

LWMORG

Who Fears God Today?

By Minister R. Thomas Lambur

Why is it that the local pastors can't preach a Bible message of salvation? Why is it that they cannot *preach against sin* telling people the truth, *warning* them of coming damnation and hell? Because they don't even believe it anymore. They believe *preaching against sin* is *old school*, is *archaic*, and that Jesus just wants to talk about His love. If you love someone, you'll tell them that their house is on fire and that they are about to die. If a car was speeding toward a bridge that was out and the car's driver was about to perish into a river, wouldn't you *wave a banner*, *shoot up a flare*, *stand in the middle of the road waving your hands* or somehow *get a sign* to this one about to lose their life?

Instead, we tell them that when they come to our church that they'll hear jokes, be entertained, be comfortable, no one will point out *their sin*, and that the atmosphere will be *spiritually casual*, *non-threatening toward removing sin from them and them from sin*. I'm not looking for a circus. I'm looking for *the anointing!* I won't settle for anything less. All else is false. All else is *another spirit*. All else is *a diversion* away from the true position that Jesus calls us to.

"Well, we have to relate to and *impress* this generation." No, this generation has MANY gods. They need to know that *they have offended God* and that they are *in sin*.

1Thess. 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

I constantly hear that you're not supposed to tell people that they are going to hell. It was one of the most expressed topics that the Lord Jesus spoke on. How can you TURN someone away from the IDOLITRY which possesses his soul unless you making him see that his sin has a consequence to it, a wage that he is earning and a certain horrible destiny? Well, the early church did... ***turning them to God and away from idols to serve the living and true God.***

Peter The Sin Slaying Preacher!

Acts 2:14-38 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains

of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost after being filled with the Holy Spirit and told them the truth; the truth about the Holy Spirit and those that had just gotten filled with the Holy Spirit. He told them about the last days and that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh and that there would be great signs and wonders. He told them about God's fierce Last Day Judgment and Tribulation period. He told them how wicked they were for crucifying the Lord!

Peter in His Preaching directly addressed them and began to tell them everything that they had done wrong by rejecting Christ and putting Him to death. He told them how David had prophesied His coming, and that after they crucified Him, God raised Him from the dead. Then those who were listening to Peter cried out saying, "What must we do to be saved?" **Three-thousand, instantly convicted by the fear of the Lord, wanted to be saved and delivered.** **They responded to His preaching to be saved! Oh, How 'Old School.' I'm sure the church growth movement would want to sit down and scold Peter for his directness of preaching against sin.**

Acts 2:39-43 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Verse 40 says that he told them to **save themselves from this untoward**, which means evil generation. He was already telling them to separate themselves. Verse 43 says that **fear came upon every soul**. This sermon and the outpouring **brought fear upon every soul**.

Who fears God today? Do we bring to the table the main point and the conclusion and outcome? Are we as direct about telling people about their sins as Peter was?

Not those who do not hear a true message. *Not those* who are pampered and told that we won't deal with your sin. ***People fear God comes when they hear the truth about heaven and hell and about their rejection of Christ.***

Unless you *stare* into your own life... *and take a real good look through His eyes* of where you are spiritually and where you are suppose to be, you can't move forward or make any spiritual progress in your life. ***So, You'd better have someone in your life that can cut through the baloney and give it to you straight! ... Or Else!***

Have You Wondered Where The Spiritual Gifts Have Got? (I Know)

I heard a popular teacher address this subject on absence as God's test by there absence. I heard another say well they are got because the church already grew up. Obviously these do not have a clue on why the spiritual gifts have seemed to be withdrawn from congregations. It is because of the lack of proper respect we have toward God.

Acts 2:42,43 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.(KJV)

Acts 2:42,43 They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in their fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer. Everyone felt a deep sense of awe while many miracles and signs took place through the apostles. (Phillips)

Notice the spiritual ground work being laid here *for the reverence for God*. Hearing the Word of God continually in their ears, the breaking of bread known to be the taking of the Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper, and also there was intercession, this was going on regularly in this place. Remember some of these were also those who came out of *The Upper Room* who now being Baptized in the Holy Spirit knew how to wait upon the Lord with fasting, worship, and fervent prayer.

So if we add all of these up we can then ask ourselves the question, *"Is the churches which we are attending being reverent and have a proper respect toward the Lord like these did?"*

Now we know why the gifts are absent.

Now should we seek to go any further in trying to establish a reason for the absence of these gifts among us? No! If we use this as *our model of proper reverence* toward the Lord then we can count on that His gifts will begin to return to us.

Have A Proper Respect For God – God Is In The House!

The fear of God is the essential missing element in the church today. We might here also ask the question whether God is even showing up at what is being named as having church today. What I am saying is maybe His Spirit isn't even there with what the leader and church is doing. If His presence was truly represented there I think you might see a little more conviction over sin, a little more emphasis about getting people hooked up with a Holy God instead of assuming that He says, "It's OK, baggage and all."

1Corin. 14:25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

When God comes on the scene and people are in His very presence... people should fall into reverence and awe of Him. Ok, now how about if God shows up and tells everyone all about your heart... every secret sin. I guess you'd fall on your face too, my friend, when God is looking you straight in the face!

Isa 6:5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah had a seizure experience because God showed up right before him. He was horrified to know his spiritual state before a Holy God. What would you do if God showed up right in front of you? I'm sure you'd not be very causal about it!

Ps 99:1 The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Since God controls everything, you would think we might be a little more respectful toward Him. He is worthy to be revered. He is the God who made you, the God who holds your very life in His hands. If people won't fear Him and tremble before His presence, He could just shake it up down here to simulate reverence... "let the earth be moved."

Jerm. 5:22 Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence....?

Why do you think here that God is questioning us for NOT fearing Him? He must expect that any healthy spiritual soul with a minuet amount of intellect would do so if they really intend to live upstairs with Him in His heaven.

Job 26:11 The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.

Fear is really being astonished at Him. It is really coming to grip with who He is and what He is doing in our life.

Peter is saying that *if you will fear God, He will come immediately into your life with His hand to change your position.*

1Pet. 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...

Shouldn't we *fear God* when we see His hand in the land of the living? After all, when we don't see His hand in our life *it causes us to faint...* and loose heart because we perceive ourselves to be alone and against great odds. So when we fear the Lord, we are actually in faith toward Him, desirous to see Him come into our life.

Ps 27:13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Without Proper Respect For God Equals His Judgment

Acts 5:1-9 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

I have been told by other ministers that if you are in the presence of the Lord and you do not have a proper respect for Him and seek to get away with something outright sinful you are going to get it! This lackadaisical and disrespectful treatment of God leads to His judgment. Some would say, but aren't we under grace? So you need to understand that this passage is in the New Testament! God judges in the New Testament also.

Rev. 2:20-23 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

So tell me this you who want to fool around without a proper respect toward God, here represents a New Testament church who are in league with a false prophetess coming under the same judgment as she is because they have not yet feared the Lord. If find it very interesting that the end of this passage is speaking that God wants everyone to know in ALL THE CHURCHES THAT I AM HE THAT SEARCHES THE REINS AND HEARTS and will give unto everyone of you ACCORDING TO YOUR DEEDS!

When the church is out of focus with the fear of the Lord there most certainly always come abuses and with these abuses comes HIS JUDGMENT.

End

Discussion & Prayer Time:

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