

Growing in the Fear of God

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Therefore, dear friends, since we have such promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, completing our sanctification in the fear of God.*

Text: 2 Corinthians 7:1

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Sanctification, Sin, Promises

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Series: Growing in the Fear of God

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To grow in the fear of God...

1. **Concentrate on His _____ (vs. 1a)**
2. **Cleanse yourself from every _____ (vs. 1b)**
3. _____ **in your sanctification (vs. 1c)**

Seven Practical Steps for Growing in the Fear of God:

1. _____ **your life to God's Authority**
 - a. To live under God's authority necessarily means to live under the authority of His Word.
 - i. Authority of Scripture - The idea that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. (Wayne Grudem)
2. _____ **the Bible Every day**
 - a. Pick a Bible Reading Plan.
3. _____ **God in constant prayer**
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) "Pray without ceasing."
 - b. The ACTS model will be helpful to you as you learn how to pray. ACTS stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.
4. **Sense God's constant _____**
 - a. As Hebrews 4: 13 so forcefully states, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
 - b. Be aware that God knows your actions, thoughts, and intentions. "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19: 14).
5. **Spend time looking at _____**
 - a. Psalm 19:1-6 (ESV) The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and

night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

6. Select books that will _____ your fear of God

- a. There are some great books that focus on the Fear of God that are worth your time:
 - i. Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God*. This book provided much of the basis for this retreat. Very readable for people of all ages, this is the best book in modern print on the topic of fearing God.
 - ii. John Bunyan, *Treatise of the Fear of God*. This was a classic work written in the 1600's on the need to fear God. Full of helpful information and encouragement, this is the best work in all of history on the topic of the fear of God.

7. Stay in _____

- a. Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (NIV)
 - i. Don't give up on Church. The writer of Hebrews encourages his readers to not give up on meeting together. Satan loves for us to get frustrated with each other to the point that we will not attend. And when we do not attend, we struggle in our growth as Christians. Develop the habit of attending - Many of us just get into a habit of non-attendance. It is understood that it takes only 21 days to develop a habit. That means if you miss more than three Sundays in a row, you have just developed a habit of non-attendance.
- b. Stay under the teaching of the Word of God
 - i. 1 Timothy 4:13 (ESV) Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.