

The Fear of God
Part I
In Building Families

“15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” 19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” 20 So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.” (Exodus 1:15-21)

The desire to marry is a godly desire and that is especially if the purpose is noble, to raise up godly children. The above situation, of the two Hebrews midwives who were given families and houses by the Lord; that happened when they approved their genuine motive and desire to obey God and to live in the fear of him. To fear God is an essential element in building Godly families.

The midwives were commissioned by Pharaoh to execute every male son delivered on the delivery stool by the Hebrews women. These midwives were called Hebrew midwives, but these midwives were Egyptians, because if they were Hebrews in origin Pharaoh would not expect from them to be loyal toward him and barbarous toward their Hebrews fellow. Indeed they were Egyptians and they were pious in their disobedience to Pharaoh’s command. They disobeyed him because they feared God, for the command of Pharaoh was contrary to the command of God. They were so genuine in their fear of God; the same when Peter and John confronted the Jews, “But Peter and John replied, **“Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!” (Acts 4:19)** Those midwives the fear of the Lord was ruling in their hearts. Therefore the Lord gave them wisdom to answer Pharaoh when he asked them, **“Why have you let the boys live?” 19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” (Exodus 1:19)** This answer of the midwives to Pharaoh had concluded the matter to the finger of God who was helping the Hebrews women and enabling them to deliver their babies quickly. They were shrewdly showing Pharaoh that the Hebrews women were favored by Heaven in their quick birth process. The stand of these midwives were persistent; they were steadfast and did not give way for any new male born baby to be executed. To the point that when this project did not take effect, Pharaoh gave public orders to all his people to drown all the new male born of the Hebrews

That services that was done for the God of Israel are repaid in kind. When the midwives kept up the Israelites’ houses, and, in recompense for it, God made for them houses. Because they feared God, he made them houses. For their piety, they were married to Israelites, and Hebrew families were built up by them.

The meaning of these Hebrews midwives are the following: Shiphrah and the Hebrew word meaning of it is “fair”, and the meaning of Puah is “splendid”. The other meaning of fair is just, reasonable, fair-minded, impartial, non-discriminatory and evenhanded. The other meaning of splendid is superb, impressive, marvelous, wonderful, fabulous, super, and magnificent. If you put together the meaning of Shiphrah and Puah then you may get the following combinations: Just-superb, reasonable-impressive, fair-minded-marvelous, impartial-wonderful, non-discriminatory-fabulous, evenhanded-magnificent. Speaking about the fear of God; the people who fear God

ultimately will be going to do marvelous things in their lives toward the Lord, and for sure the Lord will award them all what they had done for Him in building them families of their own.

To live in the fear of the Lord is mandatory and important preparatory requirements for Godly marriage. Out of fear of God these midwives they saved the male children of the Israelites from being executed. They were a willing party to stand with God to save that generation of the Israelites from the hand of the enemy. The midwives perceived that God is with the Israelites in multiplying them inspite of all the persecution and the bad treatment that they were receiving, **“7 but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. 8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” 11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.” (Exodus 1:7-14)** Therefore the midwives after they discerned what God was doing in the life of His people, they themselves sided with God and with His mission to bless and multiply His people. And as the Lord saw their faithfulness in this matter, He blessed them with families of their own.

My dear and beloved: To fear God should fulfill the following:-

- A- To stand firm for the cause and the purpose of God.
- B- To be willing to take risk and do what God wants you to do.
- C- To feel the suffering of His people and to be willing to suffer with them.
- D- To be part and get integrated with the plan that God has for you as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for showing me clearly the truth of your word. Lord builds in me the fear of yours in my life so that I can stand firm for your cause and purpose. Lord gives me discernment to be able to grasp and understand your will and your good plan in my life and in the life of your people. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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