



The Fear of the Lord

Opening Question: Looking back to last week's sermon and scripture... How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?

This Week's Scriptures:

Psalm 111-112

- "Praise the LORD.
I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.
- ² Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.
- ³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.
- ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
- ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
giving them the lands of other nations.
- ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
- ⁸ They are established for ever and ever,
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.
- ⁹ He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—
holy and awesome is his name.
- ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.

Psalm 112

- ¹ Praise the LORD.
Blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who find great delight in his commands.
- ² Their children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,

- and their righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.
- ⁵ Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered forever.
- ⁷ They will have no fear of bad news;
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸ Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
- ⁹ They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn will be lifted high in honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see and be vexed,
they will gnash their teeth and waste away;
the longings of the wicked will come to nothing."

Isaiah 6:1-10

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

⁹ He said, "Go and tell this people:

"Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving."

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."

Scripture Reflection Questions: Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection Questions: Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- What connections do you see between Psalm 111 and 112? How does 112 mirror 111, and taken together what is the main point (or points) they are making?
- Has the phrase "fear of the Lord" been misused in your life or in the life of someone you know? How can that concept be something positive and helpful in our faith?

Closing Question and Application: Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?

Closing group prayer: Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Take the challenging parts of your conversation to Jesus. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.