

PO Box 991752 Louisville, KY 40269 502-939-9269 daniel@abbasdelight.com www.abbasdelight.com

Est. Apr 2008 Daniel Mingo, Founder and Min Director NEWSLETTER–September 2018

wholeness network Hope For Wholeness Referral Ministry

He rescued me because He delighted in me. Ps 18:19b

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1

From the archives, I'm presenting again our January 2015 article.

The Fear of the Lord

For the past few months, the Holy Spirit has been speaking to me about my lack of the fear of the Lord in some areas of my life. More too often than I care to admit, I would find myself in situations where I know that what I would want to say, what I would want to look at, where I would want to go, or what I would want to think, were not God's highest for me, yet I would indulge myself anyway. If I am honest with myself, in these cases I would consider my choices to indulge as rebellion and defiance; definitely a lack of the fear of the Lord. I was willing to sin intentionally without paying any heed to what consequences to my actions I might face, either immediate or far-reaching or cumulative. James 4:17 says, "Therefore, the one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin." That's me!

The Institute in Basic Life Principles, www.iblp.org, gives this definition: "The fear of the Lord is an awareness that you are in the presence of a holy, just, and almighty God and that He will hold you accountable for your motives, thoughts, words, and actions. To fear God is to desire to live in harmony with His righteous standards and to honor Him in all that you do." As a follower of Jesus, to me this seems reasonable and well-stated. I like this definition because it doesn't suggest that I need to feel terrified of God.

So I turned to the Scriptures and started with the verse everyone knows, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." I found that there is so much more He has to say than that. There are a few places in 2 Chronicles where the passages talk about the people having the fear of the Lord, especially as it related to making sure they completely destroyed their enemies in battle. In 2 Chronicles 19:7, in this instruction to the judges who were appointed in Judah, the text reads, "Now then let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you

do, for the Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness, or partiality, or the taking of a bribe." Job declares, "And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." David speaks of the fear of the Lord as something to be taught to our children when he states, "Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord," in Psalm 34:11. How many of us intentionally invested in our sons and daughters to do that?

The writers of Proverbs tell us much about the fear of the Lord, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way, and the perverted mouth, I hate." 8:13 If you wish to live a long life, follow 10:27, which says, "The fear of the Lord prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened. Often, when wicked is used in the Old Testament, it is defined as an actively bad person. 14:26 says, "In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have refuge." For those of us who tend to put our trust in earthly riches, we are told, "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and turmoil with it. 15:16 "By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil." 16:6 Additionally, there are great benefits to walking in the fear of the Lord as pointed out in 22:4, which states, "The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life." And as well, we see it is possible to always live in the fear of the Lord as the writer challenges us in, "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but live in the fear of the Lord all the day. And then in Acts 9:31, we have a corporate picture of the blessings offered as Luke writes, "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase."

There are many, many more Biblical encouragements to live in the fear of the Lord, but my favorite is the description of the example of Jesus in Isaiah 11:2-3a, "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And He will delight in the fear of the Lord..." That's what I want! My heart is to come to the place where I yearn to delight in the fear of the Lord; a place where delighting and living in the fear of the Lord comes as second nature to me; a place that, when I'm tempted to engage in self-government of any kind, my heart and thoughts go directly to delighting in the fear of the Lord, and that be enough to dissuade me from leaving His will. That's where I want to be!

Responses From You

From a sister in Louisville, KY: Daniel, as we discussed last night, identity is the key. You nailed it here when you said, "it is a component of the will of God that our identity be in Christ Jesus, in no one else or nothing else... Because my identity is in Christ, and my destiny is tied up in His plan and purpose for my life here on earth as well as in heaven, I choose to leave behind any identity that binds me to the sins of my life. I am defined not by my sinful nature to which I die daily, but by my sonship in the kingdom of God. I desire no other identity than that, the one my Father has given me." Praying that we all will see ourselves as He sees us, and consequently how He sees our brethren. Blessings to you and Fran

From a sister in IN: Yes, and amen!!

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thursday, October 4, 2018; Thursday, October 18, 2018 Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, October 9, 2018; Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Upcoming Prayer Initiatives

Louisville Prayer Breakfast: Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 7:00-8:30am at the Ramada Inn on Zorn Avenue at I-71. \$6.00 Continental Breakfast. Speaker is Phill Drake. He is the founder of A.R.C, Addicts Redeemed by Christ, a 12-step recovery program for men with sexual addictions, and is a Lifecoach with Pathfinder.

1 Voice Prayer Movement: Friday, October 5, 2018, 6:00pm at New Morning Star Baptist Church, 659 South 27th Street, Louisville, KY 40211. Reverend Purvis, Host Pastor

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- New participants for our Overcomers group
- New members for our Family & Friends group
- Ministry finances
- Open doors to churches so pastors and staff can be effectively equipped
- Opportunities to exhibit Abba's Delight ministry at outside conferences
- Those being served by Abba's Delight ministry currently that they would continue to grow closer to the Lord and fulfill each of their destinies in Him
- The Hope for Wholeness network (of which Abba's Delight is a referral ministry) in selecting a new Executive Director
- 2 New Female Directors for the Abba's Delight Board

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Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25