

**HEALING THE PAST GOD'S WAY
CHAPTER 14 TEACHING NOTES
HOLY AND UNHOLY FEAR**

MEMORY VERSE:

Fear of man will prove to be a snare,
but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.
Proverbs 29:25

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT: *When People are Big and God is small* by Ed Welch and CCEF (Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation) booklets on topics such as *Living with an Angry Spouse: Help for Victims of Abuse*; *When Bad Things Happen: Thoughtful Answers to Hard Questions*; *Recovering from Child Abuse: Healing and Hope for Victims* and others (www.NewGrowthPress.com)

Each section has helped us lay a foundation upon which the student / counselee can build his or her life. *My identity in Christ* laid the foundation of identity upon the stones of who I truly am in God's eyes: chosen, loved, forgiven, sanctified and called (to name a few). It also reminded me of who I am not – victim, abuser, alone, etc. The section on *God's Character* laid the foundation on the truth of who God truly is – not who I believe Him to be but who He declares Himself to be. Those truths lay the groundwork for healing and hope. Now, continuing with that process, it is necessary to teach that an individual must choose how to live his or her life based on those truths. There is no middle ground – one lives either for the world or for God. There is no “happy” medium. Anything that is not of God is of the world; it is not possible to live in-between.

I like to use Matthew 7 to show that. In three different ways, Jesus reminds us that we choose either for or against life, for or against relationship with God, for or against obedience and safety. Remember that we've already learned that wisdom (knowledge of God that leads to a right relationship / a right fear of God) in the Hebrew mind means “to do”. So as we learn the truth of who God is, that naturally must lead a person to choose a response to the reality of who God is.

We are worshippers. The fear of God leads us to the perfect place of ascribing worth and honor to Him. Remind them of what happens when we don't worship God (we worship something else).

When you fear God, you fear nothing else,
whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.
Oswald Chambers

MATTHEW 7:13 – 27

	<u>WORLD</u>	<u>GOD</u>
FRUIT (disciple)	BELIEVE IN GOD	BELIEVE GOD
RELATIONSHIP (worship)	FOCUS ON SELF/OTHERS	FOCUS ON GOD
OBEDIENCE (fear)	EVIDENCE OF BONDAGE	EVIDENCE OF LOVE

UNHOLY FEAR: a sustained **FOCUS** on **SELF** that manifests itself in sinful behavior

WHOM (WHAT) DO YOU FEAR?

FEAR OF MAN (reputation, approval, acceptance)

Worship of people – idolatry (Proverbs 29:25)

Seeking approval of man / fear of rejection

Following the popular crowd – controlled or mastered by other people

Changing lifestyle to avoid ridicule or rejection

Depending on others for security, safety, significance or strength

Physical fear – self-protection

Putting your trust in other people / needing people

FEAR OF DEATH (illness, pain, suffering)

FEAR OF CIRCUMSTANCE (lose of control, unknown)

WHAT YOU FEAR CONTROLS YOU

Numbers 13 & 14

FEAR OF GOD: a sustained focus on God that manifests itself as obedience regardless of circumstances

RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

No man is a fool who gives up what he can not keep to gain what he can not lose.
Jim Elliott

KNOWLEDGE GROWS OUR FEAR OF GOD (who God is and who I am)

Proverbs 2:1 – 15; 9:10; 10:27; 19:23

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:1 - 4

REVERENT SUBMISSION LEADS TO OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 10:19 – 39; 12:18 - 29

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:12 & 13

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 1 Peter 1:14 – 19

THE CHOICE: FEAR MAN (UNHOLY FEAR) OR FEAR GOD (HOLY FEAR)

Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:5 - 8

CHOOSING TO FEAR MAN LEADS TO RUIN: IT IS DEATH TO THE BELIEVER

FEAR OF GOD LEADS TO LIFE AND HOPE AND A FUTURE