

Awe

A new beginning happens best with wisdom. And if there's anything we should want in times of confusion, it should be wisdom. Other than Jesus, the wisest man ever on earth was Solomon, who offers exactly what we need. Let's revisit the Bible's old wisdom in a new way to give light to a wise path forward.



INTRODUCTION

Believing that the “the awe of something greater disarms the fear of something lesser” gives God’s children the security of dwelling in his mighty fortress while resting in the fountain of his abundant Spirit.

STARTER QUESTION

If “awe” is a moment of “wonder” and an undeniable display of God’s active presence, share some of those moments in your life when the wonder of God amazed and dazzled you.

INTO THE WORD

1. Read Proverbs 1:7. If Godly wisdom must be cultivated by attending to and meditating on the Word of God, how does carnal wisdom develop? What does “wisdom” mean to you in practical terms? What does Godly wisdom look like compared to worldly wisdom?
2. Read Proverbs 19:23 and Proverbs 23:19. What is your understanding that the awe of God does not allow trouble to overthrow contentment? How is it possible to experience the awe of God in our everyday life? What does it mean to experience the awe of God?
3. Read Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 28:14, and Ephesians 4:14. How does awe of God increase? What flows in the undercurrent of a life filled with the awe of God? Conversely, what flows in the undercurrent of a life set adrift with foolishness?

APPLICATION

4. Read Proverbs 9:10. How can the awe of God make us infinitely happier? What happens to the people around you when they see the joy of the Lord in your face and demeanor?
5. Read Proverbs 19:23, and Proverbs 28:14. Pastor David said this is an opportunity for the Church to arise, to become attractive to the world. What are some practical ways as individuals and collectively to show the awe of God to our troubled world around us? Pastor David reminded us that not only is the world watching, but so are our children and grandchildren.
6. Read Proverbs 14: 26-27. The most frightening aspect of God is His Holiness. But because of the shed blood of Jesus, we are made right and can stand before our awesome God. What can we do this week to increase our own knowledge that God is both our Fortress and our Fountain?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to stand in awe of you this week as the beginning of our search for Wisdom.

SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:

In reference to the Starter Question - As we grow older and experience the ups and downs of life, it is easy to lose the innocence and joy that little children naturally display when experiencing something new and exciting. Perhaps that is why in Matthew 19:13, Jesus rebuked his disciples when they complained about the people bringing their children to Him.

In reference to question #1 - In a Bible commentary we read... In this age of information, knowledge is plentiful, but wisdom is scarce. Wisdom means far more than simply knowing a lot. It is a basic attitude that affects every aspect of life. The foundation of wisdom is to honor and respect the Lord – to live in awe of his power and to obey his Word. Faith in God should be our controlling principle for your understanding of the world, your attitudes, and your actions. Trust in God – he will make you truly wise.

Proverbs 1:7 - The prerequisite for someone to have wisdom is the fear of the Lord, meaning high esteem.

2 Timothy 3:16 - Wisdom in someone's life would look like continuous learning and instruction.

1 Corinthians 3:18 - Wisdom of this world is folly.

Ecclesiastes 2:12- "...consider wisdom and madness and folly..."

In reference to question #2 - A Bible commentary says... Those who fear the Lord are "untouched by trouble" because of their healthy habits, their beneficial lifestyle, and sometimes through God's direct intervention. Nevertheless, fear of the Lord does not always protect us from trouble in this life: evil things still happen to people who love God. This verse is not a universal promise, but a general guideline. It describes what would happen if this world were sinless, and what will happen in the earth when faithful believers will be under God's protection forever.

In reference to question #3 - Awe for God increases when grace and forgiveness are experienced. Conversely, not practicing grace and forgiveness diminishes the awe of God. Although a rather controversial passage, Matthew 6:14 says if you forgive others their trespasses, God will forgive you yours. Forgiving others can clean out the spiritual pollution that flows in the undercurrent of our lives. Proverbs 28:14 admonishes us to not let our hearts harden. Seek the presence of the Lord daily, as his mercies are new every morning.

In reference to question #4 – Pastor David explained how the awe of something greater disarms the fear of something lesser! The difference between times of being greatly troubled and the experience of Godly awe are nearly infinite.

Proverbs 19:23 "The Fear of the Lord leads to Life...will not visited by harm."

In reference to question #5 - Believers can display the awesomeness of God to others by living a life of contentment and keeping a soft heart toward others who are suffering. Pastor David gave us practical things to think about, such as removing the "gods" from our lives, which include comfort, approval, power and control. And we CAN trust what God allows in our lives, even if we do not understand at the time.

In reference to question #6 - This week we can turn off the TV, radio and internet news, and other social media...and fill our homes and ear buds with worship music and on-line Bible readings. Feeding our minds and thus our souls with praise and God's word will heal our own hearts, enabling us to go into the world armed and ready to meet whatever assignment God places before us.