

1

2 **What kind of life do you want your children to experience?**

3 **Here's what I want for my children:**

- To remain faithful to God
- To experience life in peace
- To avoid destruction
- To experience God's goodness
- To have a stable life
- To receive God's special attention
- To receive God's special compassion
- To have their cries for help heard by God

4 **Here is what I want for my children (2):**

- To receive God's protection and deliverance
- To have their needs met
- To be rewarded with prosperity
- To be rewarded with a long, fruitful life
- To be blessed by God
- To be successful leaders
- To please God

5 **What would you do if you found out you could teach your children one thing that would provide all these benefits?**

6 **How important is to you to know that many parents are losing the battle for the hearts of their children because they haven't taught this ONE thing?**

7 **Do you know
what it is?**

8 **At the conclusion of this sermon...**

- Some of you will think I've gone off the deep end of "old time religion"
- Some of you will go home puzzled
- Some of you will be mad because you think I was talking about you
- Some of you will catch a vision for changes you can make that will cause your children to have a greater impact on an ever-darkening world

9 **Reverence**

The most important thing to teach your children

10 **What is reverence?**

- The proper sense of awe, fear, respect, and wonder...
- ...that is inspired and demanded by an encounter with, or meditation upon the character and activity of the living God.

11 **Why is this the most important thing?**

- Proverbs 1:7 -- *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- Proverbs 9:10 -- *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*
- If you have the fear of the Lord, everything else you need will follow.

12 **Worship defined by Tozer**

- The "ability to withdraw inwardly and commune in the secret place with God in the shrine of his own hidden spirit."
- How can we who wish to draw nearer to God approach the unapproachable flame? There is a solution, Tozer tells us.
 - If you put a piece of iron in a fire, "*the iron can learn to live with the fire by absorbing the fire and beginning to glow*"

13 **The lost reverence for God**

- The Lord chided the people of Israel, saying, "*thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself*" (Psalm 50:21).
- C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity* writes:
 - *God is the only comfort, He is also the supreme terror... . Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are only playing with religion.*

14 **Common man has a common god**

- *We also seem to have gotten away from the concept of majesty altogether. This is the age of the common man and along with the common man has come the common god. We have no heroes anymore, because everybody is equal to everybody else, and the common man is now in control. But along with the common man, I say, is the common god, and with it the loss of the whole concept of majesty.*
- Tozer, A. W., & Fessenden, D. E. (2003-). *The attributes of God*, Volume 1: A journey into the Father's heart (180). Camp Hill, PA: WingSpread.

15 **The lost awareness of God**

- *We have lost also an awareness of the invisible and eternal. The world is too much with us so that the invisible and the eternal seem to be quite forgotten or at least we are not aware of it. We're only briefly aware of it when somebody dies. The Church has lost the consciousness of the divine Presence and the concept of majesty.*
- *I said at a service once that we had so organized our churches that God could leave and we wouldn't find it out.*
 - A.W. Tozer

16 **The lost sense of worship**

- The modern Christian has lost a sense of worship along with the concept of majesty, and of course, reverence as well. He has lost his ability to withdraw inwardly and commune in the secret place with God in the shrine of his own hidden spirit. It is this that makes Christianity, and we have all but lost it.

17 **The lost sense of worship (2)**

- *Added numbers, yes, but lost fear. Multiplied schools, yes, but lost awareness of the invisible.*

Tons of literature being poured out, of course, but no consciousness of the divine Presence. Better communication, certainly, but nothing to communicate. Evangelistic organizations, yes, but the concept of majesty and worship and reverence has almost left us.

18 **No swear words**

- When the pilgrims arrived on this continent, the Native Americans had no swear words in their mother tongues.
- They learned to swear in English and French.
- Their reverence for the *Great Spirit* kept their language undefiled by profane words.
 - How defiled is your language?
 - Or your tweets and text messages?

19 **Revere God alone**

- Reverence is for God alone.
 - Deuteronomy 6:13 -- *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.*
 - God alone is to be feared.
- Respect is for people.
 - We are to respect others because they were made in the image of God.
 - But the fear of man is a snare.
 - Proverbs 29:25 -- *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

20 **How reverence affects respect**

- Reverence produces respect for others
 - Ephesians 5:21 -- *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*
 - 1 Peter 2:17 -- *Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*
- A child who is taught to reverence and fear God will have respect for those made in God's image.

21 **Do you fear man or God?**

- Of the memorials in Westminster Abbey there is not one that gives a nobler thought than that inscribed on the monument to Lord Lawrence—simply his name, with the date of his death, and these words: *"He feared man so little because he feared God so much."*

22 **Reverence affects social attitudes**

- Toward the disabled:
 - Leviticus 19:14 -- *Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.*
- Toward the oppressed:
 - Leviticus 25:17 -- *Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God.*
 - Leviticus 25:36 -- *Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.*

23 **Reverence affects our work**

- Resolves conflicts of duty

- Exodus 1:17 -- *But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.*
- Qualifies for administrative positions
 - Exodus 18:21 -- *Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:*

24 **Reverence affects our judgment**

- 2 Chronicles 19:7 -- *Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.*
- After Jehoshaphat appointed judges, "he charged them, saying, *Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart*" (2 Chronicles 19:9)

25 **Reverence affects lifestyle**

- Titus 2:2-3 -- *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*
 - In the context of being "sober-minded" and making sure the Word of God is not blasphemed.
 - Grave = Reverent

26 **Reverence may bring less hostility**

- 2 Chronicles 17:10 -- *And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.*

27 **Lack of reverence brings a curse**

- Deuteronomy 25:18 -- *How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*
- Psalm 36:1 -- *The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

28 **Lack of reverence leads to mistreating others**

- Nehemiah 5:7-9
 - *Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them. 8 And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer. 9 Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?*
 -

29 **Why teach reverence?**

Reverence is necessary to experience
all the benefits God has for us.

30 **To remain faithful to God**

- *And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to*

*do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. 41
Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly
with my whole heart and with my whole soul. (Jeremiah 32:40-42)*

31 **To experience life and peace**

- Malachi 2:5
 - *My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear
wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.*

32 **To avoid destruction**

- Jeremiah 5:22
 - *Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the
sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the
waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not
pass over it?*
 - Your family will not automatically fear God. It must be an intentional pursuit of family
leadership.

33 **To avoid destruction (2)**

- Jeremiah 5:23-25
 - *But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither
say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former
and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your
iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from
you.*
 - Rebellious heart
 - Forgotten blessings
 - Sinful life
 - Missed blessings

34 **To experience God's goodness**

- Psalm 31:19 -- *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee;
which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*
- God has blessings He is waiting to give your family that He has reserved just for those who
FEAR or REVERENCE Him.

35 **To bring stability to life**

- Isaiah 33:6 -- *And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of
salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.*
 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning (starting place) of wisdom.
 - Teach reverence and you give the ability to get wisdom which applies to every area of our
lives.

36 **To receive God's special attention**

- Nehemiah 1:11
 - *O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the
prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this
day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*

- Psalm 33:18 -- *Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy*

37 **To receive God's special compassion**

- Psalm 103:13, 17
 - *Like as a father pitith his children, so the LORD pitith them that fear him.*
 - *But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*

38 **To have our cries for help heard**

- Psalm 145:19 -- *He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them.*
- Luke 1:50 -- *And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.*

39 **To receive God's protection and deliverance**

- Psalm 34:7 -- *The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*
- Psalm 60:4 -- *Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.*
- Proverbs 14:26 -- *In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.*

40 **To have needs met**

- Exodus 1:21 -- *And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.*
-
-
- Psalm 34:9 -- *O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.*
- Psalm 111:5 -- *He hath given meat unto them that fear him: He will ever be mindful of his covenant.*

41 **To be rewarded with prosperity**

- Deuteronomy 6:24
 - *And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.*
- Psalm 25:12–13
 - *What man is he that feareth the LORD? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.*
 - *His soul shall dwell at ease; And his seed shall inherit the earth.*

42 **To be rewarded with prosperity (2)**

- Proverbs 22:4 -- *By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life.*

43 **To be rewarded with long, fruitful life**

- Proverbs 10:27 -- *The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.*
- Proverbs 14:27 -- *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*
- Ecclesiastes 8:13 -- *But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.*

44 **To be blessed by God**

- God's blessings on those who revere him are a witness to the nations.
- Psalm 128:4 -- *Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.*
- Jeremiah 33:9
 - *And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honor before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.*

45 **To be a successful leader**

- 2 Samuel 23:3
 - *The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spake to me, 'He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.'*
- 2 Chronicles 26:5
 - *And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.*

46 **To be a successful leader (2)**

- Reverence for God inspires an employee's respect for his employer.
- Colossians 3:22 -- *Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:*
-

47 **To please God**

- Psalm 147:11 -- *The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

48 **How do you teach reverence?**

49 **1. Remember God's wondrous works**

- 1 Samuel 12:24
 - *Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*
- Deuteronomy 10:20-21
 - *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.*

50 **Remember God's wondrous works (2)**

- Keep a book of remembrance
- Encourage journaling
- Talk of God's past provisions and miracles on your behalf

51 **Biblical reason for Thanksgiving**

- Deuteronomy 14:23
 - *And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.*

52 **2. Review God's just judgments**

- Job 37:23-24 -- *Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict. Men do therefore fear him: He respecteth not any that are wise of heart.*
 - Point out consequences of actions while exercising care to not be "holier than thou."
 - Explain that God is not capricious in His actions.
 - Explain that God's principles apply to all men without respect of persons.

53 **Daring the Almighty**

- December 28, 1908, an earthquake destroyed the beautiful city of Messina, Sicily, killing 75,000.
- *"Only a few hours before that devastating earthquake, which laid Messina and the surrounding districts in ruins, the unspeakably wicked and irreligious condition of some of the inhabitants was expressed in a series of violent resolutions, which were passed against all religious principles.*

54 **Daring the Almighty (2)**

- *And the journal Il Tleefono, printed in Messina, actually published in its Christmas number an abominable parody daring the Almighty to make Himself known by sending an earthquake! And in three days He did!"*
-

55 **3. Request God to answer powerfully**

- 1 Samuel 12:18 -- *So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.*
 - God did something in response to Samuel's prayer and the people revered God.
 - The people also respected Samuel, because they understood that he spoke for God and communicated with God.
 - Family members respect a parent who prays with faith prayers that God answers.

56 **4. Reveal God's plan of salvation**

- 1 Chronicles 16:24-25
 - *Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; Show forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the heathen; His marvelous works among all nations. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: He also is to be feared above all gods.*
 - Because "he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30), a soul-winning family member will be respected.
 - God is revered when we take Him so seriously that we tell others about Christ.

57 **5. Recognize God's creative acts**

- 1 Chronicles 16:25 -- *For all the gods of the people are idols: But the LORD made the heavens.*
-
- Evolution:
 - Requires countless assumptions to work.
 - Has no evidence.
 - Is man's chosen belief system because it requires no change. It eliminates God from

being glorified or revered.

58 **Recognize God's creative acts (2)**

- Creation
- Requires only one assumption – that God exists (Hebrews 11:6).
- Having a Creator means that you are here for a reason and that He cares what you do with your life.
- A belief in creation causes you to live with an eternal perspective.

59 **6. Remain in God's presence**

- 1 Chronicles 16:27-29a
 - *Glory and honor are in his presence; Strength and gladness are in his place. Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name.*
- Stay in His presence
 - Personally (closet)
 - As a couple (chamber)
 - As a family (cottage)
 - As a church (congregation)

60 **7. Return tithes and offerings to God**

- 1 Chronicles 16:29b
 - *Bring an offering, and come before him: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Fear before him, all the earth: The world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.*
- Teach your children to do this as well.

61 **8. Ruminant on the Word of God**

- Habakkuk 3:2a -- *O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years...*
 - Listen to God's Word
 - Read it out loud to your family
 - Give them the precious memory of family devotionals

62 **Ruminant on the Word of God (2)**

- Memorize the Word of God and encourage others to do the same.
 - "Parenting by remote control"
 - My own story of backsliding

63 **Ruminant on God's Word (3)**

64 **9. Restrain your mouth**

- Matthew 12:36-37 -- *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*
- Use biblical words carefully:
 - "Divinity" refers to God, not Stuckey's candy
 - "Paradise" refers to God's presence and revelation, not a name for a city (2 Cor. 12:4).
 - "God" should not be used as a punctuation mark or an exclamation. It is the name above

all names.

65 **10. Regard God's house (presence)**

- In Ecclesiastes 5, the author stops to consider God's place in the heavens and our place on earth.
- He acknowledges that there is a great gulf of understanding between who God is and who we think He is.

66 **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**

- *Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.*
 - Guard your steps.
 - You are on holy ground.
 - Treat this as a sacred time.
 - Give your best to God.
 - Be your best for God.
 - Demonstrate for your children your reverence for God.

67 **Where is godly fear in His house?**

- *We have lost from our gospel Christianity almost altogether what people used to call religious fear. And along with our loss of religious fear came a corresponding flippancy and familiarity toward God that our fathers never knew.* (A.W. Tozer)
 - Our flippancy and familiarity is evident in:
 - our deportment and dress in God's house
 - the music in most churches
 - our idle talk

68 **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3 (2)**

- *2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.* 3 *For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.*
 - HEAR from God! Use few words.
 - Pray carefully and thoughtfully.
 - Do not use God to justify pursuit of your goals.
 - He is in heaven. You are on earth. So His perspective is more meaningful.

69 **The physical matters**

- Bowing:
 - Psalm 95:6 -- *O come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the LORD our maker.*
- Prostration:
 - Genesis 17:3 -- *And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him*
 - Revelation 5:14 -- *And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.*

70 **The physical matters (2)**

- Being modest

- Exodus 3:6 -- *Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.*
- 1 Timothy 2:9 -- *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*

71 **The physical matters (3)**

- Kneeling (Ephesians 3:14):
 - Ezra 9:5 -- *And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God*
 - Daniel 6:10 -- *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.* (Sent him to the lion's den.)

72 **11. Reject sacrilege**

- *During a circus performance in Dublin, at the time of the great revival under Moody's preaching when Sankey's hymns were being sung everywhere, one clown, pretending to be dejected, said to the other, "I feel quite moody tonight. How do you feel?" "Oh!" said the other, "I'm sankeymonious." Contrary to what was expected, this was met with hisses, and the whole audience rose and sang, "Hold the fort, for I am coming."*

73 **12. Realize the seriousness of vows**

- Ecclesiastes 5:4-6
 - *When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?*

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- Review God's just judgments
- Request God to answer powerfully
- Reveal God's plan of salvation
- Recognize God's creative acts
- Remain in God's presence
- Return tithes and offerings to God
- Ruminate on the word of God
- Restrain your mouth
- Regard God's house
- Reject sacrilege
- Realize the seriousness of the house

77 **For further information:**

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 - <http://ow.ly/jP4Yx>
 - www.sermonaudio.com/rrohlin -- Family Matters series