
Mind Renewal, Part 4

Victory Life Church

Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11, 2018

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV) Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

Orientation of Life — solar system analogy — the center = the source

- Pride — self-orientation = “not upright” (will collapse eventually)
- Faith — a re-orientation of our entire life around God (humility)
 - Orienting our lives around God’s character, word, presence, power
 - Not just orienting our “spiritual lives” around Him, but our whole lives

The Fear-of-the-Lord

One of the Scriptural ways of discussing this “whole-life orientation” is a Biblical concept called “the fear-of-the-Lord.”

What the fear-of-the-Lord is NOT is the terror of a petulant (childishly sulky or bad-tempered) and capricious (given to sudden and unaccounted-for changes in mood or behavior) deity. Many preachers and parents used “the fear of the Lord” as a way of scaring people or children into acting right, hoping that God isn’t in a bad mood and going to take it out on them. It was the phrase used to sum up all of His anger and wrath and use that as a tool to manipulate people’s behavior, and it caused a sever damage to many people in how they see the character and nature of God, and caused a resistance to hearing the phrase “the fear of the Lord” as well as a sever lack of understanding this important Biblical phrase.

The Fear-of-the-Lord: a “whole-life” orientation around God (character, Word) and personal relationship with Him (*Scripture can often uses FAITH in this way*)

Whatever is at the center of your life also becomes the source of your life. Just as the sun, at the center of our solar system, is also the source of life on our planet, so whatever is at the center of your life must also sustain your life. If your ego is at the center of your life, it must sustain your life. If your wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, talent, abilities, status is at the center, those must sustain it. What the fear of the Lord humbly asserts is that there is nothing other than the one, true God Himself that can sustain our life, and He must therefore take the center.

Proverbs 2:1-6 (NLT) My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. **Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God.** For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of *wisdom*, And the *knowledge* of the Holy One is understanding.”

- Wisdom: “khokhmah” — Skills, applied knowledge (Exodus 31:1-4)
 - Biblical Wisdom Literature Exploring how to live well in God’s world (live the “good life”) — Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job
 - The Proverbs is designed to give you a set of skills to live well in God’s world

Proverbs 9:10 (MSG) “**Skilled living** gets its start in the Fear-of-GOD, insight into **life** from knowing a Holy God.”

Proverbs 22:4 (NLT) True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life.

Proverbs 11:2 (NLT) Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

The Fear-of-the-Lord again is a “whole-life” orientation around God and personal relationship with Him

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NLT) “**Listen**, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.”

“Shema” - pay attention to, focus on, but also respond to what you hear
Proverbs 20:12, Psalm 27:7, Exodus 19:5

In ancient Hebrew, there is no separate word for “obey” or to carry out the commands or wishes or instruction of someone who is wiser or more experienced than you or who is in authority over you. “Shema” is used for both “listening” and “obeying.” In Hebrew, listening and doing were two sides of the same coin. **Love** is the true motivation for listening and obeying. We won’t obey without love, and we don’t truly love if we don’t obey.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NLT) *And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Jesus and the Gospel

Mark 1:15 (ESV) “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent** and **believe** in the gospel.”

Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT) “Anyone who **listens** to my teaching and **follows it** is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who **hears** my teaching and **doesn’t obey it** is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Mark 12:29-31 (NLT) Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘**Listen**, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord . And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your **mind**, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

Conclusion

Habakkuk 2:4 (MSG) Look at that man, bloated by self-importance—full of himself but soul-empty. But the person in right standing before God through **loyal** and **steady believing** is fully alive, *really* alive.