

## FEAR GOD

Text: Ps 34:11

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Introduction: Do you fear the lord? Do your family members fear the Lord? An easy test is for you to tell your child, “Don’t do that” and observe their first response. If there is no respect or fear of you, there will obviously be no fear of the Lord.

Ps 111:10 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

Let’s pause for a moment and re-introduce God.

### I. Dismissing God.

A. Darwinism – evolutionism’s primary purpose was to dismiss God from science.

1. Science is systemized knowledge derived from observation, study, and experimentation carried on in order to determine the nature or principles of what is being studied.
2. Science is the systemized knowledge of nature and the physical world.

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1. On an island he observed various species of animals that were different yet similar.

2. Thus, the similarity must have occurred by an evolutionary process rather than by design.
  3. There was therefore no Creator, no originator.
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- C. Science allows this hypothesis to dictate its conclusions in all matters concerning creation.
1. Every observation is affected by this theory.
  2. This process directly affects every scientific study and experiment.
- D. A good example is based on information from the Hubble Space telescope.
1. How old is the universe?
  2. A New Approach using WMAP

In February 2003, the WMAP project released an all-sky map of the radiation emitted before there were any stars. This cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB) is the remnant heat from the Big-Bang and was predicted already in 1946 by George Gamow and Robert Dicke. Since then, astronomers have tried to detect and interpret the CMB. The first detection of the CMB was found in 1965 by chance by Arno Penzias and Robert Woodrow Wilson using a radiometer built to detect astronomical radio signals. They found an excess in their measurements which was later interpreted as the CMB, a 2.725 kelvin thermal spectrum of black body radiation that fills the universe. In 1992, the satellite Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) which was designed

to map the CMB showed for the first time large scale fluctuations in the CMB. These fluctuations were interpreted as evidences of what later formed clusters of galaxies and voids. However, only WMAP had the resolution and sensitivity to detect tiny fluctuations and constrain the age of the universe with high precision. The WMAP team's results are based on the underlying model used to fit their data. This model assumes that 70% of the energy of the present universe is in the form of dark energy, 26% of the energy is in the form of cold (not thermalized) dark matter, and the remaining 4% of the energy is in the atoms and photons. According to their estimates the universe is 13.7 billion years old with an uncertainty of 200 million years. The WMAP value of  $H_0$  is  $71 \pm 4$  km/s/Mpc which is in agreement with the HST key project.

- 3. Another approach. Another way of obtaining the age of the universe is by dating stars. Some of the oldest stars live inside globular clusters and their ages have been extensively estimated in the past decade. For a while, astronomers were puzzled by the fact that those stars seemed to be a few billion years older than the age of the universe estimated from the Hubble constant. Is there a problem with  $H_0$  or with the cluster's**

**age? It turned out that age dating of globular clusters stars is very tricky and inaccurate distances to the clusters, as well caveats in stellar evolution, can solve the mystery. The age of clusters is proportional to one over the luminosity of the RR Lyra stars which are used to determine the distances to globular clusters.**

- 4. Therefore, accurate distances were needed and could only be obtained after the European Hipparcos satellite in the mid-90s.**
- 5. By using the new distance estimates, the age of the clusters fell from 15 billion years to 11.5 billion years with an uncertainty of about 1 billion year. These results agree with the age of the universe from both the Hubble constant and WMAP.**

- E. Did you hear like I did the conclusions given?
  1. The uncertainty of about one billion year.
  2. That is 365 days times one billion more or less.
- F. The scriptures give us a more accurate dating process.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Dismissing God as the Creator leaves you with only speculations, hypotheses and conjecture.

G. You are not left with deciding whether the chicken or the egg came first.

1. There was a chicken.
2. There was a rooster.
3. Then there was an egg.

G. The Bible records “Yahweh”'s words.

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II. God Is!

Ps 89:5 The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

6 For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord?  
Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

7 In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

A. Listen to what these verses proclaim.

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Ex 15:11 "Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you — majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

Ps 86:8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.

Ps 113:5 Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high,

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Deut 3:24 "O Sovereign Lord, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do?

1 Kings 8:23 "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below

2. He reigns over all.

Ps 135:5 I know that the Lord is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.

6 The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.

3. Listen to what He says about Himself.

Isa 45:18 For this is what the Lord says — he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited — he says: "I am the Lord, and there is no other.

Isa 48:12 "Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last.

13 My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together.

Isa 66:1 This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?

2 Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the Lord.

- A. His attitude of love and forgiveness separates Him from all other gods or deities ever proclaimed.

Mic 7:18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

- B. He is the “ONLY” God that offers forgiveness and love to His followers.
- C. Jesus, His One and Only Son declared this about His Father.

Luke 12:4 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.

5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Conclusion: Maybe what some of us need is an encounter like Job had. After much bickering and backbiting and faultfinding Job was confronted by God, Himself.

Job 40:1 God then confronted Job directly:

2 "Now what do you have to say for yourself? Are you going to haul me, the Mighty One, into court and press charges?"

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6 God addressed Job next from the eye of the storm, and this is what he said:

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## FEAR GOD- 2

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Ps 111:10 Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

So what is the fear of the Lord? When we get a true grasp of this truth, we will begin to walk in closer fellowship with God than we have ever walked before.

### I. Hate Evil.

Prov 8:13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil

A. This means having God’s attitude toward sin at all times.

1. His word is clear.

Ps 97:10a Let those who love the Lord hate evil,

a. We are to hate evil of all kinds.

b. We are to hate the evil not the evildoers.

2. Observe these verses:

Amos 5:15a “Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts...”

Rom 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

B. Observe these words concerning God.

Hab 1:13a “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness...”

C. This is evidenced with Jesus on the cross.

Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

1. What has happened that God would turn His eyes from His One and Only Son.
2. Isaiah tells us.

Isa 53:10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

3. Our sins have been placed on Him.
4. He has become our “Scapegoat.”

Lev 16:10 But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat.

Lev 16:20 "When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat.

21 He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites — all their sins — and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task.

22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.

D. David understood this concept.

Ps 101:2 I will be careful to lead a blameless life — when will you come to me? I will walk in my house with blameless heart.

3 I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me.

4 Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil.

5 Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.

6 My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.

7 No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.

II. Hate Evil be Blessed.

Job 1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

A. Scripture calls Job a righteous man.

1. He feared God.
2. Shunned evil.

B. God called Job a righteous man.

Job 1:8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

1. God pointed Job out to Satan.
2. God boasted about his righteousness.

B. Satan's response is our cause for rejoicing.  
Job 1:9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.  
10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

1. You have blessed him – his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.
2. You protect him – You have a hedge around him and all his stuff.

C. David summed it all up with these words.  
Ps 34:7 For the Angel of the Lord guards and rescues all who reverence him.  
8 Oh, put God to the test and see how kind he is! See for yourself the way his mercies shower down on all who trust in him.  
9 If you belong to the Lord, reverence him; for everyone who does this has everything he needs.  
10 Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those of us who reverence the Lord will never lack any good thing.

Conclusion: Let me add these assurances given to those who will receive this word today and fear and reverence the Lord.

Ps 34:11 Sons and daughters, come and listen and let me teach you the importance of trusting and fearing the Lord.  
12 Do you want a long, good life?  
13 Then watch your tongue! Keep your lips from lying.  
14 Turn from all known sin and spend your time in doing good. Try to live in peace with everyone; work hard at it.

15 For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching all who live good lives, and he gives attention when they cry to him.

16 But the Lord has made up his mind to wipe out even the memory of evil men from the earth.

17 Yes, the Lord hears the good man when he calls to him for help and saves him out of all his troubles.

18 The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking; he rescues those who are humbly sorry for their sins.

19 The good man does not escape all troubles-he has them too. But the Lord helps him in each and every one.

20 Not one of his bones is broken.

21 Calamity will surely overtake the wicked; heavy penalties are meted out to those who hate the good.

22 But as for those who serve the Lord, he will redeem them; everyone who takes refuge in him will be freely pardoned.



## FEAR GOD - 3

Text: Ps 34:11

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Introduction: I am seeking to fulfill the words in our text – “teach you the fear of the Lord.” I have already addressed one definition of what the Fear of the Lord is. It is to hate evil. God has no tolerance toward sin; therefore He will not compromise with it. Sin is abhorrent to God’s nature.

Hear His word:

Lev 19:2 "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

Let us look at another definition given in the scripture concerning the fear of the Lord. As we do, let us observe what this holds for you and I as believers.

### I. “He Stood in Awe of My Name.”

Mal 2:4 And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that my covenant with Levi may continue," says the Lord Almighty.

5 "My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.

- A. God is making reference to Levi the priest.
  - 1. He received a covenant that brought life and peace.
  - 2. Levi stood in awe of God’s Name.
- B. What is His Name, that we are to stand in awe of as part of the fear of the Lord?

1. What is the name I am to tell them is Your Name?

Ex 3:13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.

- C. Meaning He is everything that is perfect and excellent and complete and flawless.
  1. Everything we will ever need Him to be to fulfill us.
  2. Everything we will ever need for Him to work in us in order to conform us to the image of His dear Son.
  3. Everything we will ever need to work through us to make Him known to others.

## II. 'I AM.'

- A. God's most dynamic, two-word description of Himself.
  1. He always has been.
  2. He always is.
  3. He always will be.
- B. He tells us to stand in awe of a Being who is so completely, comprehensively, supremely, and totally sufficient; who always has been, is now, and always will be so perfect that there is no way to describe Him other than 'I Am.'
- C. The writer of Hebrews understood this truth.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

D. The same word spoken to John, the Revelator. Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

E. He is always the same. James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Conclusion: When we pause to meditate on His Name, our only response of true faith has to be – "YOU ARE! YOU ARE! YOU ARE!

Brother Terry sings so powerfully the song written by Brother Eddie James "I AM." We hear the truths resounding in our ears of all that He is.

When we fear the Lord and stand in awe of His Name as understood in our text, we cannot but declare:

YOU ARE MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION

YOU ARE MY STRENGTH

YOU ARE MY ROCK AND MY REFUGE

YOU ARE MY FORTRESS AND DELIVERER

YOU ARE MY GREAT HIGH PRIEST AND

INTERCESSOR

YOU ARE MY KING AND MY GOD

YOU ARE THE LOVER OF MY SOUL

YOU ARE MINE AND I AM YOURS

No more lonely nights wondering and fearing the worst.  
No more anxious moments. No more fearing the enemy.  
From now on it is “YOU ARE” to everything and every  
situation.

THIS IS MY NEW PROCLAMATION –  
YOU ARE \_\_\_\_\_. Just speak whatever  
you need Him to be.

AMAZING GRACE

BLESSINGS UNTOLD

COMFORT AND CARE

DELIGHT AND DELIVERANCE

EXCEPTIONAL

FREEDOM AND THE FOUNDATION OF MY LIFE

GREAT AND GRACIOUS

HOPE EVERLASTING

INCREDIBLE

JOY UNSPEAKABLE

KINDNESS AND THE KEEPER OF MY SOUL

LOVE MORE THAN ENOUGH

NEAREST FRIEND TO ME

ORDER AND OPPORTUNITY

PRECIOUS QUIETNESS IN THE STORM

RADICAL SAVOR AND SOON COMING KING

TRUSTWORTHY UNDENIABLE

VICTORY WISDOM AND WONDERFUL

X'CEPTIONALLY LOVING AND KIND

ZEALOUS ON MY BEHALF

## FEAR GOD - 4

Text: Ps 34:11

11 Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Introduction: I have been preaching to you on this subject for several Sundays. My goal is to prepare you for a personal experience with an awesome God. Are you preparing yourself to come before the King of Kings?

I want us to look at what is called 'protocol' this morning and how it must apply to our relationship with Jehovah God.

- I. A God of Order.
  - A. Creation for example.
    - 1. Day One – Light
    - 2. Day Two – Sky
    - 3. Day Three – Green plants and trees.
    - 4. Day Four – Separated Day from Night.
    - 5. Day Five – Fish, Fowl and Animals.
    - 6. Day Six – Man
    - 7. Day Seven – Rested
  - B. Worship under the Law.
    - 1. Feast Days.
    - 2. Dedicated individuals to be priests.
    - 3. Process required for all sacrifices that were presented.
    - 4. Day of Atonement exercises required.
  - C. Any deviation resulted in death.
    - 1. High priest entering the Holy of holies.
    - 2. Any priests offering a sacrifice.

3. Don't touch the mountain God is on.

Ex 19:12 Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

13 He shall surely be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on him. Whether man or animal, he shall not be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up to the mountain."

4. Uzza touched the Ark of the Covenant.

5. Abuse of the Ark of the Covenant.

1 Sam 6:19 But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the Lord

D. Has God changed? NO!!!!

1 Sam 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind."

## II. Protocol.

A. Defined. The code of ceremonial forms and courtesies of precedence, etc. accepted as proper and correct in official dealings, as between heads of states or diplomatic officials.

1. Remember recently the error in protocol committed by our Presidents wife when she touched the Queen of England.

2. Touching a diplomat is a no – no.

B. Every thing associated with diplomacy must be accurate.

1. Proper seating of guests for meal functions, etc.
2. Proper order when addressing a leader or diplomat.

C. Example given in the life of Esther.

Est 4:11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

1. She was faced with a life and death situation.
2. She was the queen but this law applied to her also.

D. Our Western cultural mindset has put us in jeopardy many times.

1. We lack honor.
2. We ignore diplomacy.
3. We barge in.
4. We think it is about us all the time.

E. Is God a significant enough leader in your life to acknowledge proper protocol when involved with Him?

F. Has our attitude concerning freedom of speech limited our access to Jehovah God?

III. Divine Protocol.

A. He deserves recognition and honor.

Ps 100:1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

1. Shouting to the Lord is not offensive to Him.
2. What did Jesus say?

Luke 19:39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

B. He is worthy of our worship.

Ps 100:2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

1. This is not an option.
2. Your failure to worship Him properly has been your downfall.
3. This is the reason you are so critical and judgmental.
4. Singing is also not optional.

C. He must be properly acknowledged by you.

Ps 100:3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

1. He is the Creator of all things.
2. He is your Creator. "It is He who has made us..."
3. Acknowledge His ownership. "we are His..."
4. Accept your status with Him. "we are His people, the sheep of His pasture."
5. No elevated view of your importance or place.

D. Observe protocol concerning approaching Him.

Ps 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

1. Begin with thanksgiving. “enter His gates.”
2. Approach Him with words of praise. “and His courts with praise...”
3. Exalt His Name. “give thanks to Him and praise His name.”

Conclusion: Do you understand now why you have come to His House and not felt His presence? Do you understand why others around you were blessed and favored and it seemed He ignored you and your plight?

1 Sam 2:30b Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. [lightly esteemed]

We can show honor to God in our worship.

Ps 50:23 He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."

Give honor to whom honor is due.

Lev 19:32 "'Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.

Ex 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Honoring God is the key to success.

Prov 3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Eternity in heaven may not be for you if you have a problem showing honor.

Rev 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever.

They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

## FEAR GOD – 5

### OBEDIENCE BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Text: Ps 34:11

11 Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Introduction: We have been following the counsel of this verse of scripture. I hope that you are grasping the power of this biblical truth. Today, I want to talk to you about obeying the Lord.

Have you ever heard someone testifying about how God had spoken to him/her about doing something and how that they had delayed or failed to obey? Examples: “God told me to do thus and so but I did not obey Him then. Then He spoke again to me \_\_\_\_\_ week, month etc. later.” Or “God spoke to me about thus and so and after a week of arguing with Him I gave in and said, ‘Okay God!’” These testimonies reveal a lack of the fear of the Lord.

Observe these words spoken to Abraham by God. Gen 22:12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Let's talk about this today.

#### I. Wrong Way Jonah.

##### A. Clear instructions.

Jonah 1:1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai:

2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

B. Jonah had to face the consequences of his decision.

1. God sent a storm.

Jonah 1:4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

2. Jonah's lack of the fear of the Lord was evident.

Jonah 1:7 Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

8 So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

9 He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land."

10 This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

3. Observe the fear of the Lord displayed by the sailors.

Jonah 1:14 Then they cried to the Lord, "O Lord, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O Lord, have done as you pleased."

15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

16 At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

- C. God got Jonah to Nineveh and his message brought the needed revival.

## II. The Right Incentives.

- A. The two greatest incentives you and I can have to obey God.

- B. First, the knowledge of what He is really like.

- 1. Seraphim declare that He is 'HOLY.'

Rev 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings.

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

- 2. Twenty-four elders declare He is worthy.

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being

- 2. I say He is wonderful, mighty beautiful, extravagant, lovely, awesome, merciful, caring, beautiful, magnificent, glorious etc.
- 3. One author said: "We will see Him in all His dazzling beauty, majestic splendor, blazing glory, the fire of His purity, and the depth of His unfathomable love."

4. She also observed we will have one of two reactions when we see Him face to face.
    - a. Shock: “Oh, You are like that!”
    - b. Joy: “Oh, I knew You were like that! I’m not really surprised; because You have already revealed much of Your beauty and glory to me. You rewarded me on earth with that revelation as I diligently sought You. You put the desire in my heart to spend hours alone with You, which ruined me for the ordinary. I knew You were as You are, but You are so much more!”
  5. It would not be a great shock to Moses when he reached heaven because he had spent so much time with God on earth.
  6. “God! Exciting, scintillating, fascinating, wonderful, beautiful, fabulous, precious, tender, God!”
- C. Secondly, the fear of the Lord.
1. The fear of the Lord is evidenced in our lives by **INSTANT, JOYFUL, AND TOTAL OBEDIENCE.**
  2. Delayed obedience is disobedience.
  3. Partial obedience is disobedience.
  4. Doing what God has asked with murmuring is disobedience

### III. Obedient Abraham.

- A. A test.

Gen 22:1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

B. Abraham's actions.

1. No delays. [Early]

Gen 22:3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

2. No questions.

Gen 22:9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

3. Nothing held back.

Gen 22:10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

C. Abraham passed the test. "Now I know that you fear God..."

Gen 22:11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Conclusion: Abraham could probably have written a book on the reasons on why he should not be sacrificing his son Isaac on an altar, according to his own human reasoning and desires, but he hated the sin of disobedience to God more than he loved his only son. He passed the test, and proved by doing so the deep level of the fear of the Lord operating in his life.

Many times God tests us by telling us to do things without our having the faintest idea why we are to do them. We need to understand **Who He is**, who is speaking. God, in His infinite knowledge and wisdom, knows why – that’s good enough reason for us, with our finite knowledge and wisdom, to obey.

Story: A teacher at a Mission’s School away from home and her family at God’s request. Shopping spotted a table with sale priced clothing. She found a dress, her size at a very reasonable price. Had one similar but felt led to buy it. No sense no need. But she obeyed that inner voice and bought the dress. She thanked God for John 10:3-4, and 27, where it says His sheep hear His voice, know His voice, and follow Him, and according to Psalm 32:8, “I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” She knew God would tell her what to do.

Two days later, she said to the Lord, “Well, I obeyed You over that dress, but I still have no understanding why You should want me to have two almost identical dresses on this trip. Could You please give me an understanding?” He said, “You are to give the other new one to one of the students and keep this one for yourself.” God brought before her face one of the girls. She did not know her name.

She said, “If this impression is correct, then please confirm it to me some way.” It was Saturday morning and many of the students had gone away for the weekend. Then a knock came to her bedroom door and there standing before her was the student God had shown her in prayer.

The girl was embarrassed and hesitant at disturbing her, and said, “I really don’t understand this at all, but I believe the Lord has shown me I’m to come to you and give you this simple little bookmark I made some months ago. I have no idea why He should tell me to do this, but I do know I want to obey Him.”

She said, “I know why you are here. I’ve got a story that will blow your little mind.” When she finished, the girl put on the dress and it was a perfect fit. The teacher had been teaching on the fear of the Lord and the student had decided to spend her day off putting some of the teaching into practice.

The student told her story of how as she was reading her bible and asking God to reveal Himself to her, she started thinking of her need for a new dress. She had no money to buy one. She dismissed those thoughts and started telling God she wanted to know Him more than anything else. She said, “Have You anything to say to me?” An impression immediately came into her mind, Matthew 6:25. This is where Jesus starts talking about providing us with food and clothing when we put His righteousness and His kingdom first. She worshipped God for speaking to her and went on seeking Him. He quietly spoke again into her mind, Luke 12:28

"But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!

She read on in verse 31: "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you." She continued to read, pray and praise. Then God told her to go and give the teacher the worn bookmark with 'NO' understanding why. The two verses written on the bookmark were 1 Cor. 15:58 and 1 Thess. 5:24

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Thess 5:24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

These brought great strength and encouragement to the Missions teacher who was away from her home and family.

This story comes out of simple, everyday circumstances that are engineered by God to test His children on the fear of the Lord.

When we have it – we obey.

When we don't – we do our own thing and miss an exciting, intimate relationship with God and the blessings that go with it.

Oh by the way, do you know why God told Abraham to offer his only son Isaac on an altar? Let me read what Jesus, God's Only Son told us.

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

Fear the Lord and walk in obedience to Him, His Word and to the voice of His Spirit. What reward is awaiting your obedience?