at this time. God is preparing to bring massive salvation to the earth, and a glorious Church to arise with the ability to embrace multitudes. The fear of the Lord is a prevalent quality of Christians in the end-time Church. It will separate the false from the true, and the dark from the light.

### **God – Loves Israel**

The Lord has loved Israel and always will; she will always be there, and shall never be removed no matter who fights against her. *'Then I will give them **one heart and one way**, that they may **fear me forever**, for the good of them and their children after them'* **Jeremiah 32:39.**

*'Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise and an **honor before all nations of the earth**, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; **they shall fear and tremble** for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it'* **Jeremiah 33:9.**

There is coming a day when the Lord will use the little nation of Israel to bring the fear of the Lord to the nations. All the cameras of the world media are on Israel 24/7. The goodness of God in all its fullness is still yet to come to Israel. When God brings forth the honor of His covenant with them, the nations cannot deny there is a one true God – in this revelation they will fear and tremble. *'Afterwards the children of Israel shall return, seek the Lord their God and David their king, and **fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days**'* **Hosea 3:5.** These are those days.



*'Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the **people feared the Lord and believed the Lord and His servant Moses**' Exodus 14:31.*

### ***The Conclusion of the Matter***

*'Then Peter opened his mouth and said, "In truth I perceive that God **shows no partiality**. But **in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him**' Acts 10:34-35. Peter, the great disciple of Christ, was given a revelation from God that all men were God's desire, not just the Jewish people. God opened his eyes, and he saw an impartial God of great and immense love. Peter saw clearly for the first time, that anyone, or any nation that fears the Lord and works righteousness, will be accepted. Jesus Christ is that doorway to the fear of the Lord. He is the doorway to salvation. He is *The Doorway* for you to find your own conclusions to life - in the wisdom that comes from reverential fear. *'Surely His salvation is near to those **who fear Him**, that glory may dwell in our land'* Psalm 85:9.*

King Solomon

*'Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:*

***Fear God and keep His commandments.***

***For this is the whole duty of man.***

This is the summation of godly wisdom for all humanity in these last days. Jack came to the same place upon his knees. Finding the true blessing of God, his old dreams melted away, and he arose to go and change the world with a love and a ministry he had never dreamed of.

There is none like our God; at the end of the day Jeremiah the prophet concluded the same thing. It is Gods **rightful due to be feared**, revered, loved, adored, and worshipped by you and I – the creation of His hands. Let this be the conclusion of all the matters of your own life. Find God's true blessing as you kneel like Jack W. Harrow, and watch the Lord radically turn your life around. We live in great days. Who would not want to fear the Lord?

*'Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord (You are great and Your name is great in might), **who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due**, for among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms there is none like You'* Jeremiah 10:6-7.

***The End?***

***No, it's just the beginning...***

## *About the Author*

Originally from England, Stephen has been in active Christian ministry for 25 years. Stephen's gifting spans various creative fields as a prophet singer, songwriter, musician, worship leader, recording artist, author, poet, and as a creator, presenter, producer of Christian television, film, and documentary programs. Awesome City Music Ministries was founded in the early nineties with his Australian wife Rebecca. They have traveled widely in various nations ministering into churches and conferences. Stephen has a strong prophetic and apostolic gift in the arts. His wife Rebecca is also a gifted musician and songwriter with a sensitive passion for worship. They both have a call to various nations, with a strong heart to see God's House rise and be glorious in this reforming apostolic era of the Church.

Stephen has recorded on various albums over the years and has produced several of his own; amongst other recording work, the powerful prophetic albums *Hear the Sound*, *Future Dreams*, *The Gathering* and *Black Lady Dancing*. His challenging teaching books *Prophet Musician*, and *The Power of Apostolic Music* along with other books, music, teaching, and video productions, has brought revelation and blessing to many. Stephen has worked with, and spoken prophetically into the lives of many gifted musicians and leaders. In 1997 Stephen was commissioned to produce the feature length video film for the now historic, '*Wembley Stadium Live, Champion of the world*' worship event in England, which featured Noel Richards, Matt Redman, Delirious, and others. This prophetic film has helped to launch ministries, and has inspired bigger vision, stadium praise and gatherings around the world.

Stephen has worked as a music overseer in churches, and with small and large music departments, to help bring concise vision and re-structuring, so they can move forward to facilitate what the Lord desires to do in this hour. In Europe, he has music directed at revival and healing events in such venues as the *Royal Albert Hall*, and *Wembley Arena* in London.

Stephen continues to write books, produce, teach, and being a creative prophetic and apostolic voice to the Church. The Lord has raised up Stephen and his wife to be a mentoring and creative ministry to a wide community of musicians, singers and artists in the nations and local church. Stephen and Rebecca are currently based in Sydney Australia. They have been married for 15 years and have three children.

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**Dr Henry Cloud & Dr John Townsend:** '12 Christian beliefs that can drive you crazy', Zondervan Books

*Tommy Tenney: God Chasers' 'Gods favorite House'- www.godchasers.net*

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