

It's Nothing Personal

Fear and Fearlessness

To find one's self in the Presence of the true and living God is overwhelming. If we allow God to be the real, Personal, God who is in pursuit of us, we will find ourselves growing in Fear of the the Lord. If we remain in His Presence, we grow in fearlessness.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one thing that you used to be afraid of as a child? How did that start? Did you ever get over that fear? How? Please explain.
 2. Moses was merely "interested" in God's presence in the burning bush...until God revealed Himself as the God of relationship. Do you think people would prefer to have a God of relationships, or a god like the gods of Egypt (impersonal, restricted to locations and situation)? Please discuss.
 3. Saint Hilary of Poitiers makes it clear that "Fear of the Lord" is not "fear" in the normal sense. Do you have a difficult time making the distinction between "being afraid of God" and "Fear of the Lord"? Why might you think that this is the case? Discuss.
 4. Psalm 112 reveals that the person who fears the Lord fears nothing else. The saints testify that they do not even fear their own sin/weakness. Noting that this is not the same as "making light" of one's sins, why is it difficult to trust in God's goodness this deeply? Discuss.
 5. In prayer, we all have a tendency to be a bit narcissistic (or "self-preoccupied"). We may tend to focus on our badness when God desires us to place our attention on Him. Is this easy or difficult (or a non-issue) for you? Discuss.
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God in Real Life

1. In your prayer this week, make special strides to set time aside to place your attention on God as God. To notice when you are focusing too much on yourself to the detriment of your relationship with Him.
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To the Heart

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me". ~2 Corinthians 12:9