

# IGNITE

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

### **The Fear of the Lord**

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Acts 4:36-37; 5:1-11

A few years ago, a study revealed the number one fear for most people is public speaking! As Jay Leno quipped, “I guess we’d rather be in the casket than delivering the eulogy.” While Jay’s joke may be humorous, fear is anything but funny. When God saves us, He intends for us to be in an intimate relationship with Him. We have the privilege of calling Him, Father! However, the Bible also tells us to “fear the Lord.” How can we know His love, while fearing Him at the same time?

In Acts 5:11 we read, “And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.”

#### **1. What is meaning of the phrase: “the fear of the Lord”?**

**The fear of the Lord is the appropriate response when one clearly sees and comprehends the character of God in light of their spiritual condition.**

Two types of “the fear of the Lord”...

- Godly fear – reverence, awe
- Fear – dread, dismay, anxiety

**Psalms 111:10, 27:1; Proverbs 1:7; Matthew 10**

#### **2. What was God’s motive for exercising such judgment on Ananias and Sapphira?**

- God takes sin seriously, and so should you.
- God wants you to learn the fear of Lord, so you will appreciate His grace.
- God wants more than a happy church, He wants a holy church.
- God wants His church to be salt and light in a polluted, dark world.

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### Take away:

**1 Peter 4:17; 2 Chronicles 7:14**

- humble ourselves
- pray
- seek God's face
- turn from our wicked ways

“The best definition of ‘the fear of God’ may be love on its knees.” – Adrian Rogers