



## Trembling into Intimacy

*“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...”*

*The Apostle Paul | Philippians 2:12 (NIV)*

One spring I noticed a doe with two brand new fawns in a sheltered corner of my yard. Precious! Throughout the summer I watched them grow as if my own kids. In early winter, I was surprised to see them

rush to my bird feeder (typically, they would've already migrated.) A special treat! Nearly full grown now, they sported thick winter coats.

Suddenly, my Norman Rockwell scene was disrupted. Mom and fawns abruptly backed off 10 yards as a huge buck with an enormous rack, a full 50% larger than the doe, sauntered over. He commanded respect! With his every flinch, the doe and fawns recoiled, trembling. Made me think...

*Reflect: **Do I tremble when in God's presence?***

I happened to be reading...

*"While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."*

*"As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate." (Daniel 8:15-17)*

Imagine being face to face with the archangel Gabriel... I'd fall prostrate too! In fact, whenever people encountered angels in the Bible they dropped to the ground. How much more we should tremble in the presence of the Lord who's infinitely higher, wiser, and more powerful than the angels!

Take a moment to ponder the improbability of creation... of life, its complexity, its magnitude... of love, its mysteriousness, its warmth. Where did it all come from? Coincidence? The elapse of time? Think of 300 billion+ galaxies... where does outer space end? Now think of Jesus. This is his kingdom. Created through him, he holds it together. Makes me tremble!

*"Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water." (Psalm 114:7-8)*

Even the earth trembles in his presence... do you? Stop! Take a sober look before you answer... for many have drifted away (self-reliance causes us to stray) and our enemy quickly seized the opportunity to shrink Jesus in their minds.

Have you noticed that the demise of society correlates with a shrinking view of the Lord? A cascade, no one respects anyone anymore. Children don't respect parents or teachers. Even parents don't respect teachers. Few respect law enforcement. The cost is huge, with present and eternal consequences.

Who fears the Lord anymore?

**Consider: The Lord commands respect... and I need him as my King, now!**

This buck is king of his harem. Yes, his power makes the fawns tremble, as it should... they need him to be powerful! What protection would they have if attacked by coyotes and their dad was a wimp? Imagine the danger should they stray from him. Scale this infinitely to grasp Jesus as King; he commands the respect of all things. His power should make you tremble, you need his protection! Can you risk drifting away from him?

*"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."  
(Philippians 2:9-11)*

If you fail to respect Jesus' power now, you will eventually, like it or not. You might say, "tremble now, or shudder later when it's too late."

***Imagine: As I come trembling, Jesus welcomes me into Intimacy.***

When you move closer to something it becomes bigger. What happens when you move closer to Jesus? Like edging in on a fire makes you hotter and hotter, you'll respect his power more and more. Makes me tremble just thinking about it.

Another lesson from the deer....

One fawn, a buck in the making, clearly trembling, cautiously inched toward his dad. The buck, though he could destroy him in an instant, allowed him to come close and eat with him. Your relationship with the Lord is like this. Though he's so high, so mighty, so noble, he allows you to come near. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross made this possible. Now intimately close, the young buck watched his dad's every move... noticing, revering, learning. Do you watch the Lord like this? Trembling, in awe, yet safe in his power?

It's in this Intimacy that you are to work out your salvation. It's in this Intimacy when you receive your Mission. It's in this Intimacy where you gain the courage you need to advance it. Want to truly experience Jesus? Come...

### **Trembling into Intimacy.**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### **Coach's Questions**

- What in my life does the enemy use to shrink my view of the Lord?
- How will I turn the tables to shrink my view of the enemy?
- What new thing will I do to move closer to Jesus?

# Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

## Fearfully Abide

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."*

*Jesus Christ | John 15:5-6 (NIV)*



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