

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. We hope you are well and discovering new ways to relate to God and His Word.

"TO FEAR OR NOT TO FEAR" | PSALM 103: 11-17 | PASTOR DAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is something that usually created awe and wonder?

Psalm 103:11

The writer begins to go over the benefits of fearing the Lord. What are ways to explain how it is a good thing to fear the Lord?

Psalm 103:13

God is compared to a loving Father to children who fear Him. In what ways does the idea of fearing and loving the same person seem confusing? In what ways does the idea of fearing and loving the same person make sense?

Psalm 103:17

This psalm says the fearing the Lord will extend to future generations. In what ways has the awe and wonder and fear of the Lord that you've seen in other believers impacted you?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Dan repeatedly showed how fearing the Lord is part of a healthy understanding of who God is and to the growth of the church at different moments in history. It starts with turning to God and being in awe of Him and seeing how truly powerful He is and how weak we are. When was the last time you reflected on God's greatness? How did it impact you?

To Fear or Not to Fear

Psalm 103:11 | "For his **unfailing love** toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth."

Psalm 103:13 | "The LORD is like a father to his children, **tender and compassionate** to those who fear him."

Psalm 103:17 | "But the love of the LORD **remains forever** with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children"

1. Be honest with me what do you have underlined in this passage unfailing love? Tender, compassion? God's love remains or those who fear Him?
2. **(Lk 5:8)** When Jesus met Peter he fell to his knees, awestruck, Jesus said don't be afraid.
3. Things happen in the presence of greatness and it troubles us. .
 - a. The fear of God isn't that he is going to smoke us.
 - b. The fear of God is that he could but loves instead.
 - c. After Peter's profession it says that James, and John -They left all in the fear of Jesus.
4. **(Mk 4:41)** When Jesus calmed the storm they were terrified and amazed.
5. **(Mt 9:7)** After Jesus healed the paralyzed man in his home town and the people were overcome by fear and they praised God.
6. **TO KNOW GOD AS FATHER, AS ABBA IN THE TRUEST SENSE WILL NOT ONLY BRING THE DEEPEST INTIMACY, BUT OUGHT TO ALSO BRING WONDER AND AWE.**
7. We either become afraid of God or we fear Him.
 - a. They are not the same
 - b. John Piper compares the fear of God to an arctic Storm.**
8. Acts 9:31 look at how fear and were encouraged.

Acts 9:31 | "The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers."

- a. Second the church grew. Revival
- b. Not by some program but by the greatness of God arousing fear and His goodness encouraging the church.

A.W. Tozer writes that "the greatness of God arouses fear but His goodness encourages us to not be afraid."

- c. When is the last time you thought about prayer and the fear of the Lord to grip our community.....

To Fear or Not to Fear

9. The way we fear draws us to God.....
 - a. There is natural fear
 - b. This is not a bad thing.
 - c. It becomes bad when we work apart from God.
 - d. We don't trust the nature and character of God.

Proverbs 3:7 | "Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil."

- a. The fear of the Lord should lead us away from following our own wisdom but seeking instead to take on the divine nature.....
- b. When we emote fear its not asking yourself what should I do, but God what are you showing me and where do you want me to grow?
- c. Of course if you see a Mac truck coming this is not what I am talking about.

Psalm 34:11 | "Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the LORD."

10. We can develop a fear of the Lord. This is great news.
 - a. Curiosity about the greatness of God.
 - b. Awe and reverence are the reward of teaching.
11. **DEVELOPING** a maturing fear of the Lord in our life.
 - a. **CONTEMPLATE** - Stop the noise.
 - b. **CULTIVATE** – We are educated and should take full advantage.
 - i. This doesn't happen in a week.
 - ii. This is our goal over a life time to know Him
 - c. **CONNECT** – Allow His presence and power to make change in your life to grow in Christ likeness.
 - i. This takes intentionality
 - d. **COMMUNICATE** – Inviting Christ into everything.
 - i. Of course prayer
 - ii. Of course worship
 - iii. Of course fellowship
 - iv. Of course thought life
 - v. Into our suffering

12. THE FEAR OF THE LORD PRODUCES SPIRITUAL ADRENALINE

- a. Emaus Road "didn't our hearts burn within us when he spoke to us"
- b. Instead of being afraid of God get as close as you can and tremble at His greatness.
 - i. Allow change
 - ii. Do some task difficult instead of comfortable.
 - iii. Stretch yourself relationally