

KNOW BETTER
KNOW THE DESTRUCTION: IMPURE INSTINCT
2 Pet 2:10-16
4.14.24

Fear is Good

Four healthy qualities produced by Godly fear:

#1 HUMILITY TO STOP YOUR MOUTH FROM SPOUTING OFF SLANDER

Watch out for audacious arrogance that says *whatever* it wants (10b-11)

Three ways humility shapes how God-fearers speak:

#1 **SPEAK WITH RESPECT**: HUMBLY-SPOKEN GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO *FOSTER BRASH LIVES* — '*...Bold and willful...*' (10b¹)

#2 **SPEAK WITH REVERENCE**: HUMBLY-SPOKEN GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO *FLAUNT RECKLESS WORDS* — '*...they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones...*' (10b²)

#3 **SPEAK WITH RECOGNITION**: HUMBLY-SPOKEN GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO *FLOUT STARK REALITIES* — '*...whereas angels, through greater in might and power do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord...*' (11)

#2 CLARITY TO GUARD YOUR MIND FROM TUNING OUT IN SENSELESSNESS

Watch out for tragic ignorance that *thinks* however it wants (12-13a)

Two ways clarity shapes how God-fearers think:

#1 **THINK RATIONALLY**: CLEAR-MINDED GOD-FEARERS AREN'T *ENSLAVED TO THEIR IMPULSES* (12a)

Three ways to escape the sad state of those too ignorant to think rationally:

#1 **About your nature**: '*...but these like irrational animals, creatures of instinct....*' (12a¹)

#2 **About your future**: '*...born to be caught and destroyed....*' (12a²)

#3 **About your behavior**: '*...blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant....*' (12a³)

#2 THINK CAREFULLY: CLEAR-MINDED GOD-FEARERS UNDERSTAND WHERE UNCHECKED IMPULSES LEAD (12b-13a)

Two ways to escape the sad state of those too ignorant to think carefully:

#1 About the damage done: '*...will also be destroyed in their destruction....*' (12b)

#2 About the wage deserved: '*...suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing....*' (13a)

#3 SOBRIETY TO CURB YOUR APPETITES FROM RUNNING WILD IN SENSUALITY

Watch out for a seared conscience that serves whoever it wants (13b-14)

Five ways sobriety can help God-fearers to hone greater self-control:

#1 HONE A HOLY SENSE OF SHAME: SELF-CONTROLLED GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO ENJOY THE RUSH OF TAKING RISKS — '*...They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime...*' (13b¹)

#2 HONE A HOLY LOVE FOR TRUTH: SELF-CONTROLLED GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO IGNORE THE STAIN WROUGHT BY SIN — '*...they are blots and blemishes...*' (13b²)

#3 HONE A HOLY CARE FOR SAINTS: SELF-CONTROLLED GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO PERFECT THE ART OF THE DOUBLE-LIFE — '*...reveling in their deceptions while they feast with you...*' (13b³)

#4 HONE A HOLY DRIVE TO SERVE: SELF-CONTROLLED GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO PROWL AROUND SEEKING VICTIMS TO EXPLOIT — '*...They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls....*' (14a)

#5 HONE A HOLY HEART TO GIVE: SELF-CONTROLLED GOD-FEARERS REFUSE TO BECOME EXPERTS IN ACHIEVING THEIR OWN DESIRES — '*...They have hearts trained in greed...*' (14b)

#4 FIDELITY TO KEEP YOUR FEET FROM WANDERING OFF IN SEDITION

Watch out for intense disobedience that goes wherever it wants (14c-16)

Three ways piety can help God-fearers keep themselves from wandering off the right path:

#1 HEED YOUR FATHER'S WAYS: FAITHFUL GOD-FEARERS DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW WRONGDOERS — '*...Accursed children...*' (14c)

#2 HEED YOUR FATHER'S WISDOM: FAITHFUL GOD-FEARERS DON'T WANT TO FOLLOW WRONGDOERS — '*...Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray...*' (15a)

#3 HEED YOUR FATHER'S WARNINGS: FAITHFUL GOD-FEARERS DON'T FLIRT WITH FOLLOWING WRONGDOERS — '*...They have followed the way of Balaam...*' (15b-16)