



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Fear of The Lord **SPEAKER** SP Chua Seng Lee
THEME Redigging the Well of the Brethren Church **DATE** 27 & 28 May 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

If we fear God, we will come to know God. Ultimately, fear is rooted in respect and reverence. Fearing the Lord will translate into a constant carefulness in how we deal with others, and how we live our lives.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SP Chua referred to Exodus 20:20 where Moses said to the people “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.” SP Chua pointed out that there is no contradiction in the sentence as *being afraid of God* is not the same as having a *fear of the Lord*. The former will cause us to grow apart from God, but the latter will bring us closer to Him and experience Him.

1) The Perspective: What does it mean to fear the Lord?

SP Chua shared that being afraid of God will result in us running away from Him out of shame, having something to hide. In contrast, having a fear of the Lord will cause us to honour, tremble, revere, esteem, respect, value and venerate God, causing us to run towards Him.

2) The Promise: Why do we need to fear God?

The fear of God will reveal God’s promises for us. SP Chua shared that fear of God is the fine print for many promises of God for our lives. When we are guided by God’s instructions and His wisdom, then we can experience His blessings. Psalms 25:13-14 says that those who fear the Lord will “abide in prosperity”, their descendants will “inherit the land” and they will “know His covenant”.

3) The Posture: How do we develop the fear of God?

SP Chua shared that we must have a posture of humility, and contrition of spirit (Isaiah 66:2) to hear and receive from God. We also need to “tremble” at God’s word (Isaiah 66:2). This means that even if we do not immediately see the benefit of God’s word, we submit regardless. In essence, we need to have a posture of obedience, turning to God and trusting in Him even when things don’t make sense.

4) The Practice: What can we do today?

We can pray for the Holy Spirit to awaken us to experience the fear of God. There are six things we can intentionally include in our prayer:

- First, praising God for giving us the Holy Spirit.
- Second, to pray for our leaders to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Third, to pray for the significant people in our lives.
- Fourth, to pray for those in need to encounter the Holy Spirit.
- Fifth, to pray for ourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- And finally, to pray for life application as we live by the Holy Spirit

CONCLUSION

Many Christians today love God, but do not fear Him. This has resulted in sin because we do not obey God's instructions and live by His wisdom. When we are conscious of our sins, then we will fear God, come to know Him, and experience His promises in our lives. Ultimately, our desire must be to know and please Him.

QUESTIONS

1. Share about a God-fearing man or woman that you look up to. How has he or she demonstrated the fear of God?

2. One way to develop the fear of God is to come to God with the right posture of a humble and contrite heart. What is an area right now where you are struggling to surrender to God and what would having the right posture look like in this instance?

3. The practical application for this is spending time in prayer to God and praying for others. Who has God brought to mind to pray for and how can you set aside time to pray for them regularly?