

Never React ... Respond!

Overview

As the God of great glory, majesty, purity, and power. Somebody should say, amen then. It is to desire to live in harmony with his righteous standards and to honor him in all that we do. And I had to put this bottle in there because if you ever heard me speak on reacting or responding, I had to put it in there. We should never react to God. But we should always respond to him. So that was my composite of trying to answer that question in just one frame. No aspect of the Christian life carries greater blessing than the fear of the Lord.

Hallelujah. I wish somebody said this recently. I guess, I've been looking at that subject. And somebody said, maybe we should pronounce it differently when it's a healthy fear of God. And maybe we should spell it differently. I said, why don't we just use a different name? If you are an amplified Bible lover, you will see that often where it says the fear of the Lord. It uses the reverential, the reverential, you stand. That's why I asked AI if you would sing that our God is an awesome God. You believe that? How awesome is your God? Is he awesome enough to meet your needs?

Is he awesome enough to let you know that he doesn't like how you're doing things? I've been going through a list here. I started over at the bar and when I spoke over there a number of months ago. The things that God is putting together for this great awesome day of the Lord, that's ahead of us. And we are being prepared and I hope you're recognizing some of the things that God is doing. I haven't gone back as far as I'm going to go back right now, which I usually share. The passion of the Christ. Remember that? How that shook the world? When that was under Mel Gibson, I can't remember how many years ago now it was released. We were invited to a pre-showing of it, pastors in this area. A lot of us were there. When they showed that, how many actually saw the passion of Christ?

You haven't got to Netflix and watch it because I remember after when it was over, the beating that Jesus received, usually after a movie is over, you're talking, there was absolute silence. We were in awe that our God did that for us. We couldn't speak. I know we went to our cards. It was like we were, you know, in awe of the word. Then along came my favorite, the chosen. If you haven't seen the chosen, what are you waiting for? The chosen. Timely, so timely. I believe it will be the means by which God brings many millions of people into the kingdom because of that. I remember the first time I watched them. Series one, episode one, Jesus and Mary, and he quoted Isaiah.

He said, I've known you. I know your name. I've called you. You broke, now he prayed for her. Something hit me right here. It was something very real right here. I had to catch my breath. The next day during the night sent an offering after them. We wanted to get in on the growing level of the chosen. Now the fourth, series four is coming out. They promised us sometime in January

and I'm looking forward to it. We're praying it's just as anointed as the last three. After that came the Jesus revolution. Remember? Yeah, old enough to remember the Jesus revolution when Chuck Smith, Calvary Chapel, started all over California, baptizing people up there. It was just glorious. By the way, there's another one happening now, not in Asbury, but in another big university right now.

They're being baptized in hundreds and hundreds of years. Amen. In that time, if you haven't seen the Jesus revolution, I encourage you. I'm saying this not just, I'm encouraging you to see it. Baptisms and one of the young men that was baptized there, his name was Jack Hibbs, H-I-B-B-S. He was there. Got saved, got filled with his prayer. He's passing a most exciting church in Southern California. I heard an interview with him and the interviewer said, are you going to leave California like everybody else?

He said, are you crazy? He said, the worse it gets, the more we're needed. The more we have to stand, as the church is exploding. He just did a series. He thought it would be one sermon, but it ended up being three sermons on the days of deception, D-A-Z-E, the days of deception. If you can watch it, I strongly encourage you to watch it. Some of you are saying, well, where are we going to watch these things? Well, it's either on Netflix or you go to YouTube and just type in search and it happens. The sound of freedom came next. This movie is shaking Hollywood. There are people in that area, well-known recognizable names that hate this movie. And it was powerful. It is powerful. I don't know if it's on Netflix yet.

Tell me if it is because you need to see it. The sound of freedom about the terrible, terrible thing that's going on in slavery, child slavery, it breaks your heart. Maybe that's why some people don't want to watch it because they don't want to be made uncomfortable. But they don't mention it. They don't back it up. Back it up. Back it up, you can. The sound of freedom. And then I'm sure I have mentioned this. The JWSD. No, it's not a new strategy by the Jehovah's Witnesses. The JWSD is the James Webb. I have to think of a spider. James Webb Space Telescope. That is doing something. That is shaking. If you haven't watched it, I encourage you to just watch it. But JWSD under, and you will see choices and choices and choices and choices. This thing costs \$10 billion. It took 30 years to build.

It's circling the sun and a million miles away from Earth and sending back pictures that they never dreamed possible. They never had any thought that it could be that strong. It's gone. What they're calling it now is gone beyond the Big Bang. And they're apologizing for what they thought the Big Bang was. That was nice to hear because one of them said maybe this Big Bang was God. I say, amen. Amen. I have to add this. I'm watching the clock. This was given to me by a pastor who said a bunch of professors at Trinity University College wanted me to have this. And I shared from the first chapter talking about the difference between the blueprint theory of life and the warfare theory of life. And I know I shared it here.

I wouldn't guess maybe 15 years ago. Not too long ago. Then we lent it out. It was gone for a year. And it was given back to me. I sat next to my chair right here and I just got to blame. Pastor Gregory Boyd. This week I was pointed to it by the spirit, I believe, to read that. I go to the, he goes to the book of Job. I don't like the book of Job. I don't like it that Job got twice everything,

like 14,000 sheep and Mrs. Job. She had the same seven sons and three daughters. And she will be remembered as the one who said, why don't you just curse God and die? I don't like Job. I don't mean the man. I mean, 42 chapters of them going back and forth and back and forth. Here's what I want to read to you. What I believe God wanted me to read to you in light of the J.W.S.D. God is speaking to Job. Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare if you know all this. When all is well, what is the way to the place where the light is distributed?

That was the big bang, I believe. Or where the East wind is scattered upon the earth. Do you know the ordinances of heaven? Can you establish their rule? And he quoted earlier back there and he said this. When the morning stars sang together, did you know the stars sing? The J.W.S.D. is hearing some sounds out there that they believe maybe the stars do sing. Are all the heavenly beings when they shouted for joy? So Dr. Boyd says this. The point of these questions is to expose the massive ignorance of Job and his friends. The Lord is putting all of them in their place to demonstrate how arrogant it is for Job's friends to accuse Job and then for Job to accuse God. We know so little about the vastness, the complexity and the ordinances of creation. We are in no position to accuse anyone.

But no, the ignorance the Lord highlights in this passage is an ignorance about creation. And that's what J.W.S.D. is giving us the information about. Job's friends accuse Job and Job accuses God because they fail to humbly acknowledge their ignorance about the complexity of the world God has created. You have some questions about the creation, about black matter. I will watch it and get all excited and it hits me right here. The same way the children, it hits me right here. This is God's plan. I believe God planned that stuff. It's up there and it's showing us the majesty of God. And whenever I watched it, I thought I was watching it. The first time I saw it advertised on YouTube and I said, well, this is probably a 10 minute thing so I started watching it. They even walked by and said, you're still there? I said, yeah. Two hours later, I didn't understand much of what they were saying because they were using language I've never heard of before but they were saying that God is majestic. God is all powerful and there are many younger people who are coming on board with them and they're saying, this is incredible.

It answers so many of my questions. I encourage you so much. Encourage you. Encourage you to get the information you can. Like you said, if you bring it up, it will give you all kinds of choices. All kinds of new things, every week it's something. I've got to say this because they don't understand it. They have a galaxy out there that's so far out they never thought they would even sit but they're seeing it enough to understand what's happening and they're calling it the nursery because it's birthing stars and shooting them out into the unit. And they're saying we'll never reach the edge of the universe even if we could travel at the speed of light because the galaxies are expanding at the speed of light. Our God is an awesome God. Amen? He's so awesome.

The next one is Ai. That's going to change our world. Artificial intelligence is changing our world. Some of it's going to be good. Some of it's going to be very, very dangerous. I wouldn't say anything more about that. But then this week another one came along. Another one of God's plans for the church and it's called after death. It's put out by angels, promotions or angel productions. The same one that did the chosen, the same one that did the sound of freedom.

They are now doing this one called after death due to come out this month on the 27th. I want to say why I'm so excited about this. We have some natural fears. Probably the most expressed fear is the fear of death. Number two is the fear of abandonment. Number three, the fear of failure. The fear of the unknown. People are afraid and this was given I believe by God, godly appointed to answer those questions and they will hear clear, clear testimonies of how God takes away that fear from us. Give me a little help here. Amen. You're still with me here? I wanted some help to understand the difference between just the fear that was found in the Bible. I explained some of that in a minute or just fear. I believe the Holy Spirit took me back to a time when our sons, one of us sons, was here last Sunday.

They're now 52 and 51 and we also have a daughter. But the boys were 14, 15 months apart and all was in trouble it seemed. Especially when they were 8, 9 and 10. Let me show you the difference. We were planning to go on a camping trip when they were, I think they were 6 and 7 and we kept it from them as a secret. So one afternoon when the boys came home from school she said, when dad comes home he's got some exciting news for you. What is it? You know how that drives? It's crazy. What is it, mom? What is it? Tell us. When your father comes home you'll get the news. You'll get the news. So they were looking out the window. Is he here yet? Is he here yet? So when I came in their faces were beaming, they were running to meet me and I told them about the camping trip. So they got really excited. Before we went camping they had had a bad day. I mean the boys had a bad, a bad, a bad day. Fighting with each other, calling each other's names. So Doreen called and said, are you coming home soon? I said, yeah. She said, well hurry. It's really bad. So she said to them, when your father comes home, you're in trouble.

So they weren't looking for me. They weren't looking for me. I called it together and we had to sit down and I decided from there what they had to say and what Doreen had to say that one of them was guilty and I called him guilty. He said, you're not fair. I said, I know. I don't have to be fair. I have to be just. So you go upstairs, go down to your room and I'll come in a few minutes. I always believe in that. Don't send your child to the room and then forget about them there. Most five minutes. After five minutes they justify their behavior. So I went into the room and I had a little belt with me. I just want you to know this in case you're hearing online and you want to send the police for me. I never, ever spanked our children in anger. I told them, when you turn six and you're going to school, you have to obey the teachers. So you have to obey me and I'm never going to spank you again after that. And I didn't. I tried to make it kind of fun. So I went up and he was sitting there and I said, do you know why you? Do you know why?

First of all, I said, so you know you're wrong, right? He said, I guess so. I said, it's very serious. And I showed him the strap and I said, how many of these do you think you deserve? He said, two. I said, no, I was thinking five. Okay. We reasoned it down to three. So I said to a nail by the bed. Yeah. I said, do you know why I'm doing this? Because you love me? I think. I didn't womb them because every father's day, you won't believe the letter, the cards I get from the boys and from our daughter. They're actually proud of me. In fact, one of them said to me, Dad, I think you should have been a little harder on us. Probably. But this is where we come. Here's a scripture that I'm going to skip to Romans chapter 11. All wrote these words, behold, stop and look, behold, therefore the goodness and the severity of God.

This is not the Old Testament. Jesus said it is finished. He said, paid and full. But Paul then, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he writes and says, behold, therefore the goodness and severity of God. A lot of the linguists say Paul didn't write a good statement there. What he should have written is, therefore behold, the goodness and the badness of God. Goodness and badness. But God is not bad. God hates sin. And we should hate what God hates and love what God loves. If God did not have this, his severity, he would be a flat character. And if you worked in theater and know what a flat character is, it's one thing only, one thing only. But God does not love righteousness up here and hates sin at this level. He hates sin at the level that he loves righteousness. We've got to prepare to understand the fear of the Lord. Maybe it's time for some. Maybe I didn't even look to see what the message does with that word. God loves righteousness. But he punishes sin. I know there are friends of mine that I have in ministry who will say, no, when he died on the cross and said it is finished, he covered all of our sins, past, present and future. I don't agree with that.

They are potentially covered in Hebrews. Hebrews said, now no chastening is from the Lord. It's ever joyous, but grievous. But after it reaps the reward of obedience to them that are exercised by it. In other words, if you know that something's wrong and you take it to God and you ask His forgiveness, that could handle it, but also you may have to be punished, but disciplined by it. Amen. Let's go to Isaiah chapter 11. Isaiah 11 is an expression of Jesus. We want to be like Jesus, but also I hope that I might be like Him. And here's what 11 says, and there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots. That's Jesus.

There's no question there at all. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. Verse 3, and shall make him of quick understanding, this is Jesus, of course, and asking in the understanding in the fear of the Lord. And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears. Righteous judgment, but to Jesus was given the fear of the Lord. It can't be, being afraid of God. Is being afraid of God wise? I'm going to go to the church in Acts 9, 31, and then you have that, there you have. This is so beautiful. This is the New Testament. This is it. Grace. Amen. This is grace. It's the book of Acts. It's the Holy Spirit. But Ben had the church rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria and were edified and walking in the fear of the Lord. And in the comfort of the Holy Spirit were multiplied. I love that combination. The fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Believe me, if this fear here was fearing God, in that sense of being afraid of Him, they would not have experienced the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at some of the promises, reasonable expectations, I said last Sunday. An expectation is reasonable if you can find a scripture to back it up. And I've talked last week about the unrelenting disappointment of prayers that are not answered. I hope I helped with that some. I'm going to read some of these just quickly. I'm looking at the clock. Probably when you say to somebody, what is the fear of the Lord? They will say, it is the beginning of wisdom. And that's what it says here. The fear, fear ye the Lord. And in the mn34, let's get this right. Psalm 130. You know I think God invented these post-it notes. They were a great invention, they were a serendipity actually of a man who was in church one morning who worked in a lab and the pastor got so bored that he thought of what he... Anyhow, that's another stone. 111, this is it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding has all they that do his commandments and his praise His name forever. The next one Psalm 25. What man is he that fears the Lord? Him shall God teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him and he will show them his covenant. There are so many promises. Did I say it earlier? No aspect of the Christian life carries more promises with it than the fear of the Lord. Proverbs 22 and 23. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life. The fear, the reverent awe of God gives us riches, honor and life. Let not thine heart envy sinners, but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long. Proverbs 19. I'll get there. I love these promises. It's right out of God's word and I hope that you are remembering some of them. Proverbs 19 verse 23. Proverbs 14, 26 and 27. I'll get there.

The angel of the Lord encamps, among them that fear him and deliver that. O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless it is the man that trusts within him. Well fear the Lord all ye saints, for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Come children, harken unto me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Now we go to Proverbs, this is where it gets beautiful. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer. They shall seek me early, but they will not find me, for they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. It's a choice. They did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would none of his counsel, they despised all of my reproof. This is the wisdom of God speaking, they would despise my reproof. That's the problem in Canada.

Most people in Canada, it seems to be in most churches, don't not have the fear of the Lord. My son, if you will receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, so that you incline your ear unto wisdom and apply your heart to understanding, yea, if you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding. If you seek her as silver and surges for her as for hidden treasure, then shall you understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of your God. If then, if then, if my people, then, if then. So I ask you this question, are you living in the fear of the Lord? Are you living with a consciousness of his awesomeness, of his majesty? That's what the J.W. did for me, maybe that is out there. And somewhere in the midst of all that, the little tiny, tiny, it's so small. Our earth, it's so small. And yet he looks on us and he loves us. What is man that they were fearful of him or the son of man that they'll visit us? Behold, thou hast made him a little lower than, your Bible says, angels, but the word there is Elohim. It's the same word in Genesis 1-1 in the beginning, Elohim. Thou hast made him a little lower than Elohim and crowned us with glory.

We are crowned with glory. You know why the confusion there? Because Elohim means heavenly beings. I guess the King James wrote back in 1611, they say, we better put angels here. We could get into trouble if we said God. I don't know why my attention was drawn to that book. And I don't know why I felt impressed. Two days ago, to tell you this story. It's a true story from the north way up north. North of Alberta is the northwest territory, Mackenzie District, and then Yukon. This story was, I believe it's a true story. It was in one of our missionary magazines that had no reason to doubt it. It's a story of a young couple and a little girl, a child that had gone north. I mean way up north, where the supply plane comes and services maybe three or four times in the winter. The little girl had been put to bed, it was getting pretty dark.

I don't know what the time was. Getting dark, it was always dark out there in January and February. Sometime in the middle of the winter, she was in bed, her husband was studying. And she heard a knock on the door. She goes and opens the door. The wind was blowing, it was cold. It was a young, native girl. In her teens, obviously, holding a little baby. And the missionary's wife said, what can I do for you? She said, need soap for my baby. Need soap for my baby. So she said, well, come on in, come on in. Close the door. She went and opened the cupboard where the hand soap was, and there was one bar of soap. She said she grabbed it, and then she prayed and said, Lord, should I? And she heard the Lord say, why are you here?

Why are you here? She said, thank you Lord. Placed it in the ladies, young girl's hand, wish their God bless. She went into the dark. She told her husband about it, and they prayed about it. But when you do something like that, you always wonder, did I do the right thing? What about my little girl? The next day, she had some washing to do, and I don't mean in a washing machine. I mean in the tub of some kind. So she went to get the laundry soap. She opened the cupboard, grabbed the soap, and it said, free bar of soap inside. She said, thank you Lord. She put a bowl there, ripped over the top, plop, plop. Two bars of soap fell out of that box. A thousand miles away, maybe more, in some soap packaging company. The management had decided to do a little promotion and put a bar of soap in each box of laundry soap. So they set up the machinery, and it's a good idea. I guess they sold a lot of soap that month. But there was a little machine that went to the box of soap. Before it was sealed, a bar of soap was pushed out. Just like that. Watch this one. I believe an angel was assigned to that box. Make sure it goes on this way. Make sure it went to that warehouse.

Make sure it got on that plane that went way up north. Because our God is an awesome God. Are you believing for something? So I'll just go back to last week if you weren't here. We were talking about expectations, and is it reasonable to believe for an answer to prayer if we have a promise? I use Paul when he established the church in Philippi. Remember the Holy Spirit, they were going here, Silas, and the Lord said, Holy Spirit said, no, don't go here. No, don't go here. And then Paul has a dream come on over. And they follow that dream. And Dr. Luke writes and says, we assuredly knew that that's where we were to be. They went there in the will of God. Was it comfortable? At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed, and the church in Philippi was born. Two o'clock in the morning, the guard washed their strength. It was a bad beating.

Washed their backs. Fenned them. And then he and his entire family were baptized. Where were they baptized at two o'clock in the morning? They were baptized. And then when you read the book of Philippians, it's one of my favorite books, chapter four especially. Be careful and anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer. Dr. Rick Renner says that word there is more than just a little prayer. That word there because of its context and where he drew, in this case, the Greek. It has a relationship to John 1-1. In the beginning was the word. And the word was with God. That word there belongs there in that prayer. It's a prayer of intimacy. And when you have a prayer of intimacy with intercession or supplication, with thanksgiving and the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, the peace of God from the God of peace, with God, who will build a fortress around your heart and your mind. The word there in the King James. I love the King James and I preach from it, but there are some words in there that didn't make sense back in 1611. In 1611 it says, and the peace of God will keep your heart and mind.

The word is strong. 14. Be the French know that word. Fort strength. It will build a fortress. The peace of God. It will build a fortress around your heart, your emotions, your feelings, and your mind, your thoughts. And right now as you sit here this morning, your mind is under attack. Have you ever read Joyce Meyer's book, *The Battlefield of the Mind*? It's worth reading. A lot of books out there about the mind. That's where the enemy is attacking. We need to have the peace of God beyond understanding, guarding our thoughts and our emotions. Amen? Let's stand together please. If while I was sharing this word this morning, you felt something. Maybe your mind wandered for a while and that's okay. But you felt something that maybe you know you need to do. I want you to talk to the Lord right now. If you want to embrace something, some scripture, some thought. Unconditional love does not mean unconditional acceptance of bad behavior. You cannot compensate by sacrificing what you know by disobedience. Obedience is the proof of love. I'm asking you to do what I believe the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about. It may be somebody you've had a falling out with and you've been kind of excusing it, but maybe the Holy Spirit is telling you this morning, do what is right.

Do what is right. Lord, I believe I choose the fear of the Lord. So concluding the fear of the Lord is the choice that we make to obey Him. I choose to obey. Obedience is the proof of love. Thank you Lord. Thank you Father. If you receive this prayer, precious Heavenly Father, our hearts are open to you. We want to know that your fear, the fear of the Lord, the awesomeness of our God, the awesomeness of our God. I thank you Lord. Thank you for the courage to be obedient. Thank you for everyone who is here this morning. In Jesus' name, we dismiss and we thank you for your blessings. O my bad.