

The Fear of God
Part 20
How The Fear of God Develops

“1 Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: 2 Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious. 3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee. 4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah. 5 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men. 6 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him. 7 He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah. 8 O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: 9 Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved. 10 For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. 11 Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins. 12 Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place. 13 I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows, 14 Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble. 15 I will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah. 16 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. 17 I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.” (Psalm 66:1-20 KJV)

“1 Shout for joy to God, all the earth! 2 Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. 3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. 4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name.” 5 Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! 6 He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot— come, let us rejoice in him. 7 He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations— let not the rebellious rise up against him. 8 Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; 9 he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. 10 For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. 11 You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. 12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance. 13 I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you— 14 vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. 15 I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. 16 Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. 17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. 18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; 19 but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. 20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!” (Psalm 66:1-20 NIV)

This psalm is a psalm for thanksgiving and giving praises to God for all the great things that God had done for all the people in general and in particular for His goodness to His church and for His own people in answering their prayers.

1 Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: 1 Shout for joy to God, all the earth! All are called to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the lands and all the nations, for He is good to all men; He created us and He had filled everyone mouth with good things.

2 Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious. 2 Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Sing to the honor of His name, His worth, His salvation, His justice and judgment, His righteousness, His healing and His miracles. All these are good reason to praise the Lord.

3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee. 3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. The Psalmist said to God, *How terrible art thou in thy works!* The Psalmist understood and realized that God when He works His work is terrible. And that terrible work of God has great power on the enemies of God, who when they will expose to such terrible power of God and face His terrible work they will be forced to submit themselves to Him and to His will.

4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah. 4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name. This is a prophetic message that all the nations ultimately will worship God and praise His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. The gospel will be preached to all nations, *“6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” (Revelation 14:6-7 KJV)* The gospel will be preached and the terrible work of God will impart the fear of God to all nations, who will ultimately give glory to Him and worship Him. When they will start to fear God, they will read and sing psalms, giving praises to Him and worship Him.

5 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men. 5 Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! As we observe God’s work we will have more reason to praise the Lord. In Verse 3 the Psalmist understood the terribleness of God’s work, and he is inviting others and telling them, *Come and see the works of God:* You are invited to come closely and examine and see the terrible work of God, so that you can discern the terrible nature of God’s work and deeds and in return after you experiencing that, *Say unto God, terrible art thou in thy works!* As what the Psalmist said unto God in verse 3.

The other meaning of the word terrible is awful, dreadful, very bad, appalling, poor, horrifying, shocking, frightful, terrifying, severe, extreme, serious, grave and intense. The opposite meaning of terrible is mild, pleasant and wonderful. Therefore from such description you need to understand that God’s nature in work is horrifying and He is behind and in control over all the shocking experiences that the world is passing through.

God is sore against those who go against His will. Therefore the church who is obedient to God and submissive to His Word and to His will, then such church will find God a terror against whatever enemy that would raise up against His church. When God’s people left Egypt, God

was a terrible terror to their enemies, “14 *The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.* 15 *Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.*” (Exodus 15:14-15 KJV) “1 *And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.*” (Joshua 5:1 KJV)

6 *He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.* 6 *He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot— come, let us rejoice in him.* The people of God after they left Egypt they pass through the dry sea and dry Jordan river to cross into the promise land, there our ancestor rejoice in Him, and we were in their loins, *there did we rejoice in him.*

7 *He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.* 7 *He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations— let not the rebellious rise up against him.* God sees all the nations under the heaven, and He rule over all of them with His power. Therefore let not those that have a rebellious hearts dare to rise up against God.

8 *O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: 8 Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;* The Psalmist is calling the people of God, His church to bless God. This is the sense of the church, which the Psalmist knows that there are other people with Him who know God and who are cleave to His love and mercy. The call is to bless God, and when we bless Him we make the voices of praises to be heard. God deserve that from us for He redeems us from our troubles, fighting our battles for us and destroying our enemies. On the following verses, 9-12, will see how God will allow us, we who are His church, to pass through trials and troubles in order to prove us and perfect our faith and build in us the fear of the Lord.

9 *Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved. 9 he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.* We bless God and we praise Him because He protects us and deliver us from great distresses. He hold our souls; when we are ready to perish. He uphold our souls and we are safe in His hand even while we are passing through killing disasters and killing diseases. He suffers not our feet to be moved, preventing us from falling into many unseen evils which we are unaware.

10 *For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. 10 For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.* The trials and the distresses that God allow us to pass through is to prove us, clean us and sanctify us as the silver is refined and proved

11 *Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins. 11 You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.* As bird is caught in the net, God would allow us into the net and laid affliction on our loins. The affliction can bring burden of the body. But affliction on the loins means affliction on the soul, on the health, on the feeling, and on our children and on our descendents, those who are not yet born.

12 *Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place. 12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance. 12 Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; 12 You let people ride over our heads;* this mean the insult, the abuse and the humiliation that God allow to come on us. *we went through fire and through water: we went through fire and water,* denotes the affliction of different kinds that God allow on us and in a consecutive way; the end of our trouble is the beginning of another. Fire and water could be dangerous men, or God’s discipline for sin, or facing persecution. All these troubles are to refine the church, and when the purpose to refine the church is achieved, then we will be end up in *a wealthy place a place of abundance;* life again would become sweet and praise rise up again from our mouths toward heaven. The purpose of God of all these trials will end up making a new man who fears God, and who will characterize with the following:

1- 13 *I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows, 13 I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—* He is a man who is aware and who give honor to God’s church. He knows that he should offer his sacrifices publically that everyone would recognize that he fear God. Willingly and without force he will be moving to God’s church; himself willingly will go to the house of God to bring:-

- A- *His burnt offering:* The meaning of the burnt offering is the full surrender to God. This to be done willingly, giving your life and your material possession willingly to God.
- B- *His vows:* The vows that he had promised to fulfill to God. 14 *Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble. 14 vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.* While we pass through troubles God will force us to humble down, and will lead us to make important decision in the form of vows that we need to fulfill.

2- 15 *I will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah. 15 I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. burnt sacrifices of fatlings, sacrifice fat animals* means perfect sacrifices without defect, not lame or lean, but the best fed. *with the incense of rams; an offering of rams;* the ram denotes the Lord Jesus Christ and the incense is our prayers. There is no meaning for our sacrifices if they are not in the name of Jesus.

3- 16 *Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. 16 Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.* The new man who fears God will call others who fear God, the church, to join him to praise God and to help him in giving thanks to God. We need to share our victories with those who fear God.

4- 17 *I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. 17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.* The new man who fears God is testifying to the church that the trials that God allowed him to pass through was mandatory for him to repent from sins; his crying out to God was a cry of repentance, and as he repented, God was extolled in lifting up praises to Him.

5- 18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;* Now this new man he knew that if he had cherish sin in his heart and spent on it and keep it in his life then God would not be answering his prayers. He has the assurance of forgiveness and salvation.

19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. 19 but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. God in answering his prayers gave him assurance of forgiveness and approval for the righteousness that he was living and therefore he concludes the psalm 20 *Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me. 20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!* God answered his prayers for God did not turn away His mercy from him. God will be good to us when we obey Him not because we are good but because He is good and merciful.

My dear and beloved: As you read the message; discover where you are now in your journey and walk with God; this psalm is a good mirror for you to see yourself and to see where you are in your spiritual journey with God. God is making a new man from you, a man who fear God and who abide with God's will and plan. Commit yourself now to God and be willing to undergo the remaining part of your journey with God until He is done with 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 death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that makes me understand life and what I am passing through. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . I commit my life into your hand to cleanse me and sanctify me and make of me a new person who fear you and comply with your will. Lord upholds me with your grace and let your praises coming out from my mouth as I witness your great work in my life. I thank you and praise you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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