

## **“Fear God and Nothing Else” (Haggai)**

**August 4, 2024**

The Bible says that “fear,” the fear of the Lord, is “the beginning of wisdom.”

To fear God means to have a deep sense of reverence for God.

Those who fear the Lord understand the nature and character of God, and have an understanding of what God is doing in their lives.

These people know that to fear God means there is really nothing else to fear.

The Israelites became more focused on their circumstances than on the Lord. They begin to fear the people more than they fear the Lord.

How easy it is for us to become so engulfed by our circumstances, so overwhelmed by our anxieties, that we are literally paralyzed by our fears.

We have overlooked something: the Lord Almighty is still our Lord.

The people decide that the temple is really not all that important and they find it much easier to just focus on themselves.

They find a path to less resistance, less fear, in becoming self-absorbed.

The people discover that they experience less resistance, less things to fear, from their culture if they act like their culture.

God says through the prophet Haggai, “Build my house first. Get your priorities sorted out.”

*“Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways.’” Haggai 1:5*

Have we lost sight of the privilege of being God’s people?

Haggai tells us that one of the great hindrances to our understanding of the fear of the Lord is concentration on self rather than on God.

Their fears and their self-focus had become more powerful forces in their lives than the fear of the Lord.

It is only when we finally come to understand the fear the Lord...that we become fearless.

*“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6*

When we fear the Lord there is no need to fear anything else. God, rather than self, becomes our focal point. And it is only in that way that we can truly experience fearlessness.

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