

SEEING & HEARING

Reverencing

Foundation Statement: The beginning of wisdom, of being led by the Spirit, of seeing and hearing what God is showing and saying is reverencing God

- I. **Psalm 111:10-We can't begin where wisdom is concern and ignore this area of reverence Wisdom has it's origins in your reverence for God and if you don't reverence God wisdom has no place to originate from in your life; it will have no beginning (EX: You can't talk about #2 and not want to deal with #1)**
- A. Are there Christians who are not receiving direction solely b/c of their lack of reverence? Could being irreverent keep you from walking in the wisdom God? **Is there a connection between lack of reverence and an inability to see and hear and get direction from God?**
- The level of reverence you have for God will effect the level of wisdom you walk in
 - Many people think passively, "I reverence God," and don't actively search to grow in it
 - Spiritually dense people never make these spiritual connections
 - CEB-The fear of the Lord is where wisdom begins
 - You will only find wisdom at **this place** of reverence; If you aren't willing to go there, then you have no right to expect to receive wisdom
 - EX: If you want to get gas for your car you got to go location necessary to obtain it
 - AMP-The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom and skill [the preceding, the prerequisite]
 - Reverence precedes wisdom; It is a **prerequisite** of wisdom; you can't **go on to** wisdom w/o reverence
 - EX: In college there are prerequisite classes you have to take before you can take certain other classes
 - NLT-The fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom
 - You can't **build** a wisdom house without the **foundation** of reverence in place
 - VOICE-Reverence for the Eternal is the first step toward wisdom
 - If you want to **step towards** wisdom you need to **walk in** reverence
 - If you want to end at the wisdom destination that you must travel the path of reverence
 - ESV-The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom; all those who PRACTICE it have a good understanding
 - This reverence is a **lifestyle**; it's something you **practice** everyday
- B. This reverence for God will bring about and manifest His leading
- A led-life, a life overflowing with His wisdom and direction is the result of a reverent life; You being reverent will result in you being led

2. 1 Sam 2:30-If you'll honor Him by reverencing him, He will honor you w/ His leading
 - a. When God directs you and gives you his leading he is honoring you, but he will not honor you with direction when you are not honoring Him with reverence
3. Psalm 25:12-14-The leading is **with** those reverencing
 - a. His counsel (his showing and saying) is always the result of your reverence
 - b. AMP-The secret [of the sweet, satisfying, companionship] of the Lord have they who fear Him and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning
 - c. HCSB-The secret counsel of the Lord is for those who fear Him
 - d. NIRV-The Lord shares his plans with those who have respect for Him

II. A lack of reverence for God will keep you from the wisdom of God by darkening you and it will cripple your ability to see and hear the direction God is endeavoring to give you

- A. Romans 1:20-22-The principle here is this: Irreverence darkens the heart
 1. They are irreverent, they are unthankful, they are giving their minds to useless and foolish things, they are professing themselves to be wise-IRREVERENCE-Proverbs 3:7
 2. When it's dark in your heart it's hard to see what God is showing you, hard to hear what He is saying to you, hard to discern what's Him
 3. If being irreverent darkens you and makes it hard to see and hear and receive direction from God, then reverence will brighten you so that you can see and hear and receive direction from God and you won't be dark and dumb, but you'll have the wisdom of God
 - a. VOICE-Because despite the fact that they knew the one true God, they have failed to show the **love, honor, and appreciation** due to the One who created them. Instead their lives are consumed by vain thoughts that **poison** their foolish hearts.
 - 1) Irreverence poisons and defiles the instrument(s) that you use to hear from God
 - 2) EX: It's like pouring water on your cell phone; water is poison to that phone
 - 3) If irreverence poisons your heart, reverence will heal it, enhance it, make it better (EX-Old cell phones)
 - 4) Reverence is going to enhance your seeing and hearing
 - b. Phillips-They knew all the time that there is a God, yet they refused to acknowledge him as such, or to thank him for what he is or does. **Thus they became** fatuous in their argumentations, and **plunged** their silly minds still further into the dark.
 - 1) Irreverence will plunge your heart into the dark; reverence will plunge you into light
 - c. NLT-Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And **they began to think up foolish ideas** of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.
 - 1) It's easy to think up stupid stuff in the dark and their in the dark because they are irreverent

- 2) In reverence there will be light and in the light you'll have wisdom ideas and you won't be confused
 - d. MSG-People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives.
 - 1) As a result of being irreverent **they trivialized themselves** into confusion and no direction
 - 2) You start reverencing God and you can walk right into direction, wisdom, and leading
 - e. **Seeing and hearing begins with reverencing**
- B. Mark 6-Your ability to see and hear God and receive wisdom and direction from Him is effected by the level of reverence you have for Him
1. The Father, by His spirit, must have sent Jesus to his hometown because He wanted to show them things and tell them things by His spirit through Jesus
 - a. What was Jesus doing and saying there? What he saw and heard from the Father
 - b. Are they seeing and hearing what the Father wants them to see and hear? No – Is it b/c He's not talking, not revealing? No, He's there and He's a saying and a showing, but they are not a seeing and a hearing
 2. Their question was, "Where did Jesus get these things?"
 - a. The answer to their question is that Jesus got them from the Father, but they are not discerning that that's where He got them from; they're hearing, but not hearing
 - b. God, by His Spirit, through Jesus is standing right in front of them talking to them, showing them things and they are sitting there seeing it, but not seeing, hearing it, but not hearing
 3. You can hear their lack of reverence for him in how they refer to Him
 - a. ERV-Isn't he just the carpenter we know – Mary's son, the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And don't his sisters still live here in town?" So they had a problem with accepting him.
 - b. PHIL-He's only the carpenter, Mary's son, the brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon; and his sisters are living here with us!" And they were deeply offended with him.
 - c. MSG-He's just the carpenter – Mary's boy. We've known him since he was a kid. We know his brothers, James, Justus, Jude, and Simon, and his sisters. Who does he think he is?
 4. Their ability to see who he really was, was affected by their lack of reverence for him; they're blinded by their own irreverence (They are not holding him in esteem)
 - a. He's not just the carpenter, he's not just James' brother or somebody's sister; He's the son of God, the messiah, the anointed one, but all they see is the prior
 - b. The savior of the world is standing right in front of them, the solution to their every problem, the answer to their every question and they are seeing, but not seeing and hearing, but not hearing and it's connected to their lack of reverence for him

- c. Their lack of reverence for him effected how they saw him and heard him; If their lack of reverence effected how the heard Jesus, then yours will affect how you hear God
- d. **How they heard and how they saw was effected by how they revered**
- 5. Mark 4:24, Luke 8:18-Take heed how you hear; **How you hear (the level of reverence you hear with) will effect what you hear**
 - a. If you're level of reverence for God and His word is low it will effect what you receive from God and His word
 - b. They that have more will be given and, they have, because of how they heard
 - c. They that don't have, don't have, because of how they heard so they won't get more until they change how they hear
 - d. The level of reverence you hear and see with will effect what you hear and see
- C. Proverbs 1:7-Your reverence for God is directly connected to your ability to discern His leading and you must make the connection between those two
 - 1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of discerning what's Him and what's not
 - a. So many times people can't discern what was God and what wasn't God and it's completely related to their lack of reverence
 - 2. John 8:31-49-Why can't they see and hear? Their lack of reverence is stopping them
 - a. They are hearing, but not hearing & it's like they're having two different conversations
 - 1) 31-36-They need to be free from sin, but hearing they are not hearing
 - 2) 37-41-Jesus is not talking to them about Abraham, he's talking to them about their father that is showing them to kill Jesus, the devil
 - 3) 42-44-They were hearing, but not hearing so Jesus made it real plain to them
 - b. They have no discernment because they have no reverence (no harmony)
 - 1) 47-Amp-Whoever is of God listens to God. [Those who belong to God hear the words of God.] This is the reason that you do not listen to me: because you do not belong to God and are not of God or in harmony with Him.
 - 2) People are always asking is it me, God, or the devil and that's the same problem they are having because they thought Jesus had a devil; they have no discernment
 - 3) **If you'll develop in reverence you'll increase in discernment**
 - 3. Matthew 4:18,16:13-16-The HS showed Peter something and he saw it b/c of his reverence
 - a. Peter left everything he had and followed Him and therefore saw who he really was
 - b. Peter had heard and saw the same things as others and they could have made the choice to reverence God like Peter, but they didn't and Peter did

III. The Holy Spirit wants to lead and guide, but there are things that hinder him and stop him from giving the guidance necessary; there are things that we can do or not do that will enhance or hinder his guidance in our lives

IV. I've got to have God leading & guiding my life so I can't do anything to stop God from speaking to me

A. Lack of reverence caused a lack of wisdom and lack of wisdom got him destruction-Prov 9

1. The dark will make you dumb and irreverence makes you dark
2. 3-Wisdom is crying out to the foolish saying turn to me
3. 6-You have to forsake and turn your back on this lifestyle of not being led
4. 11-MSG-Wisdom, that your life deepens, and the years of your life ripen
 - a. If you'll fear God, see and hear, get wisdom life will be sweet
5. 16-Satan always targets the ignorant, the unwise, the foolish
6. 18-This could have been avoided if he would have revered the Holy Spirit
 - a. The beginning of you avoiding bad stuff is you fearing the Lord
7. There's only one way to truly be wise and it starts with reverencing God

V. This lifestyle of reverence keeps you clear, keeps you clean, and keeps sensitive and aware

A. This walk of reverence and honor is a cautious one-Hebrews 12:14,28

1. There is a grace available to show God is due reverence and honor because you cannot accomplish that feat in your own flesh
2. **Godly Fear**-Caution, circumspection-watchfulness, alertness, care
 - a. **Honor**-A keen sense of what's right and wrong in the mind of God and then a cautious respect to not violate right
 - b. A reverent life is one in which we act with caution, making sure we don't do anything to displease the Father. Not because if we do He's going to hurt us, but because He's our Father and we want to honor Him. In a reverent life there is an overwhelming desire to please the Father
 - c. Every thought, word, and action must be handled with great care because each one has the potential to honor God and lighten my heart helping me to see and hear or dishonor God and darken me
3. Lifestyle of reverence and honor-Philippians 2:12 (AMP)-Self-Distrust, Serious caution, Tenderness of conscience (sensitive to your conscience of right and wrong), Watchful against temptation (alert because every word, thought, and action of yours has the potential to honor or dishonor God), Putting away things that might offend God
 - a. I'm motivated by my reverence and respect for Him not my fear of Him
 - b. Reverencing God and having a tender conscience go together; while a hard heart and irreverence go together

- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-You can quench, stifle, and stop the Holy Spirit and His ministry in your life
1. **Quench**-To, stifle, suppress of divine influence
 - a. ERV-Don't stop the work of the Holy Spirit
 2. Nothing quenches and stops the spirit of more than irreverence and dishonor
 - a. The irreverence grieves him, but it darkens you and stops his ministry in your life, not because he quits doing his part but because you're so dark that you can't receive it
 - b. Don't shut his ministry down with your irreverence; you can't afford it
 3. If a lack of reverence can quench and stop his ministry in your life then more reverence and enhance his ministry in your life
 - a. Reverence will give enhanced hearing, enhanced seeing
- C. This lifestyle of reverence keeps you aware of Him, clear and clean and soft and sensitive and bright in your heart to hear him
1. Psalm 36:9-If you'll walk in the light of reverence you'll see the light of wisdom
 - a. You don't see the light of wisdom in the darkness of irreverence
 2. Psalm 19:9-Reverencing God will keep you clean and clear to hear from God
 - a. Irreverence will muddle you up so that you cannot receive the transmission
 3. Proverbs 4:18-19, 2 Samuel 23:3-Walk in reverence and it's going to get brighter and brighter and you'll just continue to see and hear better; on the other hand irreverence will darken you and you'll fall
 - a. Every negative situation in your life has a key issue or a root issue and if you don't know what the issue is that situation will keep you locked up and you'll continue to stumble and won't know why; but when you walk in reverence the Holy Ghost will show you the key issue and that key issue will lock up anything that needs to be lock or unlock anything needs to be unlocked
- D. Proverbs 19:23, Psalm 23-If you'll fear God and walk in the wisdom of God this will be your life
1. Wisdom keeps you, satisfies you and so does the fear of the Lord b/c it will get you wisdom
 2. The sheep are led by the shepherd-He is their guide
 3. If you are led by the shepherd he'll lead you to green pastures-prosperity
 4. If you are led by the shepherd he'll lead you into still waters-peace
 5. If you are led by the shepherd he'll keep you fresh and refreshed
 6. If you are led by the shepherd you'll be in the right place at the right time
 7. If you are led by the shepherd you will not fear; his direction will comfort you
 8. If you are led by the shepherd he will lead you to good things God has prepared for you
 9. If you are led by the shepherd you'll walk in power and authority
 10. If you are led by the shepherd your life will overflow
 11. On the path the shepherd leads you on, goodness and mercy will be in hot pursuit of you

VI. Ways that we reverence God

- A. We reverence Him is by how we refer to Him (The HS is a PERSON in authority over you)
 - 1. How you refer to a person shows the level of reverence you have for that person-Mark 6:2
 - a. You can't be led by an **it**, talk to a **hunch**, & **something** can't tell you what to do
 - b. The Holy Spirit is your superior, higher in authority
 - c. As we reverence Him by referring to Him properly as A PERSON IN AUTHORITY, we will be more led of Him b/c it will help us to recognize there is a person in authority over me to lead me (I'm here to carry our orders)
 - 2. 1 Cor2:10-11, Jon 16:13-15-There's A PERSON living in me who has been digging and around in God and knows everything God knows and he's been sent to show it to me
 - a. It's time receive help and direction from that person
- B. The second way that we reverence the Holy Spirit is that we acknowledge Him-Proverbs 3:6
 - 1. It is extremely irreverent to not acknowledge someone who is in your presence; To act as if another does not exist is mean, cruel, and irreverent
 - a. Don't go hours upon hours without acknowledging Him
 - 2. Acknowledge (Recognize w/particular regard) Him out of respect for Him and He will direct your paths
 - a. GNT-Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way
 - b. MSG-Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track
 - 3. This is the principle of practicing His presence
 - a. **Acknowledge**-To be acquainted with, communicate, know intimately, a person we have been accustomed to converse with
 - b. The simple truth is it's easy for your flesh to forget someone who can't see; the reality is sometimes we forget He's there; we know of His presence, but we haven't been conscious of His presence
 - 4. You have to acknowledge the Holy Spirit IN ALL YOUR WAYS until you develop a God-inside-mindedness where you are conscious of Him all the time without even thinking about it; you have to make yourself be conscious of Him until you don't have to make yourself be conscious of Him
 - a. You got to practice his presence all the time to the point that you know he's there all the time everywhere you go
 - 5. We've been ignoring the only one with the answer, the only one who can get us out, get us in, keeps us and cause us to succeed-1John 2:20
 - a. Be conscious of His indwelling presence in you; Talk to Him; Ask him questions; Seek His help in every situation

- b. Enlightenment will come because you fellowship with God; it just didn't show up out of nowhere, but it came because you were fellowshiping with the Spirit of God
 - c. Learn how to spend time with Him so that He can spend time giving you the advantage in life
 - d. If you'll get in the habit of acknowledging the Holy Ghost, then He'll start bearing witness with your spirit and the more you obey Him you'll find yourself profiting in every area of your life-
Isaiah 48:17
- 6. This acknowledging him keeps you hooked to him, it keeps you in constant fellowship with Him, it's respectful and as you engage it you will be led by Him
 - a. The lines of communication with him most stay open outside of your prayer closet
 - b. There should be a constant dialogue between you and the Holy Ghost all the time
 - c. You got to diligently fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit 24/7 getting to know Him
 - d. He is not just a big part of your life; He is your life, in him you move and live and have your being
- 7. There's a cost of neglect; If you're not spending time with the Guy that you want to hear from then don't expect to recognize His voice when He speaks
- C. The third way we reverence Him is that we hate evil-Proverbs 8:13
 - 1. What he hates I hate, what he likes I like that's reverent, that's respectful
 - a. Romans 12:9-**Abhor** evil-A person who hates something so extremely that he literally backs away from it in disgust
 - b. Proverbs 3:7-People who reverence God depart from evil out of respect for Him
 - 2. To lightly esteem things that absolutely repulse the Holy Spirit is irreverent
 - a. Prov 3:6-**Acknowledge** means consider (consider what the HS thinks about this)
 - b. ERV-With every step you take, think about what he wants, and he will help you go the right way
 - 3. When these things come up that he hates and you laugh and make light of it, you are not yielding to him, you're hardening yourself and you won't be led by Him
- D. The fourth way we reverence Him is that we recognize our need for Him
 - 1. To reverence the Holy Spirit is to be in **awe** of Him-Feeling of amazement & respect coupled w/ feeling of personal insignificance
 - 2. There's something reverent about acknowledging that you need the Holy Spirit, you need His wisdom, you need His leading, you need his direction; I can do nothing of myself
 - a. Prov 3:7-Being wise in your own eyes, then you are saying you don't need him
 - 3. People who don't think they need Him, need His direction, need His leading, need his help, won't seek Him for it, and in turn will not receive it
 - a. In their pride my people aren't requiring me; but those who humble themselves and require me will be satisfied

- E. The 5th way we reverence Him is we give Him place and priority and esteem Him & His things
1. Do you have time for him? Is he getting your best? Is he getting your energy and effort? Or everytime when it comes to Him is it second best?-Malachi 3
 2. NCV-Wisdom begins with respect for the Lord