

FEAR of the LORD Pt. 5: STUDY GOD'S WORD, GIVE, GIFTS and TALENTS, WORSHIP

We talked about prayer last week and I just wanted to add one more thing about prayer. We learned from Psalm 100 that we should enter into God's presence with singing, and into His gates with thanksgiving and then into His courts with praise. That is what Kennedy and I do when we have church at home and that is what I usually do in my personal prayer time. But just like when Peter was walking on the water and began to sink and he cried out "Lord, save me!"

(Matt.14:30) There may be times when you need His help quickly or you must pray something urgently right in the very moment of what is going on and you don't have time for singing, thanksgiving and praise. He knows your situation and He extends grace and mercy to us continually. Just make sure that is not the norm for you.

STUDY GOD'S WORD CONTINUED

Amos 8:11 – Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*.

God's Word, even these torn up translations, is precious to us. We should be thankful for what has been preserved for us today. One time of famine of God's Word has already passed, God did not speak to His people Israel, for something like 400 years in between the prophet Malachi and John the Baptist. Today I see another type of famine, because mega churches and those that follow them and are like them are not even preaching and teaching all of God's Word. They are twisting it and teaching lies. Another type of famine is that the translations continue and each time substitutions are made, things are added and taken away and changed. Some translations have removed verses completely. And a new twist on the famine is the Mandela Effect, which is high dark magic used against

our Bibles, especially the KJ translation to make people lay it down and walk away from it because some things sound so fruity in it now.

All of these things are a sort of famine of the Word of God. We will be surprised one day to find out what God's Word really said. They have worked to hold back the truth from us, removed books, scrambled books putting the events out of sequence and on and on it goes. Satan has been against God's Word from the very beginning and today is no exception. **(Genesis 3)** But we can still learn and grow and draw nearer to God even through these translations. We are at least awake to these things right now. Let's get busy hiding God's Word in our hearts so that we will know it and do it.

Psalm 1:1-3 – Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly (blessed is the one that does not follow the advice of the wicked), nor standeth in the way of sinners (stand with sinners doing what they do), nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (that do not join in with mockers). But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth He meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his (its) fruit in his (its) season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

We are to love God's Word and meditate on it. His Word is life and health to all our flesh. **(Proverbs 4:20-22)**. Look at the promises God gives us just because we delight in His Word and obey it. We will have the things we need, God will tend to us, and we will flourish and God's blessings will be on the things that we do.

Acts 17:11 – These (The people of Berea) were more noble (were more open minded) than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so (to see if what Paul said was true).

Don't just take someone's word for what the Bible says, read it and study it for yourself. The more you read it, the more you will be familiar with what is in God's Word and the nearer you will draw to Him. And He says when we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. **(James 4:8)**

GIVE

As I was working on this message the Holy Spirit brought something to my mind that Scott's dad said once. He said he never tips more than he tithes. That's pretty powerful when you think about it. Today, it is expected of us to tip more than 10% at restaurants. Nowadays they add the gratuity up for you or give you a choice and it never starts as low as 10%. Yet, so many are not honoring God with even 10%.

Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honour the LORD with thy substance (wealth), and with the firstfruits of all thine increase (with the best part of everything you produce): So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Most of us don't have barns, but we do have pantries, we do make trips to the grocery store and God says when you honor Him with the tithe, He will meet your needs and bless you. Those that don't tithe, don't have God's full blessing on their life. To understand that better you can read Malachi chapter 3. We also need to understand what it meant when Apostle Paul said that God loves a cheerful giver. **(2 Cor.9:7)** God gave the best when He gave Jesus, God is a giver, the best giver we'll ever know and we are to be like Him as His children. When we give to real and true ministries, we are supporting God's ministers and His Kingdom work.



When we give, we are sowing eternal seeds and from that, God blesses it back to us in this life as well as in eternity. For the cheerful givers, we will have rewards and treasures in heaven that are unimaginable for us now. A cheerful giver gives willingly, sacrificially, cheerfully and persistently. I have taught a few times on giving and tithing, if you are not doing these things I encourage you to listen to those teachings. I had a good conversation with Pastor Erustus on tithing and giving and I will be bringing a new teaching on this subject. I think Christians just don't realize what it actually does in their lives and what things God does on behalf of those that tithe. His blessing and protection are placed on tithing. But please understand that if you don't belong to Him, then you cannot give something as a tithe because only His children can do that. And you cannot bribe God for blessings or protection. He knows what the motives are behind our giving.

If you think you'll tithe one day when you get your life pulled together, you'll probably never get there. Start somewhere, if you can't tithe 10%, then start with 1 or 2% but get started and ask God to help you to get to where you can give 10%. Remember it all comes from God. He's not just going to keep blessing you if you don't put what He's blessing you with to use for His Kingdom. In fact some people are blessed by God beyond measure such should grow up and give even above 10% on giving gratitude to God for blessing them.

Teach your children to tithe. We taught Kennedy right from the start about tithing. Anything she gets, birthday money, money for good grades in school or what have you, she tithes on it. Most of us were not taught to tithe as children and that is why it was hard for us to start tithing once we did learn about it. We had already made a mess of things and felt like we could not afford to tithe. If you teach your children to put God first in their finances, they won't make that same mistake and God will bless them for it.

If you think you are just giving to me and my family you are not understanding correctly how your giving is viewed by God. First and foremost you are giving to God Himself, just as the Israelites did when they brought their offerings to the Temple. Then, once the sacrifice was offered to God, the priests took the

portions that were given to them by God. It works the same way today. Our tithes and offerings first of all belong to God. This is the provision He set up for His ministers and to accomplish the work of the Kingdom.

GIFTS and TALENTS

1 Corinthians 12 talks about many gifts that the Holy Spirit gives within the body of Christ. He can give someone all of the gifts but usually that is not the case. We all get different gifts and in that way the body of Christ works together, that is, we complement each other with our different gifts working together to bring God glory.

Many gifts are also mentioned in Romans chapter 12.

We cannot forget the parable of the talents (**Matt.25:14-30**). The servants were given money by their master to make use of it and increase it while He was away. The last servant hid his money in a hole and gave it back to his master when he returned. This is a picture of Jesus and us. Jesus called the servant who did not do anything with the talents that were given to him, wicked and lazy and had him cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

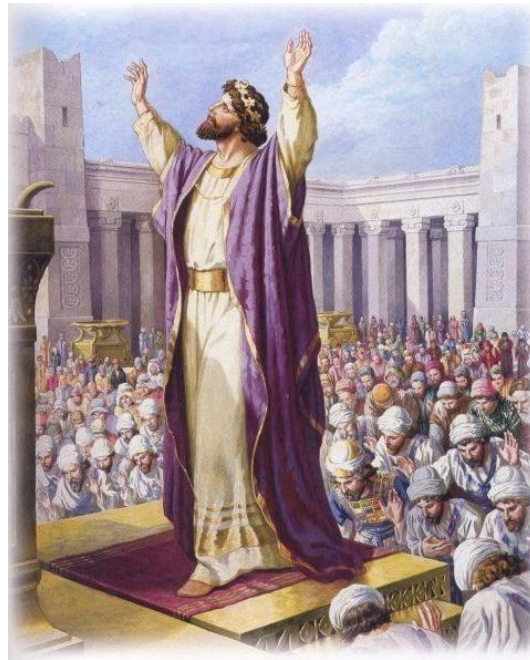
The money is an example of our gifts and talents that God has given us and yes, of our money too. It all comes from God and He expects us to use it to bring Him glory. What a shame it would be to find out He gave you a certain ability to use to bring Him glory and you did not use it. Or if He blessed you financially and you did not put it to work for His glory. If you are unsure of what your gifts and talents are, ask Him to show you. Let Him know you aren't sure or you just don't know and you need Him to make it clear. He will show you. He wants you to succeed, you are His workmanship, He created you for good works.

WORSHIP

John 9:31 - Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God (God fearing), and doeth His will, him He heareth.

God hears the ones who have come to Jesus, asked forgiveness for their sins, repented and are living obedient lives. He hears the ones who reverence, honor

and obey Him. Those are the ones who show Him they love Him, because our obedience shows our love.



1 Kings 8:22 – tells us that King Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of all the assembly of Israel and raised his hands toward heaven. The Bible tells us to raise our hands up to God (**1 Tim.2:8**) and is full of examples of Godly kings and prophets who lifted their hands in prayer, praise and worship to God. (**Nehemiah 8:6, Psalm 63:4, Psalm 119:48, Psalm 28:2, Psalm 141:2, Psalm 134:2, Lam.3:41, Ezra 9:5**) We should heed God’s Word and raise our hands to Him in these ways as well.

When I was a baby Christian I was concerned with what other people would think about me raising my hands in worship to Jesus. But when I pushed past that, and went ahead and did it, I did not have problems any more. Don’t let what people think keep you from serving God whole heartedly. Remember they won’t be standing with you before a Holy God when you give account of your life in judgement.

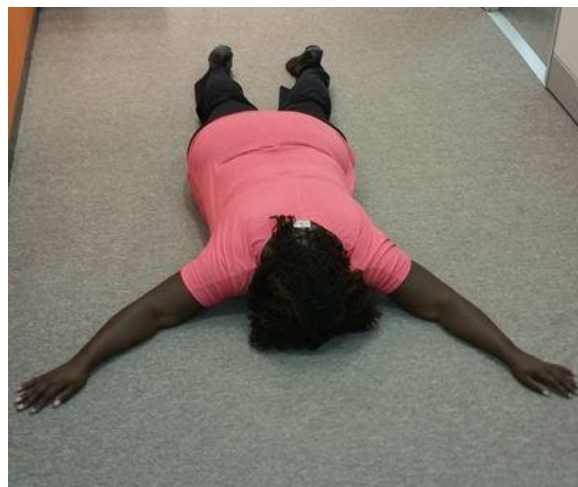
Psalm 115:13 - He will bless them that fear the LORD, *both* small and great.

Psalm 112:1-3 - Praise ye the LORD. Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed (children) shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches *shall be* in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever (their good deeds will last forever).

God's blessing is on the ones who fear Him and that love His Word and do it. We serve a God of rewards and He certainly does bless His children.



This is the pope laying prostrate before the god he serves, lucifer. Now, are we going to let the pope show more reverence to his god than we do to the Living God of the Bible?



You might feel silly with other people around but you just have to focus on Jesus, He knows exactly what you are doing and why. You of course can lay prostrate in your own home before God in worship and prayer. Do what you are moved by the Holy Spirit to do and if you are in a church setting don't let others hinder what comes to your heart to do in reverence to God.



You can read in Genesis 18 about a time the Lord came with two angels and visited Abraham. Abraham bowed himself toward the ground in reverence and then he hurried to have a food prepared to set before them. This picture is not exactly how it came about because Scripture says he ran to meet them and bowed himself before them, but it does give us a good idea of how he humbled himself before God. Just like Moses and Aaron always falling on their faces before God.

CLOSING

God's not looking for rule keeping and regulations – dry, dead worship. But He wants your heart.

Do what you can as long as you're able to, lie prostrate before Him in prayer. King David lay prostrate before the Lord 7 days pleading with Him for the life of the child he had with BathSheba. Can we lay prostrate before Him for even 10 minutes? Worship, kneel before Him, bow down before Him, raise your hands in

worship to Him. Give Him an outward show of what's in your heart. Humble yourself before the Lord God Almighty, He is worthy.

PRAYER