

# EMPOWERED

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

## Empowered Part 5 – Empowered to Fear the Lord Pastor Dave Patterson 9.11.2022

### USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

### **[Acts 4:32-37, NLT]**

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. <sup>36</sup> For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. <sup>37</sup> He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

### **[Acts 5:1-11, NIV]**

<sup>1</sup> Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? <sup>4</sup> Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your

disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” <sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. <sup>6</sup> Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. <sup>7</sup> About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” <sup>9</sup> Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” <sup>10</sup> At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup> Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

**[Matthew 23:27-28, NIV]**

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

***God is building a church that isn't about dead religion but a church that is honest and sincere.***

**[Acts 9:31, NLT]**

<sup>31</sup> The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.

**[1 John 4:18, NKJV]**

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

**FEAR** / grk= phobos

a. dread, terror

b. that which strikes terror and brings torment

**The Fear of the Lord:**

Hebrew/ Yirah: to respect, reverence, to stand in awe, reverential fear. / The product of an understanding of the awesome power of God

**[Acts 5:14-16, NIV]**

<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. <sup>15</sup> As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. <sup>16</sup> Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

**TO THOSE WHO FEAR OF THE LORD:**

1. **God Adds length to their life** (Proverbs 10:27)
2. **God Enables us to avoid the snares and traps of evil** (Proverbs 16:6)
3. **We are led into a life of Riches and Honor** (Proverbs 22:4)
4. **We will lack nothing!** (Psalm 34:9)
5. **It creates a strong refuge, a place of safety for our children** (Proverbs 14:26)
6. **God confides in them with his secrets and covenant promises** (Psalm 25:14)
7. **The Lord watches over them** (Psalm 33:18)

**[Psalm 147:11, AMP]**

The Lord favors those who fear and worship Him [with awe-inspired reverence and obedience], Those who wait for His mercy and lovingkindness.

***When you know the heart of God and you trust Him with your life, you build an appropriate fear of the Lord.***

**[Isaiah 51:6, NIV]**

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

**[2 Peter 3:10-12, NIV]**

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives<sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

## **1. Search for Wisdom by being immersed in the Word**

### **[Proverbs 2:1-5, NIV]**

<sup>1</sup> My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, <sup>2</sup> turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— <sup>3</sup> indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, <sup>4</sup> and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

## **2. Pray for and cultivate an undivided heart (no mixture)**

### **[Psalm 86:11, NIV]**

Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

## **3. Position your life for encounters with the power of God**

### **FOR MONDAY—**

1. This week, practically immerse yourself in the Word, cultivate an undivided heart, and position your life for encounters with the power of God.

### **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. What are some absurd fears that you or people you know deal with?
2. What results when the Holy Spirit empowers us?
3. Why is there a counterattack when the church takes ground?
4. In the book of Acts, how does supernatural generosity and unity result from obedience and Fear of the Lord?
5. What's the difference between the fear of something (low-level fear) and the Fear of the Lord?
6. Considering Ananias and Sapphira, why did the Holy Spirit pass judgment upon them? How was He coaching the early Church and how did it empower them with the Fear of the Lord?
7. How do we grow in having the Fear of the Lord? What are some practical steps?

