

## Tremble Before the Lord

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### Introduction: “Would you of Trembled at the Lord’s Presence?”

A. How many people, like the woman who was healed by Jesus, would have confessed to the Lord that they touched the Christ? (**Mark 5:25-34**).

B. “*Do you not fear Me?’ declares the LORD. ‘Do you not tremble in My presence?’*” (**Jer. 5:22a**).

1. Tremble = shake or shudder involuntarily, especially out of fear or excitement.
2. Do we not fear the Creator, the One who created us and can also destroy us?

### I. Most People Do Not Fear the Lord, Much Less Tremble Before Him.

A. Those who truly fear the Lord will keep away from evil (**Prov. 16:6**).

1. Those who truly reverence the Lord and want fellowship with Him who is holy will do their best to abstain from every form of evil.
2. God’s children who recognize their desperate need for the Lord’s mercy found in Christ will demonstrate submission and obedience to His will.

B. Most people do not fear God and as a result practice sin (**Ps. 36:1-4; Rom. 3:10-18**).

1. How can we explain all the wickedness that goes on in the world?
2. Most people have no fear of God and their sinful lifestyles demonstrate this.

### II. “The Lord Reigns, Let the Peoples Tremble”!

A. The Lord is great, awesome, and holy (**Ps. 99:1-3**).

1. The Lord reigns having absolute rule, therefore let the peoples tremble! Why?
2. Because of who God is and what He stands for and what He has done and will do, all people should tremble or be moved with fear and reverence for Him.

B. The Lord and His kingdom endures forever (**Dan. 6:25-27; Heb. 12:26-29**).

1. We wouldn’t want government involvement, yet just imagine the reaction of the people: “Fear and tremble” before God? Ha!
2. Darius described the *true* nature of the Lord and His kingdom, an everlasting one that would never be destroyed (unlike earthly kingdoms before it and after).
3. God’s kingdom cannot be shaken, never to pass away (**Heb. 12:26-29**).

C. The Lord is the *true* God by whom all people will be judged (**Jer. 10:10; Ps. 119:20**).

1. Unlike the idols of the pagans (v. 9) or any other so called god, the Lord is the true God will hold everyone accountable (**Jer. 10:10**).
2. For anyone to stand before the very presence of God, his flesh ought to tremble out of fear for Him.
3. This fear and trembling before God would cause every person to regard God’s word and His judgments most seriously.

### III. What Does it Take to Cause a Person to Tremble Before the Lord?

A. It took a visitation from the Lord Himself for Saul to tremble (**Acts 9:1-9, 18**).

1. Saul had been persecuting the Christians, convinced that Jesus was a fraud!
2. Saul was startled in a big way as he learned the truth that day: Jesus is Lord!

Acts 9:6 (KJV) And he **trembling** and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

3. Jesus contemplated the message of Christ so much so that he fasted for three days, neither eating nor drinking (v. 9).
  4. The great persecutor was converted to Christ when he obeyed the gospel (v. 18)
- B. It took an earthquake and a miraculous prison break for the Philippian jailer to tremble (**Acts 16:25-34**).
1. “*Trembling with fear*” he fell down before them (v. 29) and asked “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved*” (v. 30).
  2. Like the jailer, it seems that a lot of people need an “earthquake” of some kind o humble themselves so that they might hear the truth.
- C. It took the preaching of the gospel (i.e., righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come) for Governor Felix to tremble (yet he did not obey!) (**Acts 24:24-25**).
1. Paul’s preaching to him included “temperance” which would involve self-control of sensual gratification.
  2. Felix trembled (v. 25) and sent him away, no doubt because of what he heard.
  3. Many today tremble at the hearing of truth only to send the messenger away.
- D. What will it take for **you** to tremble before the Lord and obey His gospel?

#### **IV. Tremble at the Word of the Lord.**

- A. Not a miracle nor the raising of the dead is needed to persuade people to repent today; Only the word of God (**Luke 16:19-31**).
1. No one should ask for or expect someone to rise from the dead to get them to tremble or take God seriously.
  2. What the prophets have to say to sufficient to cause anyone with a good and honest heart to tremble or repent and obey.
- B. The Lord looks with favor on those who tremble at His word (**Isa. 66:1-2**).
1. The Jews supposed that they were doing God a favor by rebuilding the temple, yet God who created all things needs nothing from mankind at all (Ac 17:25).
  2. God is not impressed by fancy buildings of worship nor elaborate rituals of worship.
  3. God will not accept hypocritical worship when we are living lives of disobedience.
  3. Instead, God looks attentively upon those who tremble at His word, those with humble hearts and contrite spirits, those who admit their sin and beg for mercy.
- C. Christians must continue to tremble at God’s word to be saved (**Phil. 2:12-13**).
1. Christians must never lose the serious of serving God and taking every word that God has said seriously.
  2. Every Christian, if he or she expects to be saved must be involved in his/ her own salvation by working it out with fear and trembling.
  3. Fear and reverence to God shown as we strive to obey His word daily and stay faithful and ready for the Lord’s return and the Judgment.

**Conclusion:”Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth” (Psalm 96:9).**