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**Fear: becoming free from the need for blessings because God is our greater treasure.**

*Job 42:1 Then Job replied to the LORD: <sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup> You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of **things I did not understand, things too wonderful** for me to know. <sup>4</sup> "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' <sup>5</sup> My ears had heard of you but now **my eyes have seen you.** <sup>6</sup> Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."*

- a. *"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted."*
- b. *"I spoke of things I did not understand."*
- c. *"...things too wonderful ..."*
- d. *"My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you."*

**Conclusion: Two fundamental options. Either:**

- (1) Be driven by being "in control." Predictability. "People need to do their part."
- (2) Surrender to God; let Him sit on His throne; entrust yourself to Him. Let Him define "life."

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The Surprising Virtue of Anxiety and Fear

Satisfied-part 5

April 28, 2024

*Proverbs 27:20 Hell and destruction are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.*

### **3 Kinds of fear:**

Fear #1: (Good) alerts us to potential danger.

Fear #2: (Good) Fear of God: alerts us to how the world really works

Fear #3: (Sinful) Alerts us that we are trusting someone or something uncertain for what we think we need for our well-being

*Phil. 4:6 Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything, with prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

### **Anxiety exposes: (a light on our "dashboard")**

- What we define as our center-most needs.
- What and who we are really depending on for those needs to be met.
- The unlikelihood of getting what we think we need, from whom we need it.

*Prov. 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a trap, but those who hope in the Lord are safe.*

*Prov. 28:26 Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.*

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## The roots of fear

**Fear** occurs when it appears to me that **I may not get** what I believe I need and deserve in order to be happy. Fear arises with any person or event my heart deems critical to meeting my need, **may not** come through.

(1) Misplaced definition of what I “need.”

(2) Misplaced trust: (a) Someone to come through for me; (b) my ability to get what you to come through for me; (c) Me, in control.

## The bitter irony of “control”

*Job 3:25 "What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.*

*Job 3:26 I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil."*

Fear: the loss of perceived control.

*Job 21:6 When I think about this, I am **terrified**; **trembling** seizes my body.*

*<sup>7</sup> Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power? <sup>8</sup> They see their children established around them, their offspring before their eyes. <sup>9</sup> Their homes are safe and **free from fear**; the rod of God is not upon them. <sup>10</sup> Their bulls never fail to breed; their cows calve and do not miscarry. <sup>11</sup> They send forth their children as a flock; their little ones dance about. <sup>12</sup> They sing to the music of tambourine and harp; they make merry to the sound of the flute. <sup>13</sup> They spend their years in prosperity and go down to the grave in peace. <sup>14</sup> Yet they say to God, 'Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways. <sup>15</sup> Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him? What would we gain by praying to him?'*

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We live in an “uncertain” world.

*Job 21:16 But their prosperity is not in their own hands, so I stand aloof from the counsel of the wicked.*

*Job 28:20 "Where then does wisdom come from? Where does **understanding** dwell?*

*<sup>21</sup> It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air. <sup>22</sup> Destruction and Death say, 'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.' <sup>23</sup> **God understands** the way to it and **he alone** knows where it dwells, <sup>24</sup> for **he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens**. <sup>25</sup> When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, <sup>26</sup> when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm, <sup>27</sup> then **he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it.***

*<sup>28</sup> And he said to man, '**The fear of the Lord--that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.**'"*

**Fear jars our sense of control and thrusts us to peace only God can provide.**

*Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm.*

*Job 38:2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?*

*Job 38:3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. <sup>4</sup> "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. <sup>5</sup> Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? <sup>6</sup> On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone...*

*Job 38:7...while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?*

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