



## Thought for the Week

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul." (Deuteronomy 10:12)

"Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." (Proverbs 1:9)

Having a fear of the Lord makes a huge difference in our life. It is the motivation for us to live a God-pleasing life and it is the beginning of wisdom – just like the alphabet is the beginning of reading. In this particular context, the meaning of fear is to be overwhelmed and controlled by something – to be in awe and reverence. Either God and our relationship with him will be the centre of our life and define our reality or it will be mankind and our relationship with this world that will define our reality. The fear of God leads to wisdom, joy and hope while the fear of man leads to misery, compromise, and disappointment. So, what does a healthy fear of God look like? When Martin Luther struggled with this question, he made the distinction between what he called a servile fear and a filial fear. The servile fear is a kind of fear that a prisoner in a torture chamber has for his tormentor, the jailer, or the executioner. It is an anxiety that comes from the clear and present danger that is represented by another person. Or it's the kind of fear that a slave would have at the hands of a malicious master who would come with the whip and torment the slave. Filial fear on the other hand refers to the fear that a child has for their father. It's where there is tremendous respect and love for their father and a deep desire to please them. There is no fear of pain or punishment, only the fear of displeasing the one who is the source of your security and love. A servile fear only strives to refrain from sinning because it hates the consequences (it's all about me). A filial fear strives to refrain from sinning because it doesn't want to grieve or offend God (it's all about Him). The right fear of God is having an overwhelming sense of awe and respect for the majesty and love of God. Sadly, such a fear can often be lacking in contemporary evangelical Christianity, where we can be guilty of becoming too cavalier and flippant with God. Yes, we are invited to call him Abba, Father, and to have the personal relationship with Him, but that doesn't mean we don't maintain a humble and healthy respect and adoration for our holy God. The more we stand in awe of His holiness, the more we will joyfully live in the awe of His grace and love.

God bless, Pastor John.

## Prayer Points

- Pray for the conflict in Israel – for the families and communities affected by these attacks and for those who are missing or being held captive at this time.
- Pray for the leadership in Israel both in government and the military – that they will make good decisions and respond in the right way.
- Pray for the families and communities destroyed by the earthquake in Afghanistan.
- Pray for Ian Ratcliffe as he awaits surgery and for Kay McInnes as she adapts to her new room at Sundale.

## What's on?

MONDAY  
5PM Walking Soccer

TUESDAY  
9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY  
9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY  
9AM Quilters

FRIDAY  
9:30AM Playgroup  
4PM Kids Ignite & Youth



If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

BIRTHDAYS: 20th Marilyn Smith

### ANNUAL REPORTS

Please note that all ministry leaders are required to provide their Annual Report for their ministry. All reports in Word format should be sent to the Secretary by Monday 6th November 2023.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO BRENDAN

The Coolum SES recently honoured Brendan Jones for his 40 years of commitment, dedication, mentoring, people skills and friendship. Brendan was presented with the SES Life Award. Well done, Brendan.

### CHURCH OFFICER AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

As we get ready for our AGM on Sunday 3rd December, we are seeking nominations for church officer (elders and deacons) and ministry leaders. Voting forms are available in foyer and we remind you to prayerfully consider potential candidates before you seek their nomination. Current ministry leaders are reminded that if you wish to continue in your role next year, you will need to complete a nomination form. Nominations are due by Sunday 5th November.

### SOS OUTING

Today is the last chance to put your name down on the list in the foyer for the trip to Majestic Theatre at Pomona on this Thursday 19th October. Payment is also due today. If you have any questions please see Anneli after the service.

### ISRAEL TRIP CANCELLED

As expected, next week's trip to Israel has been cancelled due to the terrible conflict in the region. This has impacted the Pastor's holidays, with Pastor John only taking 3 weeks from Monday 23rd October. Harrison will be here as usual.

### CARE OUTREACH CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Don't forget that Care Outreach are looking for donations of non-perishable groceries, toiletry items and gifts for kids, families and adults. If you are able to help, please deliver your goods to Care Outreach by October 31st.