

Learning the Fear of the Eternal

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Brethren, one of the things that happens to humans, and particularly and often in the Church (is probably a better way to put it), is that we don't put God into the awe that we should, how great God is.

I remember looking back over the story of Job when God says, "Well, where were you?" and it's a great question. "Where were you when I created 'this' and 'that'?" So, what we realize is that we as humans don't put God in awe. That's the context of the sermon that we don't place God in the greatness in our minds in everything that we do, that God is the Eternal Great God, and that He is almighty. It's something that we just don't fully comprehend within the carnal natural mind. We just don't see it.

So, within that context of the greatness of God, it's just that God is so all-powerful, He has existed forever, and we are temporary. We just don't simply put God in the place where we should within our own mind, within our lives. So, within that context, we're going to go through today's sermon.

In the churches of the world, people are told to "come as they are." It's more about numbers than it is about repentance because unless a person is called, of course, they can't really see what is needed to be repented of. In the churches of the world, people are not required to demonstrate any level of repentance of the ways of God. Because that's what's required within God's true Church.

The world teaches only what they consider important to them. For example, if you look at the Catholic church, what they teach with regards to christening, which in itself is stupidity. But that's what they teach because they're not called to see anything different.

Whereas God's true Church teaches the truth, and that's really a big difference. They don't teach the truth; God's Church teaches the truth. The only way someone can truly come to God's true Church is after they have been called by God the Father and have demonstrated a level of obedience to God's word. Now they can request to be baptized and receive the gift of God's holy spirit.

Humans just simply don't know what is evil. Now, there's a scripture that talks about mankind calling evil good and good evil. Well, that's what we live in. We live in a world that calls evil good, and they just live their lives accordingly.

Well, within God's true Church, we know what good is and we know what evil is because evil exists within our minds. That's what we learn once we're called. That's what we see. So, we are called to demonstrate the choice that we have made. That choice is we have chosen to strive to overcome evil that exists within us and to live, to demonstrate good.

Now, good is God's word. Everything good comes from God. "Only God is good," the scripture says. Now when a person is called, they can come to see the truth, believe the truth. They have to choose it

though. Because people sometimes are called but they still don't choose what is good. They will look at it and think, "Yeah, that looks right," but because of peer pressure and all the other things in life, they choose to live their life and ignore what God is offering them because they don't see the Eternal Great God. Because what God is offering is absolutely amazing! Because when you look at physical life and how temporary it is, and here is God, the Eternal being (which we can't fully understand), that is offering us something so great, so important. The mind can't grasp it. It's so incredible.

We don't deserve anything, we're just temporary. God owes us nothing, and yet He is willing to offer us something for eternity, for forever, to have eternal life – life everlasting.

Well, once called a person now can begin to choose to live the truth, and that's so important. It's a choice. We have to choose to live the truth. Now, we're going to be challenged in all different ways of life about what we will choose. Now a person can begin to process and learn the fear of the Eternal because that's what this sermon is all about.

Humans not called do not fear the Eternal. They do not fear God. Why? Because they don't know Him. They don't understand the greatness of God. But we have been called to learn to fear God, and we're going to look at that topic today.

Let's look at John 6:44, which everyone will be very familiar with because Mr. Armstrong used to go through this often. This is something that the churches that are scattered have lost sight of because this is the only way to come to see God, to truly understand God, and to see God.

John 6:44—No one—that's no one—**can come to me**, that's to Christ, because we can't see God's plan. We can't see the awe of God. And of course, Christ, which was sent by God the Father, created as a man that was now given this opportunity to perform a particular role, which is the Passover.

...unless the Father who sent me, because Christ was in God's plan, the beginning of God's plan. This is the way that sin could be covered for us because we are given a mind that is riddled with sin, riddled with evil. **...draws him**. Now, we have been drawn by God the Father. Now, this in itself is an amazing thing that we should not lose sight of because it is such an awesome thing.

When you look at the population of the world and then you see how many people have actually been called, and out of those how many have actually chosen to obey God, to fear God, to hold God in the awe that He should be, the reverence? There's few; there are not many left now.

That's what the future holds. People are going to be given, some people are going to be given, the opportunity to truly "see" God. It's an amazing thing that we've been given that opportunity, hence we should look at our calling now and hold it in great respect. It's an awesome thing! Because the Eternal Great God who has existed forever has decided to choose you and me with a calling.

Now, we're not chosen to enter Elohim yet, but we've been called for that purpose, to see God, to respect Him. He's the only one that is good. Everything else is, around us that we do, is evil. But God's creation is good. It's beautiful. But it was done for us so that we could live a life and choose Him.

Now, many have not chosen God. But we know there's 144,000 that at the end when Christ returns have chosen God. Then there's a small group of people that continue to live their life because they keep choosing to obey God (which is what is left over) and continue on into the Millennium.

Once called, a person is required to think differently, which is about repentance, than they naturally do. It's a beautiful thing if we really understand what repentance is. Repentance, of course, is to think differently. Well, that's what a calling is about. A calling is about coming to see God, holding Him in awe and respect, revering Him for what He is (because we don't see Him fully as He is), and then to choose His way of life. That's what life is about.

So, we're called to think differently than we normally do. We are then required to learn to fear God. Now, that's what we're doing. Anybody in the Body of Christ is learning to fear God. Now, we might think, "Oh, well, we fear God." Well, there is something we have to learn over time because when we see sin we then realize, God's revealed it to us that we see in ourselves that now is the opportunity for us to now begin to demonstrate the fear of the Eternal, which is to take His word and to live it, put it into our life and to change the way we think, which is to think differently.

Once called, a person is required to repent, which is to come to know sin. We see it and think, "Ah, I don't want to be like that. I want to get rid of that." There are often battles in that. I know in my own personal life there's a continual battle with certain things coming out of my mouth and in my mind, that it's a constant thing. But we have to learn to fear God, which is to say, "Right, this is wrong. What I'm thinking, what I'm saying, what I'm doing is wrong"—see it often afterward—and say, "No, I don't want to be like that. I don't want that way. I want God's way," which is always the truth.

So, we're required now to learn to fear God. Learning to fear God will be demonstrated by obedience to every word of God. I want to read that again because that is the most important thing. People say, well, you know, they see God. Well, they don't, because really it's about demonstrating a way of life, demonstrating by obedience to every word of God because God is right. God is pure. God is truthful. So, we have to demonstrate it by the way we live. We've got to change the way we think and live a different way of life.

Some examples we see in the beginning of it is keeping the seventh day Sabbath. The Holy Days, tithing, and giving offerings is a start. So, they're a starting point that demonstrates clearly that we fear God, which the word "fear" really is "to revere; to hold in awe; to respect" is another way to put it. So, we respect God's word. If God says, "Do this," we then decide, ah, that's what we need to do. We need to demonstrate it in our life.

Not tithing correctly and not giving an offering is committing evil, choosing evil, practicing evil, because it's going against what God said. So, anybody that may be fooling around with their tithing, that person is practicing evil. They do not fear God. They're not holding God with the respect and in awe or revere Him. It's not fear, "Oooo, tremble." No, we come to see that God is almighty and that He deserves (from weak, pathetic humans), He deserves the awe and respect, He deserves the fear, which is that respect. Because God is pure, God is right, and He has existed forever. And what are we?

Surely that greater being that we can see in our minds, we would tremble at every word of God and go, "Whoa, I best do my tithing correctly." "I best do my offerings." "I best keep the Sabbath." "I best do the Holy Days." Pretty straightforward when you think about it. So, a person choosing to not tithe correctly is practicing evil. Simple.

Let's look at an example of Joshua and Satan in Luke 4:4.

Luke 4:4—But Joshua answered him, talking about answering Satan, **saying, It is written, man**, which is **mankind shall not live by bread alone**. So, it's just not physical life that we should be thinking about, the way we live and eating and consuming physical things. ...**but we're to live by every word of God**.

Now, that is an incredible scripture, and we will only do that once we really come to see God. Because if we see God and hold Him in awe and revere Him and respect Him, which is the fear of the Eternal, to fear God, well, if we see that we would then choose to live by every word of God because God is right. We're wrong, God is right.

A person of God will demonstrate the fear of God by their obedience to God's word. That's what we do, brethren. By keeping the Sabbath, the Holy Days, and other things in our life and working on our minds, we are demonstrating we fear God.

Once a person has received the gift of God's holy spirit by the laying on of hands of a true minister of God, now God and Christ will work with and in them to transform their thinking, the way they think, transforming their minds. It's a marvelous thing that's taking place.

So, this creation that God has undertaken to do out of His love for His creation, He had decided a long time ago that He desired a family. The only way it could be done is this way, which is create a physical, human being with a mind that is against Him, and then once that person is drawn and called, they then begin to see themselves, they begin to see God more and more in more and more detail. They then have to choose to obey, choose to yield to God, hold God in awe, fear God. They now can learn to fear the Lord, fear the Eternal in their life. That's what life is about, coming to learn to hold God in the awe and the respect and the reverence that we should. Once we're called, that's what we should do.

Now, when we really look at it we can see that people leave the Body of Christ. And why is that? There are lots of reasons. Of course, generally, it's to do with they disagree because their mind starts to wander, and they disagree with something God's prophet has said or something the Church does or

whatever. That's one of the big reasons why, because it's disagreement. But deep underneath that what is it about? It's really about this fear of God. They no longer truly fear God, live by every word of God in their life, and they no longer believe that God is obviously working in the Church, through the Church, through the ministry, through God's apostle, God's prophet.

But that's why people leave because they disagree with God. That's what it's really all about.

The purpose of this sermon is to look at what it means to fear the Eternal, to fear the Lord. The title of this sermon is *Learning to Fear the Eternal*. Now, why that title is because it's something we learn.

I know from the day when I was first called, I've learned a lot about God and about God's way of life, God's thinking, and that God is right and that I am wrong. But it is a learning experience, and we learn through experience. So, we've got to experience life, we experience doing things wrong to make a choice, to say, "Ah."

It's not like we're perfect from the beginning by any means. It's the opposite actually. We begin to see how evil we really are by nature. That's what we learn. We learn it over time and through experience and through living life and living life in the Church. We see more in ourselves, and we see the difference. We see and hold God in awe because of His words. His word is right and correct. We begin to see that more and more in our life, and therefore, we begin to change, we begin to think differently, repent of things, and change. But we're never going to be complete, of course, until we're changed to spirit. And then, of course, we will continue to learn about the Eternal.

Deuteronomy 28:15—But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments, which are all His instructions. So, this is really about if we don't obey. Because this is what it really is about. Obedience to God is the fear of God because we hold God in awe. We actually see God more, in more detail in our minds, and we realize we're pathetic and we need to change the way we think because we think wrongly.

God thinks correctly. Everything God does is righteous and is right. We don't. Everything we do, our natural carnal mind is actually wrong. Even though a person might (so-called) keep a Sabbath. They're still wrong if they're not in God's Church because the motive behind it, the intent behind it is not godly. It's not holding God's word in awe.

Now, there are some religions that do take aspects of God's way of life and live those things, but it's still wrong in the sense they're still sinning. It's not that they're wrong in the sense of obeying God, but they're wrong because of their motive.

But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments (instructions) **and His statutes, which I** (which is Moses) **command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you,** in other words, reach you. There is a penalty to be paid for not fearing the Eternal.

That's what we're seeing going on in the world. Mankind is paying a penalty for not holding God with the respect and awe (because they don't know God) as they should. Even the basics of life they're not doing. They're just going off in their own ways. So, mankind is going to pay a penalty and will always pay a penalty.

Well, brethren, we're the same. We can pay a penalty for not living by every word of God, which is what Christ said to Satan. Mankind should live by every word of God. Not just little bits and pieces. Hence, when decisions have to be made we then turn around and look at ourselves and think, "Maybe I need to check God's word and what God says about this." Now, often I've checked God's word about certain things and realize how far off the mark I have been. Well, you're exactly the same. We're all the same. We all think we're doing the right thing, but not necessarily always according to God's word because our selfishness will take over.

Romans 12:1—I (Paul) **beseech you therefore, brethren, by the compassion**, or it is the "mercies," **the compassion of God, that you yield** (you present) **your bodies a living sacrifice**. What's that? Well, that is a person who holds God in awe and is willing to deny their own selfishness. Other people's selfishness is not the issue, our selfishness is the issue.

...**holy** (which is separate) **acceptable** (which is well-pleasing) **to God, which is your reasonable** (logical) **service**. If we understand the purpose of our calling, which we should, it's only logical if we hold God in awe and understand what's really going on in life. It's only logical that we would yield. Because that's the purpose of life while we've been called, to learn to yield to God. Yield, sacrifice our own selfish desires to please God, which means we're going to live by every word of God. We're not going to please self; we're going to look to God and try to please God.

Now, you think about what we do in everyday life. Well, generally we live our life pleasing ourselves. That's just natural that we do it. But God says we're to live our life to please Him. And how do we please Him? What would be the most joyous thing God can see? A repentant person, a person who repents and lives by His pure, righteous word – who chooses to do that. That's what our life in the Church is about, choosing to fear God, to obey Him. That's what we strive our whole life.

Now, when we start off, we very zealously, generally, do this according to our knowledge. But as we go longer in the Body of Christ our knowledge increases, and therefore, we tend to see more finer details about our selfishness, and therefore, we then learn the way God says. We often read a scripture and see a particular scripture and we think we understand it. Then maybe eighteen years later we read it again and go, "Ah, now I see," because that's God giving us the ability to see. That happens the more we learn to fear God. The more we look to His word as our guide the greater God can bless us because we're looking to Him to guide us in this physical life.

Verse 2—**And do not be conformed**, which is **do not take sides with this world, but be transformed by the renewing** (renovating) **of your mind**. So, we are in the process in the Body of Christ of renovating.

Now, renovating is just stripping out all the old stuff and putting in new stuff. Well, that's what our life is about. It's stripping out the old stuff through repentance and wanting to get rid of it, not wanting to choose that ever again – and just through habit we often do things. Well, God's saying He will help us. We're renovating our minds and it's Christ and God that are doing it really, because of ourselves we can't do it. We can only renew our mind through the power of God's holy spirit.

...towards proving what is that good and acceptable and perfect will/perfect desire of God. So, what is God's desire? God's desire is that we choose Him, that we choose to live by every word of God, choose to fear the Eternal, hold Him in awe, hold Him in reverence, to revere Him. He is the Almighty, the Eternal God. What are we? We're nothing.

Basically, we desire to please God by agreeing with Him and His word. So, every time we choose to live by God's word it pleases God because He wants to give us life everlasting in Elohim, and it can only be done if we agree with Him. God is not going to give to somebody life everlasting if they disagree with Him. But if we are striving by choosing to obey Him, to fear Him, respect His word, God says He's got something for us. That is life everlasting in Elohim, to live forever.

And if we see that, we would be doing a lot more about overcoming our selfishness because it's such an incredible gift. I was thinking the other day and talking about it with Chris that the beauty of God's plan is that if a person chooses not to hold God in awe, to not fear Him, to not respect Him, to not be obedient to Him, there's going to come a point where they will lose life, and therefore, what comes out of that is that they have no consciousness. They will never know that they even existed.

Just like Satan and the demons, they're going to have no ability to think, "Oh, if only..." No. It'll be as if they never existed ever. Same with humans. It's not like somebody is going to be put to death and then think, "Oh, I wish I had done better." It doesn't work like that. Now, it's as if they never, ever existed, no consciousness, nothing. Nothing. The only thing that's going to exist is Elohim and the angelic realm that obeys God and has set their minds to obey God. God has set their minds. So, it's an incredible thing.

Well, that's what's been offered to those who have been called for the purpose of entering Elohim. And not everybody will choose it even though called. They will not necessarily choose it. That's been clearly demonstrated over the years, that man, even though they're given the opportunity, does not fear God, does not hold God in the awe and the might that He has and the power and the incredible things.

Just like a healing where people have been healed instantly. What an incredible power that God can do that and just reorganize physical matter like that. It's nothing to God. He does it out of His compassion and for many other reasons and motivations that would be there with regard to His greatness, to give praise and glory to Him. Like the healing of lepers and things like that, incredible things all for the glory of God. But people don't fear God, people don't hold God in awe as they should.

Even in the Church, we, brethren, have not always held God in the awe and the power and the glory of the Eternal Great God. We haven't come to really know Him yet. We know Him to a degree, but not really know Him. It's a marvelous thing that is offered to mankind once called.

The only way a mind can begin to be spiritually transformed is by the power of God's holy spirit. So, it's a gift from God, and if we have had that opportunity and had that gift given to us, how much more should we hold God in awe? The fact that what He's given us where there's all these billions of people it hasn't been offered to.

The only way a person can learn to fear the Eternal in spirit and truth is by the power of God's holy spirit. So, this fearing God is not about, "Oh, I'm terrified that God's going to punish me." That's not what it's about. Fear of God is coming to see that God is right, that God is righteous, and that His word is for our benefit, that He can't sin. We do, and we choose His way of life, and it's a freewill choice.

Therefore, humans in the world without God's holy spirit cannot learn to fear the Eternal in spirit and truth. Absolutely impossible. Even though there are some people who do keep some of God's word (physical level), they do not, and they cannot, do it properly because they can't learn to fear, which is to hold God in the awe that we should in spirit and truth. Because it has to be done in the truth. To fear God is to obey His word.

There are some principles about governing kings that I wanted to touch on because they're relevant to God's people. Deuteronomy 17:14. Now, this is about how a king (physical) looking after Israel, or they should have that function.

Well, we in the Body of Christ should do something very similar because here we are, we understand the power and the glory of God, and the righteousness of God to a degree, and we've been called to put on the mind of Christ. There's a particular way that that can happen. It's through repentance, of course, and choosing to live God's word.

Deuteronomy 17:14—When you, it's talking about the peoples of Israel, **come into the land.** It's similar to how we come into the Body of Christ, come into the Church **which the Eternal your God is giving you,** because it's God that's given us the Church. In 31 AD, God gave the Church for a reason – to nurture and develop Elohim, our potential. **...and possess it and dwell in it, and say, I will set a king over me like all the nations all around me.** So, they wanted to be like the world.

You shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses. So, this tells you straight forward it's about who God chooses. Now, I often think about this with regard to the ministry. God's apostle was chosen by God. It wasn't an election, not a voting (that's going on at the moment that I'm doing this recording). So, it's not human voting.

And in the Millennium and the Hundred Years, it's not going to be by voting. "I think Tom should be the evangelist." Or "I think Tom should be the elder." Or "I think..." No, it's not about what we think, it's

about what God is doing because we have to take ourselves beyond this physical life to the future, which is a life in Elohim where there is no sin and that everything that is done is done in righteousness. What an incredible thing. It's not our decision within the Church. Whatever the ruling is, it's God's decision. So, it's "whom God, the Lord your God chooses." Not by human voting.

...one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you. You may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. Well, it goes back to this very same point. It's God that chooses the ministry. It's God that chooses someone to come into the Body of Christ. It was God who chose to call us. It always goes back to God's plan, what God is doing. It's not what we're doing, it's what God is doing, and we should try to remember that every moment of our life. It's what's God is doing.

How incredible is our calling if we understood it to the degree we should? An incredible thing. We have been called at this time to do and fulfill a particular role, and the end result is life everlasting in Elohim. I'm getting over the 70's now, life, there's not much more time left for me, and yet I look back and I think all the things I could have done, all the things I should have done, that I've failed in and I'm still failing in. How pathetic. How pathetic to think that I let human nature take over when I see all of this that God has granted me to see, all this. Incredible.

We're all the same, brethren. We're all at different levels to different degrees, but it's God that's called us. God's placed us here for a purpose and we've got different responsibilities all in the Body. One big responsibility we all have? Fight self, get rid of selfishness, and live by every word of God. That's what we've all got to do.

Verse 16—But he shall not multiply horses for himself. In other words, this was about the king and to build up a big army so he could feel, "Oh, I'm safe now." No, we rely on God, we trust in God so we're not to build things up.

...nor cause people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Eternal said to you, You shall not return that way to Egypt. Now, this is on a spiritual principle, we should not go back to the ways of the world, what we've been called out of. Not to go back to the stupidity of the world. There is one Eternal God. We shouldn't go back to believing something completely opposite to what God has given to us.

So, the Apostasy was like going back to Egypt. This is what it was. It was getting rid of all of God's word that God had spent so much patience in placing it in the Body of Christ through Herbert W. Armstrong. Then to go along and then to undo it all and throw it all out? Incredible stuff. The Apostasy was like sending people back to Egypt. The whole lot, everybody, we'd all gone to sleep. I was one of them. And yet went back to Egypt. I'd gone back to Egypt in my mind, which was just a physical, mechanical routine we were in. It had nothing to do with overcoming sin – at that point for me, anyway.

Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away. Turn from what? From God! So, we have to be very careful about what we do. These instructions that God has said, it's about our mind, it's about our thinking. **...nor shall greatly multiply silver or gold to himself.**

Verse 18—Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book. Now, this is about coming to get the mind, to see that as you write it down you would see certain things. Certain things would jump out at the mind and say, "Ah, so this is God's word." So, we're going to live by it, therefore, we better know it. We'd best write it down, write it down, and therefore, in the end, that king would have to make a ruling or decision, and it should be based on God's word, the direction and guidance would come from God's word. It wouldn't be just the natural carnal mind.

...from before the priests, the Levites. It's about what God states, not what we think. So, it's all about what God says is right and wrong.

I often think about in today's society, I watch some programs where a person may have killed three or four people and done terrible things to them and they'll get twenty-five years. "Life" so called. The next minute, you know, some of them without parole, some are with parole, but we're keeping a sick, perverted mind alive when God says it should be destroyed because it might still have potential. It may not, depends on how far it's gone. But what God says is to destroy it, and therefore, it wouldn't be a problem.

But the family then has an appeal and then the family has to go through the whole nightmare again and then ten years later another appeal and the whole nightmare again. The potential is that person will be released. It's just staggering what man is doing. That's man's righteousness, what he thinks is right, not what God says.

Verse 19—And it shall be with him, and he shall read it, this is the book, five books, first five books of the law, **all the days of his life.** Why? So, why is the king doing that? It's like, why are we listening to Sabbath services? Sermons that are given, why are we listening to them? **...that he (that's us) may learn to fear the Eternal his God.**

It's about making wise choices and decisions in our life. So, we know that we can be guided spiritually by God because He has established the Church to give us that guidance, and therefore, we have to make a choice what we are going to do. Are we going to actually do it? Are we going to listen to it and do it versus just listen to it? Choices.

...and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes. So, that's what the king had to do. Well, that's what we have to do. We have to live by every word of God. And by doing that, we're learning to fear the Eternal.

Verse 20—that his heart/thinking may not be lifted up above his brethren, which has to do with pride. “I’m important, my opinion is better (stronger) than yours because I’m better than you. Can’t you see that I’m the king?!” Well, we’re in the Church, brethren. Same principle applies. We have to be very careful that we don’t have opinions or views that are contrary to what God is saying.

... to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, and he and his children in the midst of Israel. That was something physical, but we can take that from a spiritual point of view and take the principles out. It’s about living every word of God, and that’s every word of God because God is right.

1 Samuel 12:13—Now therefore, here is the king, this was Saul, **whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the Eternal has set a king over you.** In the Church today we could take the same principle. “Take note that the Eternal, Yahweh Elohim, the Eternal God, the God that we should fear and respect, has set an apostle and prophet over you.” Now, we don’t look at it that way. We think, “Oh, God chose Moses.” Well, it’s the same principle, brethren. We want to be very careful about the way we think and words that we say that we should learn to take note that God has done this. God set up Mr. Armstrong. God did it. It wasn’t him doing it by himself.

Why? To teach and lead us in the word of God, the truth. So, that’s what God has done. Now, the choice to live by it, live every word of God and to believe God, that is a personal choice. But God is doing His part. It’s a matter of whether we’re doing our part.

Verse 14—If you fear, which is revere. So, it’s to “respect; hold in awe.” So, we revere God’s word. **If you fear the Lord (the Eternal) and serve Him, and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God.** Well, that’s a straightforward principle. If the leader teaches the truth, people follow, because that’s what normally happens.

Well, look what happened to the Apostasy where there was a decision to be made, a choice to be made because rubbish started to be spewed out and people had to make a choice. We’re going to fear God and stick to what God has said or we’re going to follow what a man is saying. That’s what we have to work out. But God teaches us the truth. It’s coming from God. Now it’s up to us to make a decision.

Verse 15—However, if you do not obey the voice of the Eternal—it’s like Church government—and rebel against the commandment, the instructions of the Eternal, then the hand of the Eternal will be against you. And if we’re cut off from the flow of God’s holy spirit, it’s the same thing. The flow of God’s holy spirit is like being cut off. The Eternal is against you.

Well, God wants to give us His spirit, wants to give us the truth, wants to give us everything, wants to give us life everlasting. We can cut that off because of we’re rebelling against God.

...as it was against your fathers. There will be an execution of judgment against those who do not yield to God's instructions. Now, doesn't happen automatically, instantly, being cut off from God's holy spirit, but it can be squeezed down. But this death penalty, the second death, it doesn't happen straight away. The penalty is not paid. The execution of judgment. There are certain times God is very patient working slowly, quietly with us, and we're either responding or we're not. But there comes a point in time where God will go the execution of judgment has to take place because time's up, we've had plenty of time.

Well, same principle applies to us on a spiritual level. We, brethren, have been given time. We've seen a truth; we see it to different degrees. There is some given at different times like 2010 where there was a lot given. Well, we then have a choice. We see different things, different levels. It's been gone back over of recent times. And to look at it again, we all can learn a bit more, see a bit more.

The point is God has established a way that will reveal whether we will obey His voice, yield to His word or not. That has been established. Now, Church government is one way. That way has been established by God to see what we'll do. It's up to us.

Another point is we must learn wisdom over time and by experience. Because wisdom is God's mind, God's thinking, God's word. That's all wisdom. Well, we can hear it, we have knowledge of it, then of course we've got to get to that point where we understand it more. Well, we can understand it more if we understand the main principle here which is to hold God in awe, to revere His word. That's one of the principles. If we revere His word we may not fully understand why it's stated like that or how, or we might not see ourselves to that degree, but if we hold God's word in awe, God in time will give us the wisdom of it. We might see a bit more of the understanding of it but the wisdom of it is actually the living of it, the doing of it.

We learn wisdom and the fear of God by obedience and living, implementing God's word. Obedience to God's word is living wisdom. We cannot have peace unless we fear God. Because the natural carnal mind, there is no peace, there is only drama. But if we've learned to fear God we then can have peace because we're putting God's word first and living it. And the more we choose it, the more we choose it, the more peace we will have.

Only God is wise, and therefore, we must turn to His thinking, His word to be able to make wise decisions. We can't rely on our natural carnal mind because it will always make a choice to please self not to please God.

Proverbs 1:1. We're going to go through part of the Proverbs here because in it there is great wisdom from these things. It's all about putting God's word first in our life no matter what it is. Every decision we make we should, hopefully, ask God about it, have talked about to God about it, and God will guide us in those matters.

Proverbs 1:1—The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, which is all about God’s word, how God thinks about a matter.

To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear and increase learning. So, if any of us, male or female, are wise in any way, we would then hear what God has got to say about a matter and increase our learning of that matter so that we can see how God views it.

Now, one of the main points of course is this is all physical. It’s temporary. All our decisions should be done to please God. Everything. Everything we do, and if we make that choice there is an enormous and incredible reward. We can talk about it, we understand it to a degree, but we don’t fully understand it, to what it’s going to be really like. It’s amazing. Knowing that’s all that’s going to exist, God’s family and angels, the right ones, the ones that obeyed God, that’s all that’s going to exist. Anything against God is going to be gotten rid of. You’d think if we could keep that in the forefront of our minds we’d be a different people.

And a man of understanding will retain wise counsel. How? By using God’s word as our guide. That’s how we would maintain wise counsel. Because we seek God’s word, we go through it and look at it, study it, and go, ah, and then God’s Church will guide us even more through things that are said.

To understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles. (Verse 7) The fear of the Eternal, to revere God, to respect God, put God in the place that He should be within our minds within the Church. God is almighty. God is awesome. He is Yahweh Elohim. He created it all, everything physical.

How does something physical stay together? It’s all in God’s mind. How does God hear thousands of prayers? How does God know everything? It says God knows every hair of our head, God knows when a bird falls to the ground. How? What sort of a mind? We can’t comprehend it because we’re limited. I can only think of one thing at once. If there is any real noise going on out back I can’t concentrate. Pathetic in comparison. We should hold God in awe, that He can do all these things. It’s nothing to God. Nothing is impossible for God.

The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of knowledge. So, once we hold God in awe we then start to begin to have this knowledge of God’s way of life. That’s what we’re called into the Church for, so we can have that knowledge.

But fools despise wisdom and instruction. So, we’re absolutely a fool if we think that we can then despise God’s word. Now, there are people in the world that have despised what God has said as far as a direction. Knowingly done it.

A fool is something that will not use God's word as their guide. Now, we can be foolish, brethren. Even with God's spirit, we can often be foolish because we have God's spirit, but we let the carnal mind make a decision not using God's word as our guide, and therefore, we become a fool, to limit God. Which is absolutely foolish to think that we know better than God, but we do.

Obedience to God's word is the beginning of knowledge. We understand that we are required to practice righteousness, practice God's word, what God's word says about a matter. By practicing it, we're learning the fear of the Eternal. Because that's what we should do, fear God.

I know in scripture there are certain places where God had sent prophets or other people to certain areas and the scripture will say that the person saw that there was no fear of God in that area. Well, that's the world today. There is no fear of God out there. There's none because they haven't been called to see it. But it's just not there. There's no physical obedience to God's word even; it's just simply their own way, their own thing.

Elections are just a classic example. There's no fear of God in anybody. It's not about God, it's all about self and political parties. It's quite incredible. There is no fear of God in the land. There is fear of God in the Church. That's the only place it really exists in spirit and in truth, the fear of the Eternal. Well, we have to learn it. We learn it. The longer we're in the Church, we learn more about ourselves, we learn more about God's word, and we begin to implement it and change, make a decision to change.

Obedience to God's word is the beginning of knowledge. Job 28:12. There are certain questions asked here in Job 28, and there are answers given. **Job 28:12—But where can wisdom be found?** A question. Where is wisdom? Where is it? It's not in humans, that's for sure. I mean, look at the world and we can see, can't we? We see very clearly that there is no wisdom in the world. Even those that are so-called "intelligent."

It's like artificial intelligence. Someone is talking about artificial intelligence, it's a wondrous and marvelous thing. Well, turn the power off. Turn the electricity off and see how intelligent artificial intelligence is when there is no electricity to run the computer. It's not very bright at all.

I remember going into a store once and saying I wanted to buy a torch that had a wind-up battery in it. The younger person looked at me and said, "Why do you want something like that?" And I said, "Well, when the power goes out." They looked at me and thought, "Um... What do you mean the power is going to go out?" The world cannot comprehend that if the electricity went out what would happen to the world? Nothing works. Banks don't work, there is no internet transfers, there is nothing. Doors don't open; cars won't necessarily work either because you can't recharge the battery. Just incredible things once the electricity goes. We are so dependent on power, the electricity. To have that dependency, that's what the world has been built on rather than depending on God to lead us in righteousness.

Job 28, "So where can wisdom be found?" Well, wisdom is only with God. God is wise. Everything else, there is no wisdom. Artificial intelligence, there is no wisdom in that. It's what's being fed into the machine.

Where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Mankind/man does not know it. Mankind does not know its value. So, wisdom is not valued. God's word is not valued. God's thinking is not valued by mankind. Mankind does not look to God's word as its guide. It just simply doesn't. We in the Church should.

Nor is it (wisdom) found in the land of the living. In mankind's thinking. It doesn't exist out there. It exists within the Church of God—PKG. That's the only place true wisdom exists. Outside of that? Because you have to be in God's Church, have God's holy spirit to be able to understand God's word. God's word can be there on a physical level and people can read it and maybe implement aspects of it, but they cannot implement it in spirit and truth because they don't have God's holy spirit to do it.

The deep says, It's not in me. And the sea says, It's not in me. It cannot be purchased for gold nor silver be weighed for its price. Wisdom and understanding cannot be purchased. It is a gift from God. We should all go in more awe. The fact that there's a book that's coded that can't be understood. People take out aspects and make it what they want to make of it. The only way you'll understand it is the power of God's holy spirit. It's an incredible thing. That alone, we should hold God in awe, the fact that He has given us the understanding to see spiritual matters, to see the truth. How many people see the truth out of all of the world? Very few. And that's a gift from God to us. It's a gift of God to us.

It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in the onyx or sapphire. You know, precious stones. **Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, for the price of wisdom is above rubies.** So brethren, what we have as far as the truth, being able to see the truth is beyond all of the gold, all of the wealth of the world. So, what God has given us is so incredible we should hold Him in awe, be thankful to God for that. We see part of God's mind. We see part of God's great glory. We should fear Him. Not with fear, to tremble, but to hold Him in awe and respect. And if we do that, use His word as our guide, God will give us more of His spirit to see more of Him. It's a marvelous thing.

Drop down to **verse 20—From where does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living.** Everyone out there can't see. So, we're only going to see it if we are called to see it. **...and concealed from the birds of the air. Destruction and death say, We have heard a report about it with our ears.**

Now, the answer is given. **God understands its way,** because it comes from God. Wisdom comes from God. **...and He knows its place. For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees under the whole heavens, to establish a weight for the wind, and apportion the waters by measure. When He made a**

law for the rain and a path for the thunderbolt. See, God did it all. That alone, that's incredible, that God from His mind, wisdom, created all this, the ability to do it.

We are pathetic. We can do nothing. We can't tell the rain when to rain and where the lightning is supposed to strike. God's already done all that. He knows. It's all set out. It's such an incredible thing.

It's like God's plan of salvation, the fact that we know it. We know the purpose of life. Out of all the humans that have existed, billions, how many have ever known the purpose of physical life? Minute. But God gave it. We are just some of those people that have known it. Because there hasn't been many. But God gave it. God gave it to us. And you think, "Why me? Why? I'm pathetic. So, why me?" Well, God in His loving mercy has decided. So, we will take that and be so thankful for it because it's such an awesome thing.

To learn to fear God requires the gift of God's holy spirit. God is teaching us more about Himself, His greatness. He's existed forever. We're temporary and passing. It's a marvelous thing. It's just awesome!

Verse 26—When He made a law for the rain and a path for the thunderbolt; He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out. And to man, He said, Behold, the fear of the Eternal is wisdom or that is wisdom. So, to fear God is wisdom.

Brethren, that's what the purpose of this sermon is about. The fear of God is when we take God's word and implement it into our life, hold it in the awe and with the respect that it should be held, and we are then learning to fear God, we're living wisdom because we're using God's word as our guide and implementing it into our life. Now we're learning to live wisdom; we're learning to fear God.

Verse 28—To man, He said, Behold, the fear of the Eternal, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil...to depart from evil is understanding. Now, we have it, brethren. We have understanding because we know that we are required by God to depart from evil, which is in the mind. So, as we depart from evil, as we repent of that evil and depart from it, it's like a bottle of water that's full, it's full of evil, and it's emptying out slowly but surely. We just keep going down and down and down. That's departing from evil.

As it goes down, goes down, goes down, we learn to depart from evil, so much so that when evil comes across our mind we then cut it off before it even gets a seed to grow. So, when something is going to be said we stop ourselves from saying it. That is learning to fear God. Because God says we shouldn't do those things, we learn to stop. We're going to change.

So, "To depart from evil is understanding." Now we understand. We understand what's really wrong with us. Selfishness. We're learning to understand, "Ah, this mind is evil." So, we learn, therefore, we understand what our life is about. Because as we do that more and more God has promised us something, something beyond our capacity to even begin to think about it's so awesome.

The truth is wisdom, and understanding is a gift from God. We have it. The Eternal Great God who has existed forever has given us this ability. Amazing! We have been called to live wisdom. Now, God has given us 57 Truths. We understand the 57 Truths and the plan of God about salvation. We should be so thankful for that because the majority in the world don't understand it, have nothing to do with it. But our time is now.

Psalm 25:12—Who is the man who fears the Eternal? Him shall He (God) teach in the way He chooses (God chooses). So, God's teaching us; slowly but surely, we're learning things from God. The 57 Truths is a learning, it's an exposure of God, what He does, the way He thinks. It's the truth given to us. We then begin to understand them more and more, we understand why that truth is coming. Now, it's a marvelous thing.

The truth about Joshua the Messiah in itself is such a staggering thing that we understand it. I'm going to diverge here. I remember watching a TV program about looking for the name "Jesus" in old writings. The program went through, and they could only find, I think it was, two or three "Jesus" in that period at all, and there were no writings about this "Jesus" doing all this stuff. They were questioning, "Well, what's wrong?" Little did they know the real name was Joshua. And if they looked up Joshua, they might have found a lot more.

It just shows you we have such incredible truth, that God is revealing more about His plan. It's more about Him because He named him Joshua, Joshua. God is teaching us through the truth, through a structure called the Church of God.

Verse 13—He himself shall dwell in prosperity, which is spiritual truth. We're so wealthy. We don't even realize how wealthy we are. We may not have a lot physical, but we have a lot spiritual. We are so wealthy because we have the truth. **And his descendants shall inherit the earth.** It's spiritual. We're going to inherit what God has promised us.

The secret of the Eternal is with those who fear Him, which is those who obey His word and choose to live by every word of God. So, "the secret of the Eternal." We understand God's plan. It's a secret. It's not out there. It's like the mystery of the ages. It's a mystery to mankind. God's existence, God's great power, God's awe, God's Church is all a mystery to them. It's actually a secret. It's a secret being held back from mankind.

And He (God) will show them His agreement, His covenant. Well, brethren, that's what we've been shown. God has shown us this. God has revealed the truth to us. God has revealed the purpose of life to us. God has revealed His plan of salvation to us. They are incredible secrets that mankind doesn't know.

I'll work towards a close here. Once a person is called and then starts to listen to God they now have to make a choice – obedience to God's word or disobedience. To fear God or not to fear God. That's the

choice. Once called, we have to choose to learn the fear of the Eternal, which is doing God's word, living it, implementing it.

So, we can hear these things, but do we actually implement it and change our life, the way we live our life, the way we think, the way we respond to situations? Well, that was all based on how much we fear God.

We have to learn to practice God's word by individual choices. By doing so we can learn wisdom because we have to learn it. There is no wisdom in the world other than in the Church of God. None. Church of God—PKG. There is none. There is no wisdom out there unless God gives it for a reason to somebody. Only God is wise, and therefore, we must turn to His thinking, His word, to be able to make wise decisions. The fear of the Eternal is wisdom. Wisdom is obedience to God's word.

We'll have one last scripture. **Ecclesiastes 12:13—Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter.** So, this is after, when you look at what's been written by Solomon, there's a conclusion out of it. You can go through all the physical things of life, but there's a conclusion at the end of it.

As we get older people often think about certain things and go, "Oh, I wonder about 'this' and 'that.'" We actually know. How incredible is that? The peace that comes from knowing about the Last Great Day? It's just an incredible peace that we have. People worry about death and what's happened. Well, we know about the Last Great Day and the resurrection and they're going to be better off.

You know, twelve children die, and people get all upset and carry on about it and it's tragic in one way. But God knows best and they're better off out of this world with all the garbage, especially now where it's absolutely pure evil out there and they're calling evil good and good (God's Church) evil. It's just incredible. We're witnessing it. We're living this. We can see it. We can see it.

Only God is wise, and therefore, we must turn to His thinking, His word, to be able to make wise decisions. The fear of the Eternal is wisdom. **Ecclesiastes 12:13—Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God...** Fear God. Which is hold God in awe, the respect, revere Him, **and keep His commandments.** Keep His instructions, all of them, every single one of them.

For this is man's all. That's the purpose of life. We know the purpose of life, mankind doesn't. But here Solomon came to the conclusion, what's the point of all the rest of it, all the wealth and everything? What's the point of all of that? The end result is learn to fear God and keep His commandments. That's man's all.

What is life all about? It's about learning to fear God through obedience to His word. We are to learn to look to God for all answers in all, all things, everything. In other words, we are to learn to agree with God. That's what our life in the Church is about, learning to agree with God. God knows best. God knows the way to mold and fashion us. What an incredible creation that's going on. We're part of it.

Verse 14—For God will bring every work into judgment. So, whatever we choose, there's an outcome. That's what it's really saying. **Including every secret thing**, the things that we think nobody knows about—which is probably a lie in people's lives—that go on in the mind. God knows it all. God sees it all. So, we think we might be deceiving other people. We're not really. We're deceiving ourselves. God sees it all.

Every secret thing (God knows) **whether good or evil.** So, in the end, brethren, it's a choice. To learn to fear God is about obedience to God's word. But it is our choice. And in the Church that is a requirement, to live by every word of God.