

The Stories That Remain

The Fear of God

Pastor Craig Sweeney | March 26, 2023

Thread: The fear of God is STILL the beginning of wisdom, and our FAITH will follow.

“Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah.” Luke 3:15 NLT

John came in the spirit of an O.T. prophet; he would be the last one.

“John answered their questions by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.’” Luke 3:16 – 17 NLT

From the beginning of Jesus story, this was always more than just an intellectual pursuit. It’s about where YOU place your FAITH.

Honest Question: What part of following Jesus is FAITH for you?

From the beginning of Jesus’ story, it was more than what we can see with our own eyes and touch with our own hands; we ENGAGE with the Holy Spirit daily.

- Messiah – *“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”*
 - Holy Spirit - Presence of God
 - And with fire - Final, eternal judgements
- *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7 ESV*

Honest Question: How are you relying on the Holy Spirit’s work in your life to follow Jesus?

“John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people. John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for many other wrongs he had done. So Herod put John in prison, adding this sin to his many others.

“One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, ‘You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.’”

Confirmation of the relationship Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit have with one another.

- They are 3, but 1

“Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry.” Luke 3:23 NLT

Challenge:

- How can I engage my FAITH and engage with the Holy Spirit daily?
- Have I despised wisdom and God’s instruction?



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