

The Fear of the Lord is the Source of Our Peace

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[0:00] Testing, all right. Good morning, everyone. Nice to be with you here this morning. Dave Nannery warned me that was a very long passage. And then he also told me to slow down! in my speaking. So between those two factors, I hope you're very comfortable. The passage on Gideon is a fascinating one on fear, though. I mean, he was scared the whole time. And he I think I would have been, too. What a scenario. And so as we look at that passage, you have to wonder, what was God trying to teach us there? And I think there's probably a whole bunch. But one of the main lessons out of that for me was, would God's outcome have been different had Gideon just feared the Lord and nothing else? And I don't think so. I think the Lord's plan was to free the Israelites at that time. And so I think, come what may, the Lord was going to give Israelites victory. And the only difference was that Gideon wrestled with fear that whole time instead of the fear of the Lord. And I think the turning point was in Judges 7 verse 15 for Gideon. As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshipped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, Arise, for the Lord has given the host of

Midian into your hand. My last sermon was on joy. And I did speak very quickly. And one of the main points I was trying to make in that sermon was that joy actually is a command as well, which is so counterintuitive. Like, how can joy be a command? I've wrestled with that even though I preached it. And I go, as I developed a sermon on the fear of the Lord and brings us peace, which is also counterintuitive, the idea that joy being a command becomes clear, more clear to me anyway. And when we recognize what the Lord's done for us on the cross, how would joy be anything but a command? I mean, you'd like to think that it would flow naturally, but also go be joyful about this. You know, one context would be stop worrying about everything else in life and go be joyful about what I've done for you. And so the fear of the Lord has a similar connotation to it in that it brings peace.

When you think about the word fear, my mind doesn't go automatically to, oh, peace, fear and peace. It's counterintuitive. And so, which causes me to reflect on the counterintuitive genius of God.

We know that everything's infinite. I mean, people are amazed that we keep discovering, oh, the universe is actually bigger. Oh, just when we thought we found the end of it. Oh, there's more. And similarly going small. Oh, wow, we found the smallest particle. Oh, wait, no, we didn't. There's a smaller one. And similar to the genius of God as displayed in his word, there's not been a single human being on earth that has ever discovered the depth of genius within the Bible, within his word. It's an endless pursuit. He has built eternity into his word as well in that sense. None of us here will ever discover the depth of the wisdom in his word, which is an amazing thing to think about. So, fear is not a word that we have a natural affinity or comfort with in this life. And yet, properly oriented, it is an essential ingredient to freedom and peace. Let's pray. Lord, thank you for today, your day, Lord, a day where you bring brothers and sisters in Christ together to worship you. And Lord, we thank and praise you for that. You also bring others into the church who are not yet yours. And we thank and praise you for that, Lord. God, I pray for your help today as I seek to provide some truth from your word, Lord. I don't do that perfectly, but I ask your Holy Spirit to help me do so. God, help me not to utter a word or a perspective that would be misguided or worse, untrue. And I pray that all of our hearts would be soft as we reflect on the teachings that you have for us. In your name, amen. So, fear of the Lord brings us peace, believe it or not. And for those of us who have been around the church for a while, we've heard lots about the fear of the Lord. And actually, when I started looking into the fear of the Lord, the Bible is more full of it than I even thought. It's everywhere. And even at that, without going into how it brings us peace, the fear of the Lord is a challenging concept. And top theologians even wrestle with it. And I am not a top theologian. And

so, I worry a little bit that I adequately describe it. Fear looks different for the believer versus the unbeliever, fundamentally. So, you've got the fear of the Lord looks completely different from the believer to the unbeliever. Two different types of fear entirely.

In this sermon, I'm going to describe three things. And I'm going to speak slowly to do it. Number one, how the fear of the Lord looks for believers. sank away from the sank away from the sank away from the sank away from the and then I'm going to link how the fear of the Lord for believers results in peace.

[6:02] How the fear of the Lord looks for believers, how the fear of the Lord looks for unbelievers, and then I'm going to link how the fear of the Lord for believers results in peace. And so for the first part around the fear of the Lord looks for believers, I've developed six main points, and this really describes the fear of the Lord.

This is everything I could find to describe what the fear of the Lord looks like for believers. And the first point is a soft heart is one that fears God. And I think we have a good understanding of what a soft heart is.

If you've been married for a while, you can sense in your spouse when they have a softer heart and when they have a harder heart. It fluctuates, right? We are people, we are fallen people, and the state of our heart fluctuates.

A soft heart is one that fears God. And so as a believer, your heart is predominantly soft. But it's growing softer as you come to know him, as you get to know him, and as you learn to fear him.

C.S. Lewis says, In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. And Proverbs 28, 14 says, Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

[7:18] So you see here the contrast in this verse between someone who hardens his heart and how a soft heart is one who fears the Lord. We know that God wants a soft heart, and we also know that he does the softening of our hearts to save us and to grow us.

Point number two is that a humble heart allows you to fear God as you get to know him. So point number one is a soft heart. Point number two is a humble heart. Again, all of this seems to run counterintuitive to the fear of God.

Fear of God, you think of almost a hardness there. And here immediately he's going, In order to fear me properly, you need a soft heart and you need a humble heart.

Isaiah 66, 2 says, This verse introduces humility as a primary ingredient to fearing God for the believer.

Wrath isn't something we tend to like to talk about.

[8:39] And yet he is a God of wrath. And he's also a perfect judge. A humble heart allows you to know God. So as we consider, if we consider a soft and humble heart, Immediately my mind goes to, okay, what runs in contrast to that?

And where my mind goes is a false teacher. Somebody who uses the word Christianity. Somebody who uses the word church, stands in front of an audience in a church, But skews from the truth. And it takes passages from the word of God here and there and manipulates them. And what's interesting about a false teacher is they all have the same pattern.

They're all oriented around self-glorification and pleasure. They're all the same. And so self-glorification and pleasure runs completely contrary, of course, To a soft and humble heart.

And so just in contrast to a soft and humble heart is one that fears the Lord. A false teacher immediately comes to mind. Matthew 7, 15 to 16a says, Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, But inwardly are ravenous wolves.

[9:56] You will recognize them by their fruits. And so my sermon isn't on false teachers, But I just seek to hone in on them a little bit. Number one, to say, hey, this runs in contrast to someone who properly fears the Lord.

Because someone who properly fears the Lord has a soft and a humble heart. But they don't. And number two, just a quick warning on the internet.

Please be wary of the internet. There's more bad stuff on there than good stuff. Right? I think as, particularly as new believers, but also perhaps as impassioned believers, We like to go and find truths.

And sometimes they're particularly unique. And we're less selective than we should be on the sources. And so just a caution there. I mean, our local physicians face this all the time. For those of

us who like to self-diagnose, I have a hernia.

And so I, you know, quickly went to the internet to self-diagnose. And I was convinced that I didn't have one. And I went to my family physician. And he says, Do you think it's a hernia, Chris? [11:00] And I said, No, definitely not. For all these reasons. And so he placed his hand down here on either side of me. And he says, Cough. Okay? Cough on the other side. Hernia, 100%. So please be cautious around that.

They run contrary to someone who is soft and humble, who fears the Lord. The Cavalier Christian also comes to mind. I make a quick mention of this one. Someone showing a haughty disregard or lighthearted indifference for God.

Right? That's not a soft and a humble heart for someone who fears the Lord. Number three. Fear of God preserves the believer from pride and self-sufficiency.

Fear of God preserves the believer from pride and self-sufficiency. Philippians 2, verses 12 to 13 says, Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence, but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. And on this passage, one of my favorites, John Piper says, The New Testament treats the fear of God as a motive for not turning away from him.

[12:16] We should fear in the sense that we seek refuge from God, away from God's terrible wrath. God's grace in Christ is the refuge from God's wrath outside of Christ.

There is terror outside Christ. And there is a different kind of trembling inside Christ. So quickly on self-sufficiency.

Self-sufficiency is prevalent in all of us. And often it's one of those sins that we don't easily identify. Particularly if the Lord's just blessed us with wealth or some measure of the world's label of success in life.

Look at me. Look what I can do. I don't need anyone else. I can build this. Why doesn't everyone else? Et cetera.

And so self-sufficiency is a bit of a tricky one in that it creeps up on us. And we often don't identify that easily within our lives.

[13:17] It's the elevation of our abilities. And as Christians, we need to be very careful about this. And when you think about it in the context of the fear of God, be wary of self-sufficiency. All that we have is his.

There's nothing we have that he hasn't given us. So be wary of our self-perceptions of cleverness. All that we have is his. Be wary of self-sufficiency.

So as a result, fear acts as a preservative from growing proud and self-sufficient. Drifting away from the living God in hard-heartedness. Again, reflecting back on the fear of the Lord is someone who has a soft heart and a humble heart.

The Christian fear of the Lord comes from soft and humble hearts. There's a tension I want to capture here quickly between the holy, mighty, and wrathful God.

And this is sort of similar to me speaking very briefly on false teachers, right? So there's always these tensions. And, you know, as a Christian, we are worshiping a holy, mighty, and wrathful God.

[14:23] And yet he's provided a way of salvation. I'm going to be very specific about what that salvation looks like at the end here. Versus the easy believism God. And again, you know, this is the one that just seems so appealing, right?

This is in every facet. Often identifiable by, you know, a worship service that is, you know, tickling to the ears and sensationally entertaining.

Right? And you leave it feeling like a million bucks because, wow, was I ever entertained and inspired. And so that's the easy believism God.

And what's interesting is those are two different gods. There's the Christian God, the true Christian God, as described in the Bible. And you'll know it by what his actual attributes are because the Bible is very specific about them.

Some of them being holy, mighty, wrathful. And that easy believism one. And that's the popular one, right? Those are two different gods. They're not the same one. Be wary of following or constructing in your mind your own God and you put the name Jesus on him.

[15:29] That's not the God of the Bible. Worship the God of the Bible. The one true God is to be feared. The gods of our own making are different than the one true God.

They're false gods. So again, fear of God preserves the believer from pride and self-sufficiency. Number four.

For believers, the fear of God is one of awe and reverence, ultimate trust. So we're working our way towards peace here. If we have awe and reverence for the one true God, the God spoken of in the Bible, the one fully described in the Bible, as much as he wanted to describe himself, there comes with it ultimate trust.

Who else would you fear? There is nothing really else to be feared. And yet he's provided a way with his son, which I'm going to describe in a little bit. And as a result of that, you can have ultimate trust.

The most powerful being in the universe that we can't even describe, he's so big and powerful, is the one that we can actually trust in. 1 John 4.18 says, There's no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

[16:46] For fear has to do with punishment. And whoever fears has not been perfected in love. So how does this verse work in? Isaiah 11, verses 2 to 3.

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

And so the relevance of these two verses is that Jesus himself delighted in the fear of God. Don't make any mistake, of course, Jesus is one of the persons of the Trinity. Jesus himself is God. But he's referring to God the Father here. Jesus himself delighted as man here on earth. Delighted in the fear of God. Gives us perhaps the most clear picture of what it is to fear God as the believer. Jesus died for us.

[17:41] And so a place is provided where we can enjoy the majesty of God with trembling reverence and awe. And if you read Revelations, you know there's trembling in there. Right? I should be more specific.

If you read Revelations' description of what heaven is, you'll know there's fear and trembling in heaven. Not a cowering fear.

We're not slaves in the Father's household where we should be at peace with his care and security. Number five. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom to the believer.

And this is one, if we've been in the church for a while, we've heard this many times. We've grown up with this verse. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It's a tricky verse. I mean, what does that mean?

And it's something that I've wrestled with. What does that mean? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. In Proverbs 9.10, sure enough, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

[18:42] The fear of the Lord is never something to be feared, ultimately, in the context of, in the wrong context for a believer. It reflects a natural progression towards holiness as believers.

As we come to know the God we worship with greater precision and intimacy. So, I'm hoping at this point you can start to see what the fear of the Lord in the context of a believer shapes up to be.

It's one of reverence, awe, respect. And if you have a proper level of that, as we grow, I think you'll find that the fears of this world start to subside.

Romans 8, verses 38 to 39. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom because, as believers, we are rightly placed as the beneficiaries of Christ's gift. Recognizing the trueness of who God is and what we have been saved from and accordingly setting us on a trajectory of wisdom that the world has no access to.

[19:57] And you can see this. I mean, I think probably, aside from the pastors, probably all of us work in the world and even they, they're ministering to the world. And so, we're all too familiar, I think, with the wisdom of the world, which is just very, very shallow.

Be a good neighbor. Help an old lady across the road. You know, it doesn't go too much. It doesn't go too deep. Sure, I'm not saying there are unbelievers who don't do a decent transactional job of raising their kids, right?

But that's not a level of wisdom that you access as a believer who fears the Lord. Because everything flows out from that. You start by fearing the Lord and all of your priorities are set.

And all of your focuses are set. And from there, the Lord develops the wisdom within you. What a foundation from which wisdom can build.

The world has no such foundation. And so, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom for the believer. So, you know, it's interesting.

[21:07] A couple of quick examples here. We know it to be true, I think. I sure know this to be true. The wealthiest of people almost perpetually worry about money. It's a fascinating one.

Foolishness. Misplaced fear. It's a different God they've constructed to worship. A cruel master. All the investment of life, rather than realizing it's going away.

People double down on worldly fears and priorities they feel will bring them fulfillment now. It's like being on a treadmill of death. You never get there. You create a destruction all around you.

And fruitlessly run with all your efforts towards something that just does not fulfill. As a believer, think about some conversations that you've had with unbelievers.

And you'll recognize some of this is true as it relates to wisdom. And we know that true wisdom comes from the fear of the Lord. Number six.

[22:10] This is the final one. Framing out the fear of the Lord for a believer. The fear of the Lord is my strength. So the fear of the Lord is my wisdom. The fear of the Lord is also my strength.

Proverbs 14, verses 26 to 27 says, In the fear of the Lord, one has strong confidence and his children will have a refuge.

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life that one may turn away from the snares of death. For a believer, we fear the Lord in awe and reverence, knowing that he is our God who provided a way of salvation through the perfect sacrifice that pays for our sins.

The death of his own son, Jesus Christ. The fear of the Lord is our strength because it puts all other fears in their proper place. And I know every single one of us has fears here in this life.

No shortage of fears. And my hope for you is the same as I have for myself. That as believers, we gain greater understanding of what the fear of God looks like. Other areas of life holding ungodly fears start to subside as we see the lives that God has given us in right perspective.

We can experience the freedom that comes from fearing God. That concludes my portion on the fear of God for the believer. And for the unbeliever, it's much shorter.

[23:29] Fear of the Lord is much easier to understand in the context of an unbeliever. It's less complex. There are less factors to knowing and understanding what the fear of the Lord is.

Completely different, much simpler. Quite simply, the unbeliever cannot fear God enough. With terror and dread. The type of fear that the believer is free from. For an unbeliever, you're facing God's wrath.

Against sin and violation of his law. And that's terrifying. Because one is not cleared from that penalty. Imagine standing guilty in a courtroom with an eternity the worst kind of penalty ahead of you.

Ray Ortland from Ligonier Ministries says, If you are not in Christ, you fear the Lord in all the wrong ways. And you don't fear him enough. Hebrews 10.31 says, It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The fear of God as an unbeliever encompasses much of where our minds take us when we actually think of fear. At any depth, I should say. Some of us are, you know, there are no shortage of shallow fears to have.

[24:39] But what truly makes us afraid as an unbeliever. So the fear of God represents a special uniqueness in the context of the believer.

But it's quite standard to what fear represents in the context of the unbeliever. Doom, dread, terror, hopelessness. And the good news, as I was explaining to my nephew yesterday, gospel means good news.

And there's great news, the best kind of news, against the fear that an unbeliever should feel. And I'm going to cover this in a few minutes.

But first, I'm going to get to peace. Back to the believer. And how the fear of the Lord produces peace. The fear of the Lord provides peace to the believer.

As I've said a few times now. Galatians 5.22 says, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

[25:40] Against such things there is no law. John 14.27 says, Jesus says, Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Neither let them be afraid. God wants us to have peace. And it's only found through the right understanding of him. And what he has done for those who put their faith and trust.

In what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross. To address our sin. So I have an example of the world's distortion of truth at work.

As I'm sure many of you do. And so I was coaching an employee the other day at work. And it was just, I was confronted by the foolishness of the world. And how truth is so obvious.

And truth is described in God's word. But the world just completely avoids it, ignores it. And then sends itself down through just various convoluted holes of confusion.

[26 : 44] And it's just this endless trap. And my heart goes out at times. So, you know, I'm talking to this young promising lady full of talent.

And ultimately I'm saying things like, no, it's not a personality issue. It's pride. No, it's not that it's a different truth. It's that you lack self-control in your reactions.

And as I say, the world is constantly trying to mask truth in order to falsify peace. Your truth is not your own. And there's another favorite one I have.

In any case, you know all the popular sayings these days. All the world religions have the same thing in common. Now, this is a fascinating thing.

And I, probably most of us know it. But as we're reminded of it, it's a fascinating thing. Every religion in the world fundamentally teaches the same thing. Except for true Christianity. Every one.

[27 : 44] I mean, there's one religion that has a little fat guy. Another religion has an elephant. And all these other. So they all look different. They've got different colors and statues. And all these different decorations. But they all teach the same thing fundamentally.

And that's that we can be good enough on our own. That we can generate enough good works on our own to be saved. Every one of them teaches that. It's a fascinating thing.

That somebody, we have. But that somebody in those false religions doesn't go, Wait a minute, we're all teaching the same thing here. There's nothing unique about us. And true Christianity teaches something different.

Which is that we are to fear the Lord. And that is what fuels our trust, our peace, our reprieve in him. Because it's only by a God that powerful and all-knowing that we can achieve any level of peace.

And he teaches something different. Our works are as filthy rags, Jesus says, in the context of salvation.

[28 : 47] Our works don't save us. And that's what true Christianity teaches. The only religion in the world that teaches something different than works can get us to heaven. It's a fascinating thing.

And it dovetails very nicely and logically with the fear of the Lord. We should fear him. But he's not a cruel master. He's a wrathful master if we reject the gift that Jesus, the Son of God, provided to us. So seek a right understanding of our God of the Bible. Blend the Christian fear of God. Reverence and awe as believers. Not dread. To trust in his salvation and the hope of walking in harmony with him, both on this earth and all of eternity.

You will have peace. Your earthly worries and hurt will start to subside as you lean into him, keeping your eyes on him and plans he has for you both on this earth and in eternity to come.

And that causes me to think about church. Right? Church is not a good work to earn your way into salvation. Church is a gift from him.

[29 : 53] I can't imagine going very many weeks in a row and not coming here to see you all. We're brothers and sisters in Christ. For those of us who are saved, we'll be spending eternity.

We are the truest of family. And that's just a remarkable gift. And all of the benefits, rich benefits, are obvious. That's part of the reason why we also engage in fellowship.

But we help keep each other on track. We help keep each other encouraged. We help apply godly wisdom to each other's lives. Raising kids ain't easy.

We need each other's wisdom. Godly wisdom applying to each other's lives. Godly wisdom. Godly wisdom. So, this is the gospel and this is the good news.

And I hope those kids that regularly attend youth group can just follow along with every word I, mouthing every word I say. God is the beginning and the end.

[30 : 52] He has always been and always will be. He's the creator. And we know that to be true logically. It's an amazing thing that the world has rejected that.

Evolution is the craziest thing you've ever heard. If you spend all of three minutes looking into it, even looking at one angle of it, something came from nothing.

Look at this piano. I don't think anybody here in this room would say that this piano came about by chance. I think everybody would say it was made.

And yet nobody here saw it made. We know just from pure human logic that there has to be a creator. And all of those religions that think there is a creator all believe the same thing, which is that we're good enough or can be good enough to get to heaven.

Number two, man broke God's laws many years ago. We know God has laws. He's very specific about them in the Bible. Ten Commandments is the best, clearest, most example of that. Stick up your hand in here if you've never lied.

[32:04] Right? If you've never stolen anything. If you've never lusted. Men, right? These are, we know we've broken God's laws.

And a just God is going to punish for breaking those laws. And you go, well, you know, the easy believers. Well, God is love. And what kind of God would throw you into hell? God created hell as the perfect, ultimate creator to punish lawbreakers.

And you go, well, that's not fair. I mean, you're a creation. Who are you to say that's not fair? Right? You can just see the futility of this easy believism.

God created hell to punish those who have broken his laws. And every one of us has. And so, and it started with Adam and Eve.

And the sin poisoned us. And we are all people who sin. So, there has to be some good news in this. And there is.

[33:07] Number three, we know that God is a perfect judge. Right? And this, the good works thing, it becomes even funnier here. Imagine you're standing in a courtroom. You know, I'll pick murder.

I was breaking the law. It's a big, obvious one. You're standing in front of a judge in the courtroom, being convicted, being tried for murder. And you go, wait, wait, wait, judge. I've done a whole bunch of good stuff. Walked old ladies across the road.

I've given to charity. I've, you know, I've been nice to my mom. I phone my mom every week. I've done amazingly good things. And I've asked the youngest of kids that.

And they go, and the judge would say, who cares? That has nothing to do with it. That does not make up for what you did. And that same basic logic applies here.

God is a judge. And he will judge perfectly. And he will cast unrepentant sinners into his hell. And there's one and one way alone.

[34:09] And this also makes perfect sense. And I remember as a kid kind of going, does this make sense? It does make perfect sense. There's a perfect sacrifice. And none of us in here are perfect sacrifices.

Because we've been tainted. Every one of us has sinned. But there was one. And that's what so much of the Old Testament is about. It's describing our God, the same God we worship today. So you get to know who God actually is. Don't be deceived. The God of the Old Testament is not a different God. He hasn't changed somehow. No, the God of the Old Testament is the same God that we worship of the New Testament, the one we worship today.

And he's going to judge us. And the other part that it points to is that there's a way, a perfect sacrifice.

And those of us who are believers know this. And that's what all the slaying of the lambs was about in the Old Testament. There's a Messiah to come.

[35:11] There's a way to come. And sure enough, he did come. And he was the only one who committed no sin. He was the only one who could be the perfect sacrifice.

And he laid down his life and God the Father took his life. Both of those are true. To satisfy his perfect wrath. And the other beautiful thing is that we can pray directly to him.

That's another wonky thing with many religions. You can pray directly to the Lord our God. And you can confess your sin. And you can ask him for the salvation.

And it's a free gift. And that's how that works. So when you're a believer, you are removed from the dread and terrible fear you should be feeling as an unbeliever.

And sometimes unbelievers aren't there yet. Sometimes it's just hopelessness. The wealthiest guys in the city, they're all hopeless and looking for purpose. Instead, you will start to fear him in awe and

reverence.

[36 : 13] Freeing you from perpetual foolishness. Growing you in wisdom and strength. Let's pray.

Let's pray. Lord, thank you for your salvation. Freely offered to all, Lord.

Lord, thank you for your salvation. And thank you for giving us an infinite depth of knowledge and wisdom to draw upon from your word, Lord. It is without end.

We don't. We will never get to know you enough here on earth. And we'll spend eternity worshipping you and getting to know you, Lord. Lord, thank you for sharing with us what was perfect to share with us through the truth of your word, Lord.

Thank you for the bit of knowledge that you have given me, Lord, through this study. I know that the greatest beneficiary of a sermon is the constructor of the sermon, Lord.

[37 : 20] And so I thank you and praise you for all that you've taught me in this. I pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ, Lord, just that they would continue to grow in the fear and knowledge of you.

That you would not leave us to our own devices. That you would hold our heads above the water, just as you saved Peter going under that day. I pray for those who are not yet yours, Lord. That they would want to be yours.

And we know that takes you changing their hearts to do that. And so we ask for that miracle, Lord. Pray your blessings on the rest of today, Lord. That we would be quick to think of and speak to you, Lord.

In your name, amen.