**The Fear of God: Scared Straight**

**As we wrap up the Road Trip series – we are faced with the greatest tool to knowing and understanding the will of God on the Road Trip**

**Owners Manuel - most of our cars have one in glove box – who has read it? Function, purpose, operation of its creator – Our OM the Bible - o sum up the OM (Bible) - it would be, the fear of God**

**We have got to understand this if we are to truly know and walk w/ God**

**Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: 2 for gaining wisdom and instruction; (understand life) for understanding words of insight; (discernment) 3 for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, (how to live) doing what is right and just and fair; (working w/ others) 4 for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young - (giving counsel & advice to others) 5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, (wise people seek greater wisdom and understanding – vs pride) and let the discerning get guidance (direction for life) – 6 for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. (discerning what others say and write)**

**How do we achieve all that??? Right here…**

**7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, (foundation of true knowledge. NLT = understanding) but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (STEP ONE – FEAR GOD. It does not say Love is the beginning…)**

**Likewise - Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. / Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments… / Fear?? Pro 16:6 - "By fearing the LORD you will avoid evil (avoid poor choices) / Pro 15:16 - "It's better to be poor and Fear the Lord than to be wealthy and have much trouble." (poor financial choices) / Pro 19:23 - "The fear of the LORD leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied and happy, untouched by trouble" / Pro 14:27 - "The fear of the Lord gives life.  It's like a fountain of water that can save people from death." / Pro 22:4 - "The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD will bring you wealth, honor and life." / Pro 10:27 - "Whoever fears the Lord will have a long life.  But an evil person will have his life cut short."  (STEP ONE - FEAR GOD)**

**At 13 I became a Christian - still trying to figure God out, I had a dilemma. I struggled with this - God, how do we love & fear you?**

**SOMETHING TO BE AFRAID OF – Scared Straight**

**Time of change and unrest nationally - 625 BC Israel is bankrupt in bondage and in fear of the future. Jeremiah 1:1 The words of Jeremiah… 2 The word of the Lord came to him... (v3 sets the time and place...) 4 The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”**

**At that time the nation was in crisis and God says - before this happened, before you were born - I had my eyes on you. I know all about you - and picked you for something great.**

**6 “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” (Great God, you know all things - but you might not know- I'm a horrible speaker and young.) 7 But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ (Don't tell me no) You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord. 9 Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”** **(This is big - I'm talking national influence - uprooting powerful people and powers - and rebuilding a broken system and people...)**

**11-16 God tells him a great disaster will come and that Jeremiah will be the one to help them thru it. Are you willing & prepared?**

**17 “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.**

**Either do what I say or I will terrify you. What? He can't say that. God threatened him. "Don't whine or I'll give you something to whine about.” I thought he was a nice God...**

**18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land— (you will be like a mighty unshakable powerful tower - a great wall) against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord. (Next 40 yrs Jeremiah was the mouthpiece of God - it began with a threat - follow me or I will terrify you??)**

**Jeremiah, "thanks but no thanks" God says, "Oh yeah, let me remind you who you're talking to. Fear of God is a powerful motivator - How is it God can say and do things like that?**

**I thought He was a gentleman- tell that to the apostle Saul…**

**Here is Jerry later - Jeremiah 5:21 Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, (No wonder people did not like him) who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear: 22 Should you not fear me?” declares the Lord. “Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it. 23 But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away. 24 They do not say to themselves, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.’ 25 Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good.**

**He says to them - here is the root of all your problems - the creator of all things and of all power... you don't fear anymore.**

**ARE WE REALLY TO FEAR HIM? Understanding the Terms**

**Notice what Jeremiah says first - Jeremiah 1:6 - Oh Sovereign Lord...**

**\* Sovereignty = To have absolute rule, without question or limitations.**

**His attributes - Our response = AWE (humble wonder, amazement, fear)**

**Jer 1:6 Oh Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” - We do the same thing Jeremiah does...**

**How we pray? Dear Lord, Heavenly Father. We use terms w/out a buy in. More like, "Dear being who I think might be there, who I pretend to love but most often take advantage of... here is a list**

**\* Fear = (Yare' - yaw-ray) To be terrified - trembling - be scared - terror**

**Growing up told that to fear God is to just respect & revere - it's more than that – to meet God & stand before Him is to be fearful**

**Fear used in the Bible that calls for us to fear God, means many things**

* **It means to be afraid / It means to respect (vs. disrespect…)**
* **It means to be in awe / It means to reverence (esteem highly)**
* **It means don’t take God lightly!**

**Fear of God is essential to a healthy understanding of God and life**

**Deut 5:29 - Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!**

**Deut 10:12 And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul…**

**Eccl. 12:13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.**

**Romans 3:10-18 - trouble follows those who do not fear God**

**What about? 2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (about the fear of people & life)**

**Scared Straight: Be Afraid - Be very afraid - WE ARE TO FEAR GOD’S**

1. **Position- our father & friend but - but don't forget who that friend is**

**Did you know there will even be fear of God in Heaven? Revelation 15: (around the great throne - the victoriously saved – worshiping & declaring) 3 ... “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. 4 Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”**

**In eternity future when we see God face to face, we think this fear of Him will be removed. In fact, it will be magnified, it will be cause for praise and worship and awe - in celebration.**

**A position to be feared for he has authority to redeem and to condemn**

1. **Power – omnipotent, omniscient, might, force, justice**

**God can't be strong armed, manipulated, tricked, or pressured. He created it all - holds it all - keeps it all - He is almighty!**

**Some have forgotten the fear of God - time to as Phil.2:12 says - Work out your salvation with “fear and trembling” (Romans 3:10-18, 8:38-39, 14:11, Deut 5:28-29, 10:12-17, Psalm 36:1, 27, 73, 112, Proverbs 2:1-5, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Jeremiah 5:22-24, Isaiah 6:1-8, 8:12-13, Job 23:13-16, Acts 5:1-11, 9:31, 2 Corinthians 5:11, Philippians 2:12-15, Ephesians 5:21, Hebrews 12:7-11, 18-24, 28-29, 13:5, 1 John 4:17-18, Revelation 4)**

**Rev 4 - Glimpse of heaven / throne of God / adulation to King Jesus - forever they declare - Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord almighty... creator of all who is good and just - feared & loved - Isaiah gives similar description (Is 6:1-8)- "I have come undone - woe is me! - I am overwhelmed with awe and fear."**

**Reality check – whoever you are - when we see God we will have many different responses – but we will all be afraid**!

**Well that’s the Father – we don't have to fear Jesus right? Well…**

**God in OT often drew a line - cross it you die - stay on his side, you live - then we think - but Jesus is opposite - love, forgives, gentle, passive**

**Many treat God like the wizard of OZ - trembling until the curtain is pulled back to reveal a nice, meek, kind man who gives gifts and floats around in air balloons. OT God, the unveiled wizard and Jesus, simple man behind the curtain who loves us & gives good gifts**

**But God has not changed. Jesus is the same and calls us to understand the fear of God... Let's check out the Owners Manuel**

**Luke 12:1 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. (to the phony's in the crowd - whatever is done on Friday night will eventually be known. Motives, secrets, things hidden...) 3 What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. (Some play the "Lord, God, Heavily Father card" with out true fear of God - but I'm not fooled) 4 “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. (Is there something worse than death and torture? Yes, I'll tell you.) 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. (Well that's not very Jesus like - where's the hugs?)**

**Hypocrites - fear what will come if you don’t follow me. Don't fear people - I'll give you something to fear... God! You should be terrified of the one who can cast you into hell...**

**That Jesus doesn't show up in the Kids beginners bible...**

**\*\* Sad thing is - so many fear Satan more than they fear God**

**Why are we so afraid of people??? 1st day of 1st grade – high school - scary? But now, not so much. Our whole life is the 1st day of 1st grade. After billion years in heaven, they'll ask, how was earth? I don't know I think I wore a hat. Seemed like a big deal at the time.**

**God told Jeremiah don't fear people - fear me. Jesus tells his disciples the same thing - then he follows it with his love**

**Luke 12:6-11 - God loves & cares for you more than all of creation. BUT then says – if you deny me before others (fear of man) you will be disowned by me and all of heaven. (fear that, not men).**

**The fear of God acknowledges who is the King. You don't make Jesus King, he already is. Jesus as returning just king (Rev.)**

**If your still not convinced read – Hebrews 10:26-29 – be fearful of judgment and raging fire for those who reject Jesus… continues with - Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, (Fear - humble amazement) 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”**

**A loving God - Hell - really? God does not want you to go to hell - He gave us redemption - God says, You'll have to go over my sons dead body to get to hell... and some do**

**Ted - I love you - I am reaching out to you - I paid it all... but I am not a push over - I am creator of all and expect of your life.**

**Some Christians have grown so lax in understanding this**

**Thumbs up to God - wink at our sin - treat God like a distant relative, casual friend, guidance counselor, the big guy - we've left fear.**

**Only 2 options: The Fear of man or the Fear of God**

**If you don't fear God you will fear someone – or something.**

**That someone becomes the one who calls the shots. If it is other than Jesus, you have the fear of man and will follow them. They are your functional Lord & King - even if you say Jesus is Lord.**

**Pro 29:25 - Fear of man will prove to be a snare, (A trap – grabs you – holds you - it doesn't work) but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. (Who do you fear?)**

**The Manuel - we think, “naaa, I’ll try it on our own” (tear pages) Then can't figure out why working - the designer is not liable -**

**So – Why fear? Why not just LOVE?**

1. **The fear of God reflects his love for us**

**Fear is not all negative, some fear is for our protection – an act of love**

**That little sword fits perfectly into the plug outlet... so we yell - NO!**

**A hot surface... Playing near the street - car is coming we yell – STOP! When out past curfew w/ friends who were drinking... on a date sitting in a car alone... We get firm! I hope they jump out of their skin... now your kids... We can all agree were more passionate for our own kids.**

**Fear is God’s love helping us with boundaries**

**It keeps you safe when on a date - keeping you pure. NO!**

**It keeps you safe when away from your family on a trip. STOP!**

**Prov.14:26-27 - Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge. 27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.**

**If I knew tomorrow for a fact something bad was going to happen to you, I would try to paint a fearful picture for you to avoid that. Summer going to creek, google snake bite to face**

**If I'm driving 60 in a 30 I’m trembling at the sight of the police. I fear the ticket. BUT - I also know if chaos breaks out, the safest place is the nearest police. That fear that doesn’t drive me away, it drives me to.**

**Same with God – A healthy fear of God should drive us to God, not away - To help you - protect you - provide for you a future, to keep you safe... The fear of God protects and provides Jesus**

**Jeremiah eventually understood - Jeremiah 32:38 They will be my people, and I will be their God. 39 I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. (If you feared God more, things might be going diff at home) 40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them: (if they do what?) I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. 41 I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul. (Leads to God’s loving provision)**

**God wants you to fear him, because that’s going lead you to a life secure in and guided by Him – the life we were created for.**

* **The fear of God humbles us – resulting in submission**

**Fear brings humility - From humility, brokenness - From brokenness, a teachable heart - From a teachable heart, direction, clarity, and confidence – from that comes gratitude and freedom!**

* **The FoG reminds us of our need – resulting in a realization of sin**

**I see the holiness of God and I see my sin – I understand I need help**

* **The FoG points us - to the cross – resulting in our salvation**

**Then God points to the blood - our remedy.**

**When we understand the fear factor of God– we understand His power and grace / His might and will / His love and protection.**

**How to respond to this (Is 6:1-8) \* Recognize the power & position of God - \* Be humble before the almighty creator - \* Acknowledge His grace & provision thru Jesus - \* Walk in gratitude of his grace and love**

**Want to know your next step? Need wisdom or direction? How to get your life together? Not a budget, book on marriage, counseling, new job, better time management, diff friends, going to church…\**

**Manuel says start here - Pro 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge... (Col 2:2-4 - all knowledge & wisdom fulfilled in Jesus)**