

# PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: TREASURE THE FEAR OF GOD

Houses of Light Church • March 12-13 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

## 1 Pet. 1:17-19

**Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."**

### I. REVIEW

- A. Peter said in the verse before the text of this day **"be holy in all you do" (1:16)** pointing to a behavior that has God as the most valuable thing and the reason for this new way of living is that we have prepared our minds to go into action (1:13), replacing the old ignorance with a new passion for the coming grace that will take place when Christ returns. A passage where we can apply preparing our minds to take action is Isa. 35 which describes some of the glorious things that will happen when Jesus returns.

### II. WE WERE REDEEMED

- A. **"you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors..."** You must know that you have been rescued from the absurd and vain life that you inherited from your ancestors with the perfect sacrifice that is Christ, therefore the redemption is total. It is true that we brought a mistaken, idolatrous and sinful tendency; incredulous and vain but we have already been rescued. The love, power and grace of God made this miracle possible.

**1 Cor. 6:9-11 "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."**

### III. A NEW MOTIVATION

- A. Peter has just said (1:4) that our identity is to be **"obedient children"** and this position is glorious but it is also a great responsibility because our Father judges or rewards justly, this should lead us to live in reverent fear while we live as who are passing through this world.
- B. In this text comes a new kind of motivation **"if you call Him Father" (1:17)** then you must conduct yourself in fear all the time of your pilgrimage. We are called to live a holy behavior (1:15) but now the behavior must be accompanied and motivated in a certain sense by fear because our Father is a just judge who has no preference for any ethnic group or because someone is very intelligent, the economic status, or any other irrelevant factor (**Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11**). He judges according to the actions of each one, therefore conduct yourself with fear.

C. What may seem confusing and surprising to us is that this command to **"live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear"** is preceded and followed by something that should remove fear. What Peter has said is that God has had mercy on us by which He caused us to be born again; He has secured a hope and inheritance for us in heaven and is keeping us for that same hope so we can put our faith and hope in God.

D. He has not become our Father so that we are insecure about the future that He has promised us so that should remove fear, but even then he says to conduct ourselves in fear because we should know that we have been rescued from the vain life that we had inherited from our ancestors not with perishable things that run out or fail or will be destroyed in the end but with the precious blood of Christ who is a lamb without spot or blemish. **Therefore as you were ransomed and purchased by God through the sacrifice of Christ then fear this is a consistent doctrine in Scripture.**

**Rom. 11:20 "But they [the branches = Jews] were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble."**

**Phil 2:12 "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."**

E. May fear lead you to conquer your doubts. If God lives in you and you are aware of such power and majesty that he dwells in your life there will be a proper sense of awe that must drive you.

**2 Cor. 5:10-11 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup> Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others..."**

F. It is not that we are saved on the basis of our works but that we are already evaluated as Christians according to their works. This means that if there are good deeds done with a view to seeking glory, honor and immortality we will be rewarded with eternal life. We don't deserve it but He gives it to us because He appreciates that we persevere in doing good.

**Matt. 16:27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done."**

**Gal. 5:19b-21 "sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."**

G. Paul is warning believers who go to church. There are things you do that can exclude you from the kingdom of God so be afraid to do those things; May the fear of God keep you away from them. So the way this fear is related to a loving Father and a precious blood that ransomed us, is to be afraid to

treat the blood of Christ and the fatherhood of God as if they were garbage. Be afraid of never treating Him like that.

- H. **If the desire to flirt with the sins for which the Father sent his Son to die wants to tempt you, run away from it.**
- I. So there are two main points in these verses: works and the fear of God. We know that salvation is not by works (Eph. 2:8-10) but if it is by works, our actions are essential and key. They evidence the reality of who we are and God will reward them handsomely. **On the other hand, we do not like to think that fear is a good motivation but in this case it is because it implies taking seriously the warnings of God and His just judgment.**

#### IV. THE MIRACLE OF BELIEVING AND TRUSTING IN JESUS AND GOD

**v.20-21 *"He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God."***

- A. What Peter goes on to say here adds even more value to the preciousness of the blood of Christ. God did not look for someone on earth to be the Redeemer but He had already chosen Christ before the creation of the world and then He manifested it in these last times for love of us. The end times began from the first coming of Christ. The end times want that when Jesus came into the world, He started what was expected, that is, the end times.

**Heb. 1:1-2 *"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."***

- B. Then Christ was chosen, separated and appointed by the Father before the foundation of the world and has manifested himself in these times which are the last times for love of us and again through Jesus the miracle that we we had faith in God. **The origin of our faith has been nothing other than the result of the resurrection and the work of Christ in our hearts.**
- C. **Thank you Jesus for having made it possible for you and me to trust in God to the point that our faith and hope are placed in the Father!!** If it hadn't been for Christ we would still be in unbelief in the world on our way to hell.

#### V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Have you practiced putting your mind into action to put all your hope in the grace that will be brought to us when Christ is manifested? Explain.**
2. **Testify what was the negative inheritance of your ancestors from which God rescued you through the blood of Christ?**
3. **Why is the fear of God a good motivation to persevere in doing good?**
4. **How does it make you feel that your faith and trust in God is a miracle that Jesus worked in your heart?**

## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **UPCOMING INNER HEALTH RETREATS:**
  - **WOMEN: March 18-19** (Please register at the Bookstore)
  - **MEN April 29-30** (You can register at the Bookstore or online)
- **CODEPENDENCE COURSE: March 11 to April 1** (Online Registration)
- **YOUTH SERVICE: This Wednesday at 7:00PM**
- **CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION CLASSES: Beginning March 30 at 7:00 p.m.** (Please register at the Information Booth).
- **THE HEALING ROOMS WILL BE OPEN WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 AT 7:00PM. YOU CAN REGISTER AT [www.nhop.la](http://www.nhop.la)**
- **THE SCHOOL FOR PARENTS WILL BEGIN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 AT 7:00PM. YOU CAN REGISTER AT [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)**