

The Whole Church #24 – Grace #10 The Anger and Fear of God

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Monday:

If you're not engaged with God relationally, you are missing the point. It's about you engaging and interacting with Him in a personal way.

I've never seen the forces of darkness try so hard to distract the people of God, ever, not to this level. *"Deception is at an all time high, and we haven't seen anything yet"*

It's been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, because you're in relationship by virtue of your decision to receive Jesus as your Savior. So you have to keep on leaning in, pursuing and listening for the voice of God.

This generation is going to see the greatest display of signs, wonders and miracles that the world has ever seen. If you're in the spirit, there's a little spark of life there when you hear that. **It's for everybody.**

Start to look for the Lord in the small, daily, seemingly mundane things, because He's all over that. Be looking for Him. You have to have the Holy Spirit to help you do that.

I want you to be people of the word, because we're living in a time where the Bible warns us that in the latter times, the deception will be so high, so great, that even the very elect stand a good chance of getting deceived. So, heads up. One of the ingredients to keep that from happening is to be a person of the word.

How do you reconcile the Anger of God, the Wrath of God and the Fear of God, and how it aligns to the subject of grace?

Please read Colossians 2:11-14. This scripture sets the tone for much of what Andy brings out in the message.

If you are following the lead of the Holy Spirit, more circumcision is taking place in your heart than you are aware of, which is happening in you right now. The circumcision made without hands that Colossians is talking about.

Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. He didn't wait for you to turn over a new leaf. He didn't wait for you to decide to do better. Jesus laid down His life and no one can take it from you.

There are millions upon millions of Christians and churches today around the country that don't believe that they're totally forgiven. It comes down to all this stuff they've got to do before they're forgiven. **NO.** You're forgiven before you did anything. You're already forgiven. You don't have to ask for forgiveness. **You have been washed, sanctified and justified. All that has already happened in you. Now you have to walk it out.**

There are people out there right now that think God's mad at them. He's not angry with you

because His anger and his wrath was all fulfilled and culminated at the cross. It's the gift of God.

Through grace, God's anger is tempered by His desire to lead people to repentance and redemption, rather than punishment, as fully expressed in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Everything changed for everybody at the cross.

God's anger is not random, nor is it unreasonable, but it stems from His righteousness and His holiness. If you're receiving this, you're going to come out of this with a much deeper, more profound image and of what Jesus has done for us at the cross. When you get the revelation of this, it will change everything, how you think, behave and how you interact with people.

God did not make this hard for you to understand. He made it very easy for you to understand. And it all comes down to having a relationship with the Father.

We want to portray the true God. The Bible is put together and compiled in such a way to lead us into an initial encounter and then many future encounters for the rest of our life in relationship to Him. It's up to us to know Him and portray to the world the true God.

Three things that you need to know through relationship:

- Understand: Proverbs 2:1-5 says, *"My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord"*. You will never understand the anger, wrath and fear of God until you start the process of really understanding Him.
- Communicate: When God puts it on your heart, and the door opens for you to minister to someone, there's always life there. You don't have to be a professional or have a professional sounding prayer. Some of the prayers that's got the most done for me are these, *"Help Lord"*. You carry the presence of God into every situation that you go into.
 - Figure out what's happening with you and learn how to talk about it. It's not your story that changes their lives, it's the word that changes their lives, but your story helps them be able to relate to where a regular person can understand it.
- Imitate: Paul said, *"Imitate me as I also imitate Christ"*. Imitate those that are walking as they imitate Christ. You can learn a lot from the people around you that are walking with the Lord.

As you learn about Him through your relationship with Him, you'll find God doesn't put this heavy weight on you about doing things. Many people are afraid to really get relational with God because they're afraid of what God might tell them to do. What I found out is you'll get to the place where you'll want to do that.

The most important thing I'm doing in my life right now is listening. God doesn't come to you with a whole long list of things that you need to do and straighten up. The thing you can't miss is God just coming and you feeling his love and not just his acceptance, but His value that He has for you. You are of extreme value to Him.

God's anger was satisfied and fulfilled at the cross. Jesus took it all on Himself. He bore the punishment on behalf of all humanity, every sin, every person, for all time. All you have to do is

receive it. If that doesn't do something really, really deep and profound in you, I'd go to the doctor, because there's something really wrong with you.

So the grace of God is upholding you, and the judgment of God and His anger and His wrath was fixed when Jesus laid down His life on the cross.

There are things to look at in regard to Jesus freeing and fixing us at the cross; griefs, sorrows, transgressions, iniquities and the emotional and physical burdens of human suffering.

The joy of the Lord is not affected by your outward circumstances. That's a sign of real Christian maturity.

We all have something in our life right now designed to steal our joy. So we are either going to let it happen or we are going to put our foot down.

Let's get on with the plan that God has for our life, but be ready for warfare at any moment, because we are going to experience it. And the people who really have to experience it are the people that are determined to walk with God. That's where the attack is focused. So heads up, you have authority over all the power of the enemy.

Iniquities are the inner corruption and moral failures of humanity fully cleansed by Jesus righteousness restoring us to wholeness in the kingdom by what He did on the cross.

The anger of God is directed toward discipline, not destruction for kingdom people. God's anger is more like loving discipline rather than punishment under grace.

In Hebrews 12, it says, "He chastens and scourges every son who He receives". If you endure chastening, God deals with you as sons. For what son is there whom a father does not chasten.

No chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful, but afterwards, yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who've been trained by it. **It's not to break us, it's to make us.**

We are not given God's grace so we can skirt the edges of right and wrong. We're given His grace so we can walk and experience a truly holy, righteous, victorious, fulfilling kingdom life. Nobody can keep you from doing that, but you.

God's anger is meant to bring correction and transformation, no destruction. His discipline is motivated by love, aimed at drawing people into righteousness and deeper relationship with Him, no condemnation.

God's anger is directed at sin, not at the believer. The blood of Jesus removes the reason for God's anger, allowing believers to stand before Him in love, not fear. The blood of Jesus has broken down and destroyed any power that sin has over you.

The fear of God, is a grossly misunderstood subject. In the natural, fear is an emotional response to a perceived threat or danger. It's like being afraid.

From a kingdom grace and a biblical perspective, the fear of God means that He does not want you to live in fear of Him. God is Father, and you're his hand picked sons and daughters.

Let's define the fear of God in a way that brings life and is healthy: it means reverence, respect and to honor God's holiness, His power and authority. It acknowledges His greatness and His sovereignty, leading to a heart of obedience, humility and worship. It's recognizing His majesty

and love, greatness and awe rather than fear of punishment in the kingdom.

The fear of God is about relationship, not condemnation. It leads to a deeper intimacy with Him, where we acknowledge His power, goodness and mercy. The fear of God also gives us confidence that God is a just Father.

The fear of God reassures us that He's a just and righteous King who ultimately sets all things right under grace. It's also the beginning of wisdom.

I think it would do you good to go back and look at the things that ignited, that sparked, and kindled the anger of God in the Old Testament.

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