

September 17, 2023

Losing Our Sense of Awe

by Rickie Jenkins

One of the things we struggle with is our sense of awe. We scarcely stand in awe of anything today. When we think about God and our relationship with Him, we ought to be impressed and feel a sense of awe. This is the God who spoke the universe into existence. This is the God whose name is above every name in heaven and on earth. This is the God who causes Satan and his demons to tremble because of their understanding of who He is.

Let's take a look at the men who stood in awe when they were in the presence of God. In Exodus 20:18-20, Moses was receiving the commandments from God while the people were standing there. The entire mountain was quaking, and smoke was billowing from the top of the mountain. The voice of God was speaking-- it was as thunder in their ears. The people are terrified for their life and they say to Moses, "You tell us what He said. You tell us what we need to know. Don't let God speak to us. We are going to die." Moses said, "That is what God wants you to feel. He wants you to have that fear so that you will not sin." They couldn't help but stand in awe and feared for their lives.

When Isaiah is called by God, he saw that the Lord was sitting on a throne (Isa. 6:1). So awesome is the presence of God in all His glory and His righteousness that Isaiah was immediately overwhelmed with a

sense of unworthiness. As he stood in the presence of the righteousness of God, he was consumed with his own unrighteousness.

John paints a picture in his Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is a picture that is awesome! John said, "When I saw Him I fell at His feet like I was dead man" (Rev 1:9-17).

How is it possible that we have difficulty reminding ourselves to bow our heads in the presence of God and worship Him? It shouldn't be hard to humble our hearts in His presence.

If we understand a thing to be sin, are we going to tell God to get over it? What is our concept of God? Do we think we can hide from Him, fool Him, or think it just doesn't matter? Two thousand and twenty-three years ago, the blood of Christ declared that sin matters. Every sin matters. We would do well to open our eyes and tremble in His presence. When we start to think sin isn't really all that bad, we have lost sight of our wonder and amazement for God.

We have lost our sense of awe for God when we respond to His revelation as if it were a suggestion or doesn't matter. The person who can respond to the inspired word of God and say it's not important and God doesn't care if we do it or not -- that person doesn't understand who God is. Truth matters because of Him from whom it came. Anyone who is

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, September 29 - October 1

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, September 26 at 10 a.m.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

disrespectful of truth is disrespectful of God.

What if when we assembled next, God caused the ground to open up, thunder and lightning flashed, and the voice of a trumpet would sound. God would bring us to our knees in wonder and reverence in His presence. Would that solve the problem of our indifference toward worship, sin and His revelation? Would it make an impression in our hearts we would never forget? Might think so, but it didn't for Israel. They still drifted away from God. It is the heart that must be changed.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing immunotherapy.

Tristen Boatright has a procedure coming up on the 19th to remove a cyst.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s application for all the saints,” (Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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