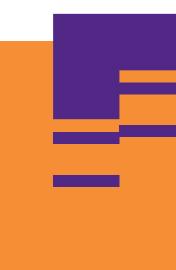




How Do We Express The Fear Of God In Our Lives?



Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.



³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.



There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold

³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

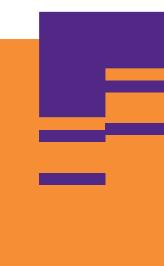


Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,

³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.







Acts 5 ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

CONTEXT:

- a. Giving became a distinct characteristic of being Christian
- b. Joseph was honoured for his giving



- ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?
- 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."



a. Expression #1:
Searching Our Heart



a. Expression #1:
Searching Our Heart

Psalms 139

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴ And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.



⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.



CONTEXT:

- a. Story of Achan in Joshua 7
 - i. Similar situation
 - ii. Similar sin
 - iii. Similar severity
- b. The church at this time were mostly of a Jewish audience



- a. Expression #1:
 Searching Our Heart
- b. Expression #2:
 Sharing God's Hatred
 Towards Sin



- a. Expression #1:
 Searching Our Heart
- b. Expression #2:
 Sharing God's Hatred
 Towards Sin

Proverbs 8

¹³ To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.



- ⁷ After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.
- ⁸ And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much."



⁹ But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.



CONTEXT:

- a. Church was at its infancy stage
- b. The stakes were drastically different





- a. Expression #1:
 Searching Our Heart
- b. Expression #2:
 Sharing God's Hatred
 Towards Sin
- c. Expression #3:
 Stirring The Church To
 Fear God

- a. Expression #1:
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Hebrews 3

13 ... exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.



¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.

¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women



When The Church Feared The Lord

- a. Signs and wonders became a regular occurance
- b. Christians were held in high esteem
- c. The growth of the church became unstoppable



Application Questions

- 1. When you think about the 'fear of God', does it draw you closer to or further away from Him?
- 2. David wrote in Psalms 139:23 'Search me, O God, and know my heart'. If you were to allow God to search your heart, what do you think He will find?
- 3. How can you stir the following categories of people to grow in their fear of God?
 - Your Gen/LG
 - Next Gen

