

God told Moses whose presence he was in and that the place where he stood was holy. Moses responded in appropriate submission.

Verse 6 says Moses was afraid to look at God's face. What is the difference in Moses' fear and Adam and Eve's fear of God?

28 Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. 29 For our God is a devouring fire. - Hebrews 12:28-29 NLT

If we fear that God will destroy us when we come into his presence, then perhaps we are trying to hang on to our sins as we approach. Our God is a consuming fire, but a fire that destroys what is evil and reveals what is good. Like gold refined by fire, when we stand in submission to God's holy presence God will reveal who we are truly made to be. He consumes but does not destroy us.

As Hebrews 12:28 directs, take a few moments to worship God, and express your gratitude and praise with a holy fear and awe of a Holy God.

WRAP-UP

In Proverbs 1:7, Solomon wrote that the fear of God is the foundation of wisdom. We have good reason to fear God. His power, greatness, and holiness should arouse a sense of awe, reverence, and yes, even fear in us. But if we know His goodness and His love, we need not fear that He will destroy us. He will not take from us what is good nor force us to do things simply to display His power over us. God is love and when we have a right understanding of who God is, we will confidently submit to His will in reverence and awe.

MEMORY VERSE

7 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. - Proverbs 1:7 NLT

Challenge- Set aside a time to reflect soberly and discover, not just what you say you believe, but what you actually believe about God and the relationship He desires to have with you.

Revealer not Rival
Pastor David Hutsko

INTRODUCTION

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.!" – A.W, Tozer.

Most of us are familiar with the passage in Exodus 3 where Moses encounters God in the burning bush. Moses was amazed because though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. God's powerful presence was on display, but it didn't cause the destruction one would expect from a blazing fire. In the exchange that follows, God establishes who He is, and Moses responds accordingly. As A.W. Tozer observed in his book "The Knowledge of the Holy", our perception of who God is and our relationship to Him is the most important thing about us. Let's examine Moses response to God and compare it to Adam and Eve, and to our own understanding of who God is and how we should relate to Him.

Ice Breaker

Describe the first thing that comes to you mind when you think about God.

Key Passage

1 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. 3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." - Exodus 3:1-3 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The Wrong Understanding of Who God Is

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. - Genesis 3:4-7 NLT

When Satan convinced Eve that she could be like God by taking the knowledge of good and evil into her own hands, she demonstrated that she really didn't understand who God is. First, she believed that by taking what she wanted (being the one who knew what was good and evil) she could be like God. Next, she believed that God had withheld something good from her. And finally, she and Adam thought they could hide their nakedness and avoid the consequences of their disobedience. Let's consider why they were wrong in what they believed about God.

God is not our rival. Eve believed the lie that God withheld the knowledge of good and evil because it would make her like Him. In effect she saw Him as her rival in a power struggle to determine what's good and what's evil.

Do you recall a time when you viewed God as withholding good things from you? If so, what did you feel you were being denied? In retrospect, do you still hold that opinion or has God either revealed why that was the wrong thing at the wrong time, or have you grown to trust and accept that God did that for a good purpose even if you never understand why?

God is omnipotent; He made all things, and He has authority over all things. There is nothing too hard for Him to do. And yet God graciously shared His authority with Man when He told Adam to reign over the fish birds and animals and govern the earth. He told Adam to freely eat of everything except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

"O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!"
- Jeremiah 32:17 NLT

Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."
- Genesis 1:28 NLT

16 But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden-- 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."
- Genesis 2:16-17 NLT

When Adam and Eve tried to hide from God and cover their nakedness out of shame and fear, it showed that they didn't understand the character of God. First that He is omniscient – which means He knows everything and nothing is hidden from Him.

We may be able to hide our true selves, our flaws and our sins from others, and we can try to cover them up with our own "fig leaves", but God not only sees them, but He also always knew about them and yet He extended His grace, mercy and redemption to us anyway.

What are some of the lies we believe (or rationalizations we use) when we insist on holding on to our sins rather than confessing and repenting? What is the truth about God that we need to remember to counter those lies?

3. Right Understanding of God

Consumed but not Destroyed

In our key passage (Ex 3:1-3) God appeared in the fire of a burning bush. And although the bush was consumed by the blaze, it was not being destroyed. Moses was seeking to understand this unique phenomenon. As he drew near God called his name and Moses replied, "Here I am!"

5 "Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. 6 I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. - Exodus 3:5-6 NLT