

(2) The Soil of Holiness : The Fear of God

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing **holiness** to completion in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

A) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the **fear of the LORD**. And his delight shall be in **the fear of the LORD**. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, (Isaiah 11:2-3)

It is the LORD your God you shall **fear**. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Then Jesus said to Him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you **serve**.” (Matthew 4:10)

For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I **may not be shaken**; (Acts 2:25)

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. (Matthew 21:12)

B) The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (Proverbs 9:10)

C)... but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with **fear** throughout the time of your exile, (1st Peter 1:15-17)

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have **no fear** of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as **holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, (1st Peter 3:13-15)

So have **no fear** of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do **not fear** those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather **fear** him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not**, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:26-31)

D) Do not be **afraid** of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord. Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” (Jer.1:8-10)

But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. **Do not be dismayed** by them, lest **I dismay you** before them. And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. (Jeremiah 1:17-18)

In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. When the house of David was told, “Syria is in league with Ephraim,” the heart of Ahaz and ***the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.*** (Isaiah 7:1-2)

And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. ***If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.*** (Isaiah 7:9)

Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he? (Isaiah 2:22)

The ***fear*** of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

And Samuel said to Saul, “The LORD sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’” So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley. Then Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart; go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and devoted to destruction all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction. (1 Samuel 15:1-9)

Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because ***I feared the people*** and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the LORD.” And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.” As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. (1 Samuel 15:24-28)

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ ***we are afraid of the crowd***, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. (Matthew 21:23-27)

But if we say, ‘From man,’ all ***the people will stone us to death***, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” (Luke 20:6)

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, *fearing the circumcision party*. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?” (Galatians 2:11-14)