# **Abundant Blessings**

This book uncovers the hidden balance of grace, the strength to overcome besetting sins, and the source of intimacy that we so often long for from our heavenly Father. This book is the first of a two-part set on discovering "Where is the Fear of GOD?" We cannot look at the fear of God without touching so many other areas of our heart and life in Christ. As a result there are found an abundant supply of blessings on many different subjects that many would not even consider when thinking about the fear of God. Hence, let me enumerate a few of them so that you may refer to this book when needed. In these pages we will discuss:

- Should we fear God as our Father?
- How to be intimate with the Lord GOD
- Why Satan hates the fear of God so much
- Learn the hidden wisdom that defeats the enemy
- Renewing ourselves with the washing of repentance
- Revealing the Salt of the Covenant: the Fear of the LORD
- The Fear of God is the doorway to mercy and the way of peace
- Understanding the work of the Spirit of God through the Candlestick

The next book, Where is the Fear of GOD? Losing the Treasure of the Lord,<sup>2</sup> uncovers why we lose the precious gift of the fear of God, which the Spirit plants in every one of our hearts as soon as we are born again. It covers the following areas.

- Unveiling the religion of the Samarians that exists in Christianity today
- The foundation of being correctable in our relationship with the Lord
- How to prevent the Pharisee spirit from taking root in our heart
- Warnings on losing God's fear from Good Kings Gone Bad
- Heart surgeries the fear of God needs to perform on us
- Why we needn't be ashamed of the name of Jesus
- How the fear of God changes how we worshipA detailed list of beguiling counterfeits
- The heart of integrity & friendship
- The banner of brokenness

More Abundant Life

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Where a relevant subject is covered in the other book it will be referred to in short as Losing the Treasure of the Lord.

#### **Introduction: The Choice Set Before Us**

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come" Rev 14:6-7

## Reasons for Writing: The Master Plan

"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue,
is from the LORD." Pr 16:1,9

Jude so wanted to write to the saints to share with them the common salvation that we all have and to encourage them, but because of the severity of the times he was living in and how many were falling from the faith he was moved to change what he was going to write to them about. Hear his words,

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 1:3-4

So it is with me. When this book started it was concerning a different subject altogether. The Lord had put on my heart to write concerning overcoming defeat in the life of the believer. That book may still be written by the grace and timing of God, for I so want to see each follower of the Lord Jesus become an overcomer – for the pangs of defeat have left deep ruts in the pathways of my own heart. Hope is the starting point of faith upon which our life in the Lord is built, but hope without any means of obtaining what is hoped for leads to utter despair. Many fellow soldiers of the Lord have struggled with such despair. The danger of living in repeated defeat, or worse yet, the ignorance even that one is being continually defeated, will bring great devastation. You cannot long remain in a state of repeated defeat without coming into bondage of one form or another. Your resolve to hold on will eventually wear away through discouragement to where you will one day give up.

As I was writing that book, the section on the Fear of the LORD was initially only one chapter. But the more I wrote, the more I found only this one chapter was being written. It became so central and vital that I soon saw there can be no repeated victory in our life, no escaping the snares of the enemy that are set for us, if we do not possess a deep and abiding fear of the LORD. The life of the follower

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of Jesus must be fortified with the nutrients and the foundations that only the fear of the LORD can provide, or it will become deformed and sickly. Thus, it was more needful for me to write unto you concerning the fear of the LORD by which we may earnestly contend for the faith.

God has an amazing way of taking the things we are learning and putting us to the test in those very things. Repeatedly, Jesus taught his own disciples and immediately put them to the test to see if they truly understood. "And this [Jesus] said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do." John 6:6 Through certain circumstances in my own life, both in the struggles of my own heart and in failures spiritually, as well as seeing the fulfillment of the end times of people's hearts growing hard and cold and departing from the living God (Mt 24:12-13, Heb 3:12-13), I was awakened to the absolute necessity of having the fear of God rooted, grounded, and planted in my heart.

Thus, began a hunt to discover how I had lost the fear of God as well as how to recapture it. I had always been moved by those in the scriptures who truly knew God. I always wanted to know God the way they did, yet every one of them had the fear of God in their life. The more I studied, the more the fear of God began to be the master key that opened door after door of our walk with our Master. The fear of God touches our worship, our service, our obedience, our giving, our relationship to man, our relationship to God, and it will even be the key to understanding ourselves. It is its own reward.

For me this book has been life-changing, not because it is the first book I have written (for there are others), nor because it was the longest book I have written (even though it is), nor because it was the easiest to write (for the hand of the LORD has been with me in this as I have never experienced before), but because it has been the most important book for my own life. I believe this will be one of the most important books after the scripture that you will ever read. This book uncovers the hidden balance of grace, the strength to overcome besetting sins, and the source of intimacy that we so often long for from our heavenly Father. Every fall in scripture has been because the fear of God was lost, and I can certainly attest to this in my own life. Yet, what I had missed until now was that every restoration of God's people was always the result of restoring the fear of God in their hearts and finding that true balance of trust and fear.

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## Where is the Fear of GOD? Finding the Treasure of the Lord

### The Testimony of the Word of God

"But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved." In 5:34

Let me add one postscript concerning how this book was purposefully written. In Christianity today, God's people are often more interested in testimony than they are in the Word of Life, the Bible. Yet the Lord in these last days is wondering when he returns will anyone have true faith? Now we know where true faith comes from and that is from the word of God. "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17 So what Jesus is really wondering today, is anyone listening to the word of God? Is anyone hearing what he spoke?

What we so need in this land of religious activity is a resurrection of hearing the word of the Lord, not the word of self-appointed prophets, but the word of the Lord found in the holy writ of the Bible! We are in the greatest famine of hearing the word of the Lord of all time. Where are the people humbling themselves before the word of God to be obedient to what saith the scriptures? This is why it was revealed to Isaiah, "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them." **Isaiah 8:16,20** 

<u>Warning</u>: Be assured the 'testimony' here is *not* the testimony of men, nor the testimony of the working of God in men's lives, but rather the testimony of the Word of God itself. "And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I <u>testify</u> among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law." Dt 32:46 The testimony *is* the Word of God.

Because of the irreverence of these times, the great apostasy from truth that is taking place throughout the church, and so many who are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, it is not a time for men's testimonies of their experiences. Who can speak in the light of God's awe-inspiring glory and the fearfulness of his judgments? No one could stand to minister because of God's cloud that came down (1K 8:11, 2Ch 5:14). You will never learn the fear of the LORD from hearing a man's testimony.<sup>3</sup> The fear of the LORD is not about hearing someone's experiences and being awed. Rather, it is about hearing the testimony of the Word of God, hearing the words of The Man, Jesus Christ, and being awed in God. I

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As evidence of the surety of this fact, note that the only extended teaching that we have on the fear of the LORD in the Bible (i.e. in Psalm 34) is given by David after his own experience of forsaking the fear of the LORD, and yet it is not filled with any of those experiences, but rather with exhortations to hold fast to the truth.

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could share my testimonies and experiences concerning the fear of the LORD. I could as well share powerfully, both from my own life as well as from those I have ministered to, concerning the lack of the fear of God. But what we truly need to have awakened in us is the fear of God – the burning truth of God's word that cuts away the hypocrisy of our hearts. May you be molded, shaped, and conformed to the image of his Son as you recapture the fear of God in your life. The LORD God has always desired his fear to be in the hearts of his children. May it be thriving in yours.

### The Snare of our Soul

"And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me." Mt 11:6

Jesus encouraged the disciples of John, and John the Baptist himself, not to be offended by the truth and the power by which he spoke. Jesus did not fit people's molds or their expectations, then, even as it is today. He is, Peter declares, "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence" (1Pe 2:8). If any man of God truly following Jesus is to bring forth the truth as it is in Jesus, then some of our religious tables must be overturned. Many things in this book confront compromise and false doctrine, many of which will be in you, some of which will be in those you personally admire and maybe even trust. To be a faithful witness of the kingdom of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, I must be willing to speak the truth, and not to spare your soul – even where it hurts. This is the impact of the kingdom of God. It always comes with a two-edged sword to turn cities and peoples' thinking upside down. I am convicted by much that is written herein; I pray you will be also.

Know it is not my intention to shame any man or woman, but many things being done in Christianity in God's eyes are indeed shameful. We cannot apologize for the truth, no matter whom it offends. I am a man like anyone else. I am no better than the least of God's servants, but I am a servant of God, and he has given me a message for the Church of these last days. My prayer is that whoever hears these words will have the fear of God to depart from their compromise by acknowledging truth through repentance. Do not let your soul, through the offense that may come to it, stop you from hearing the truth, for only in the truth may we find deliverance. May the fear of God be stoked into a blazing flame in your heart to consume the chaff of compromise and to bring you into the treasure of the Lord.

Dedicated to the recapturing
of the inestimable treasure
of the fear of the LORD and
to those who want to maintain
a pure conscience before the Lord
that they might not lose their first love.
May this poor vessel and you my chosen reader
live in the fullness that is in the fear of the LORD.