

THE FEAR OF GOD

When we fear God, we honour Him.

As Christians we sometimes walk around in fear of a lot of things for example fear of public speaking, fear of people etc. and forget or ignore that the one to be feared is the Almighty God. We must learn to focus all that fearful energy towards fearing God, the one who is able to destroy the body and the soul (Matthew 10:28).

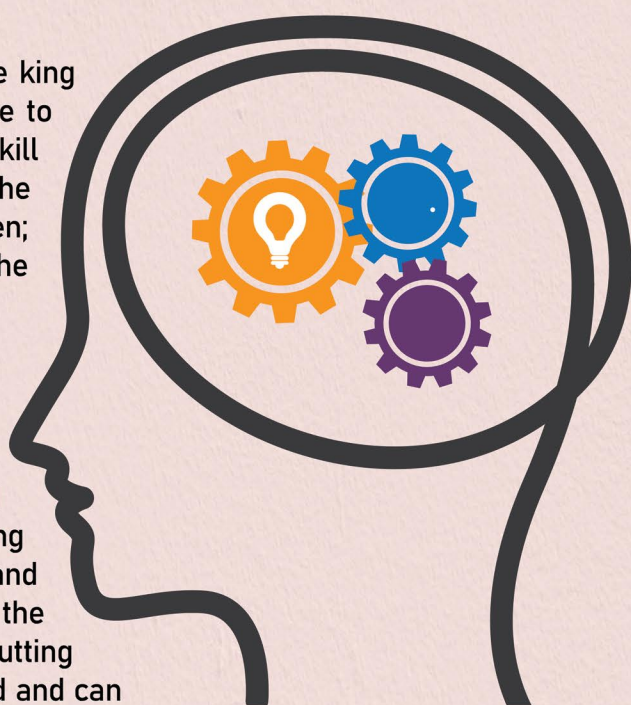
The Midwives in the book of Exodus chapter 1 were afraid to sin against God .

This is an interesting read from the word of God. We see king Pharaoh ordering the midwives to kill all boy children during birth and let the girl children live but the midwives feared God and did not do as the king commanded, but instead they saved the male children. Upon reading further we realise that because the midwives feared God and did not do evil, God gave them wisdom.

We see the wisdom of the midwives when the king asked "how is it that the boy children continue to live when I had instructed the midwives to kill them" the midwives answered "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are quick/lively and give birth before the midwives come to them". I love this

Notice that the motivation for the midwives not to kill was that they feared God, it was not because they pitied the mothers or the boy children but because they feared the Lord and that is what we need to take home today. Feeling pity for the mother or for the child is good and humanly but it comes secondary to the fear of the Lord. Why is this crucial? It is crucial because putting people or anything before God, dishonours God and can cloud one's judgement.

I recently heard on the news on how Holland practice euthanasia, also known as mercy killing which is a practice of putting to death persons suffering from painful or incurable diseases. Doctors do it for the good of that person but what does God say about taking life? Only He gives and takes life



P1

The Fear of God

Why did the Midwives Fear God?

I believe that the midwives knew God, they understood that God is Most High and Mighty, He is Sovereign and Jealous. He demands that we put Him first in all we do. They were rooted in truth, in the word. Possibly they also understood that it is a fearful thing to fall in the hand of God - **Hebrews 10:31**.

E.G

Another example we find in **Daniel 6:20**

Because Daniel feared God, Daniel experienced a miracle when God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions. As a result, the king decreed that everyone tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. Notice that Daniel occupied a high position in the palace yet he was not swallowed up by the systems of the world but continued to fear God and influenced the King.

Today it is so easy to forget God, when we prosper or are elevated to positions of influence, how easily we forget and indulge in what does not please God.

Romans 3:18

"There is no fear of God before their eyes"

The truth is our default position is that no one has the fear of the Lord. Fearing God is something that we must learn, it does not come naturally.

THE BENEFITS OF FEARING THE LORD

The Lord dealt well with the midwives. God established their families and provided households for them.

When we learn to fear God, He gives us wisdom.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego experienced a miracle when they were thrown into the fire and they did not burn.

Think of the midwives, think of Daniel, think of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. If they didn't obey or bow to the system of the world, today we wouldn't be referring to them as champions of faith.

P2

About the author:

Thembi Koko is a child of God, a wife, a mother of 2 kids and a minister of the word, passionate about raising up women and girls in the knowledge of God