

Humility (IX): Trembling at the Word of God

I. Humility Means Trembling at the Word of God

1. Isaiah 66:1-2

- ♦ God says that heaven and the earth are mine, but I have been looking for the place of my rest for the one who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.
- ♦ When a brother went to Nepal to preach, he spoke about the filling of the Holy Spirit, and as soon as he finished his sermon, many people were filled with the Holy Spirit. Because the people there in Nepal were very humble and simple, those who sat down and listened to the sermon kept believing and accepting to be filled with the Holy Spirit as they listened, and the word of God kept entering into them, so that as soon as the sermon was over, God came to fill them.

Some people who study science and technology are pragmatic and often cannot simply believe in the word of God. For example, they think: why must we be filled with the Holy Spirit? I'm fine with the way I am! When it comes to praise, some people think, "Why do I have to praise? Can't I just praise in my heart? Why do I have to praise in a pretentious way?" They often have a lot of opinions and views, but not tremble at God's word.

- ♦ A sister read the Bible and said, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind,*" She felt that she did not love the Lord in such a way, so she cried anxiously, "What can I do if I don't love you?" This is what God cares for, because she takes God's word so seriously.
- ♦ God said, "*Don't be anxious about tomorrow*" and Minister Pearl Young didn't dare to worry about tomorrow at all. Although the burden of a church was so heavy on her, sometimes about building a church, sometimes about many dangers, about this and that, she said, "Lord! I don't dare to be anxious about tomorrow. I don't dare to think about tomorrow; I only think about you; tomorrow is your business." This is called trembling at the word of God.

2. Nineveh (Jonah)

- ♦ The city of Nineveh is a good example. Even though it was an evil nation, when God sent Jonah to tell them that Nineveh would be overthrown, they trembled at the word of God, from the king to the people, and even the animals called for a fast and put on sackcloth, and the grace of God came, so God said: He looks after such people who tremble at His word with a humble heart.
- ♦ Whenever you think that "I have heard everything that has been said from the pulpit, that I know all of God's commands by heart," but we have become proud if we are not trembling at God's word.
- ♦ A humble person has a fearful and trembling attitude toward God's word. **This is not being fearful and nervous all the time, but a fearful and alert attitude before God.**

When we start to fear and tremble, we will not talk in our own ways. When we stop fearing and trembling, our old self will rise up. We feel very relaxed, thinking we can do all tasks easily and comfortably, and start to be proud of ourselves.

3. Daniel (Daniel 9:2-3)

- ◆ When Daniel learned from the book that he would be able to return to Jerusalem when the seventy years of desolation completed, he fasted and put on sackcloth and ashes and was determined to pray to the Lord God. He was a man who was fearful and trembling at the word of God.
- ◆ **We must not only fear and tremble at God's commands, but also fear and tremble at His promises and His will.** Daniel is determined to pray and plead with the Lord God, for the return after seventy years, saying "as You have said, Lord, it will be done."

Brothers and sisters, have you ever been fearful and trembled at the promise of God? God has promised you that if you ask, you will receive, and if you seek Him with all your heart, you will find! Have you asked, "Lord, I will seek you with all my heart!"

- ◆ Pastor Anton: God asked him to go to the mountains in Korea to pray, and despite the discouragement from others and a lack of money for a plane ticket a few days before the trip, he said, "The Lord wants me to go, and I will go!" God showed Himself to Pastor Anton greatly through his obedience of going to Korea. After Pastor Anton had returned to India, he developed such a great ministry. If he had given up easily because of the difficulties, God's plan would not have been accomplished.

Brothers and sisters! How much of God's goodness has been missed in us because we have been sloppy and casual with God's word, not serious and not fearful and trembling!

- ◆ **A proud man is the most likely to give up, and the most likely to give up on himself,** because he thinks how things don't work out the way he wants them to, and he can't stand it, so he gives up. This is pride. But a humble man would say, "Lord, if you say so, I must have it; you don't lie!" This is called humility, taking His word so seriously, and it is through such humble people that God's will will be done.

4. Psalm 149:1-4

- ◆ Praise is the expression of a humble person, that is, I boast of God, because God is worthy of praise, more than my feelings, more than what happens to me, even if my circumstances are a mess, I will rejoice in the Lord who made me, and be happy in my King. I praise not depending on whether I am blessed or not, or whether I have a job or not, or whether things are going well or not. This is what a humble person does.
- ◆ Praising God is a command of God. Because He loves us and He wants to give us salvation, so you should no longer be bitter, hurt and weak, but come humbly and praise Him, and He will adorn you with salvation.

Be humble not once or twice, but every time, in fear and trembling before Him. This is the humble man, and God will give us His salvation more and more.

5. Belshazzar (Daniel 5:20-22,5:26-31)

- ♦ Daniel interpreted the vision for Belshazzar, saying, Your father's heart was lifted up and he was driven from among the children of mankind, and when he knew that the Most High reigned in the kingdom of men, Daniel humbled himself, and returned to the king's palace. You are his son, and though you knew all this, you did not humble yourself and give glory to God.
- ♦ But when Daniel told him the vision, saying that he was proud and had not returned glory to God, he thought the vision was well interpreted, and rewarded Daniel by putting on a purple robe and a gold chain, but that was all he did, instead of hastening to repent and humble himself before God.
- ♦ **This is how proud people are, who are afraid when they see a terrible vision, and who think it is well explained when they know the result, but do not humble themselves and repent deeply before God.**

We Christians are often like this. We have seen God doing great things among us, through blessings or disciplines. God is so real, yet we do not humble ourselves before Him.

For example, praising. We have heard of so many people being blessed through praising, but sometimes we dare to come to God and not do our best to praise Him. The Bible speaks of God's abhorrence of grumbling people. We all know that the people of Israel fell in the wilderness because they grumble against God, but we still dare to do so, just like King Belshazzar, and not fear and tremble at God's word.

6. Moses (Numbers 20:8-12)

- ♦ God asked Moses to command the rock to yield water, and Moses, being provoked by the grumbling people of Israel, did not fear and tremble at the word of God, and struck the rock twice with his "staff." What a loss for Moses! The reward he had been hoping for was to enter the land of Canaan, but he could not get it.
- ♦ **We are often provoked by others, so that we cease to fear and tremble at the word of God,** and become easily grumbling about things. We have to be very careful. Parents can be provoked by their children, employees in a company can be provoked easily by their bosses, and bosses can be provoked by their subordinates too. We have to think of God's word in particular, and tremble because of His word, so that we won't be provoked.
- ♦ We need to pay attention to what God says every day, and we need to fear and tremble at every word in the Bible. Don't read the Bible because you have been a believer for a long time, and you know it well, and you read it just to study it, research it, and analyze it, but you don't know that reading the Bible is to see with fear and trembling what God says and what I should do, whether it is about His commands or His promises.

7. Joseph (Genesis 39:9)

- ♦ **Joseph did not say, how can I do this great evil against my master? Rather, he said, how can I do this great evil against God? Joseph was a man who lived in fear and trembling before God. No wonder God was with him all the time, blessing him in all that he did.** He didn't start to drift away and float up and get a little reckless because of these blessings, no, because he knew that he had to live before God in all things.
- ♦ Some of God's servants, when they begin to float by God's blessing, do not live in fear and tremble before God anymore, they suddenly commit such a great sin, which is sometimes pointed out by believers, and they cover it up until it is later revealed in a big way. They used to be humble, but they did not live in fear and tremble before God when they were blessed by Him. Therefore, in our pursuit of humility, we can measure ourselves by the way we live every day - think about whether I am fearing and living before Him with awe and trembling, and we will know whether I am living proudly or humbly before God, which needs God to reveal.

II. Conclusion

- ♦ These days we pray for humility, that the Lord would make us fearful and tremble at His word. When we were talking about the edification and the destruction of our words in Ephesians, we were very careful about our words during that time, but we forgot about the word every month or two. But these words are in the Bible. They are God's word. Don't we read God's words every day?

We can't be like the Israelites who forgot God's word quickly. They didn't fear and tremble at God's word, they often forgot and ignored what God said, they didn't care: I don't care about the land of Canaan! What's that? It's tasteless! I want to eat meat!

Caleb and Joshua were fearful and trembling because of the word of God. They always remembered God's word. God said that He would lead them into the land of Canaan. They always believed that since God said that and He would do it, even though the road in the wilderness was so difficult and there was no water to drink. God will definitely lead us into the land of Canaan. Caleb and Joshua kept God's word in mind. Fearing and trembling at God's word, they kept on walking without complaining even when there was no strength. When Caleb finally saw the tall people of Anak, he believed, though he was afraid, "Let us go up! We can win!" So they were able to enter the land of Canaan.

- ♦ The Lord said, *"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool, and I will look after those who are humble and contrite in spirit and tremble at my word."* I pray that God would really let us repent with an open heart today for His word, for our casualness in His word, for our failure to keep so many of God's commands; for the promises God has given me, which I have left behind in the twinkling of an eye; for the promises God has given me, which I have always delayed in obtaining. God keeps giving it to me, but I don't try to get it. This is His salvation for us, but I don't get it. Let us repent with an

open heart before God, and He will give His salvation in abundance to such a humble person.

Humility (IX) Assignment

1. Are there the word of God that you find hard to simply believe and accept?
2. The fear and trembling of God's word is not being fearful and nervous, but what is it?
3. Have you ever prayed in fear and trembling for the promises of God as Daniel did? If so, in what way?
4. When things don't turn out the way you want them to, is it easy for you to give up?
5. Did the example of King Belshazzar give you any warning? Did the Lord reveal things in which you were like King Belshazzar?
6. Have you ever been provoked to forget God's word?
7. In your daily readings, do you spend most of your time studying, analyzing, or looking at what God says and what you need to do?
8. Joseph was a man who lived in the presence of God. When you do something wrong, do you think of offending people, or do you think you have offended God? Explain with an example.
9. The Israelites forgot God's words quickly, do you? Please give an example.
10. Pray for the Lord's light, that in what things you are casual with His word, and repent for those.
11. Scripture memorization: Isaiah 66:1-2.