

Session 5 Jesus' Eyes of Fire: Fear of God and Intimacy with God

I. EYES OF FIRE: INTIMACY AND THE FEAR OF GOD

- A. Jesus' eyes speak of His ability to see everything. Jesus is omniscient which means He possesses all knowledge, wisdom and discernment. He sees the full truth about everything. He sees through everything as fire penetrates metal. He sees what happens behind the scenes and below the surface. Knowing this equips us to walk in intimacy with God and in the fear of God.

¹⁴ His eyes like a flame of fire... (Rev. 1:14)

- B. Jesus' eyes are pure like fire. He interprets what He sees without any distortion of the facts like the judgments of sinful human judges. We have His full attention. His eyes are always on us.

³ The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on...evil and the good. (Prov. 15:3)

- C. The Lord takes careful notice of everything and everybody, His friends and His enemies. This strengthens those who love Him and is hated by those who do not. We are always on His mind.

² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³ You comprehend my path...and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether...⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it...¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them...¹⁸ They are more in number than the sand... (Ps. 139:2-6, 17-18)

- D. God's throne is ablaze with fire. A river of fire comes from His throne, and the seven lamps of fire and seraphim (lit. burning ones) burn before it. The sea of glass is ablaze with fire.

¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him... (Dan. 7:10 NAS)

² A sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory...standing on (it)...(Rev. 15:2)

- E. Jesus' eyes of fire are emphasized three times in Revelation (Rev. 1:14; 2:18; 19:12). Those things that are hidden in darkness are completely clear to the Lord. God's fire both imparts holy love and destroys all that hinders love (judgment). He releases either the "fire of grace" or the "fire of judgment" depending on how people receive or resist it.

- F. The fire in His eyes reveals His desire for us and tenderizes us to love Him. His eyes see our failures causing us to walk in the fear of God. He sees our immature longings to love Him, giving us confidence. He sees, remembers and rewards all that we do in serving Him, giving relevance to each day. He sees our burdens and walks with us in an intimate way. He knows our future, giving us direction and hope and knows all our enemies causing us to have great security.

- G. Jesus' eyes are full of light and beauty, causing love and terror as we enter into the majesty and mystery of walking with Him. His fire is glorious and dangerous, empowering yet invincible and intriguing, yet terrifying. Holy Spirit, help me to look into Jesus' eyes of love.

II. JESUS' EYES OF DESIRE: JEALOUSY FOR LOVE

- A. His eyes of fire reveal His strong desire and burning passion for us. His jealous desire for us cannot be stopped. He warms and tenderizes our heart with His eyes.

²⁴ For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous (passionate) God. (Deut. 4:24)

- B. Jesus is more than our savior (forgiver), healer and master. He is the jealous Bridegroom God who will not relent in His pursuit of us until He has all our heart. We cry, "Lord, we want more of You." He says, "I want more of you."

¹⁴ For the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God... (Exod. 34:14)

³² They (disciples on road to Emmaus) said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk. 24:32)

- C. Jesus will seal our heart with His fiery jealous love. This refers to releasing the anointing of the Holy Spirit's supernatural love in us for Jesus as our greatest prize and primary dream in life.

⁶ Set Me (Jesus) as a seal upon your heart...for love (God's love in you) is as strong as death, (God's) jealousy as cruel (demanding) as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. 7 Many waters (sin, pressures) cannot quench love... (Song 8:6-7)

1. His seal on our heart is the fire of love that cannot be quenched. It is as strong or as comprehensive as death. Nothing in the natural realm escapes the power of death. Its grasp is comprehensive. God's jealous love is unrelenting in pursuing us until He has all.
2. Water always puts out fire (unless it is God's supernatural fire). The enemy will send the waters of temptation, apathy, disappointment and pain to put this fire out. God's love poured in our hearts (when continually yielded to) is more powerful than these floods.

- D. We need the Spirit's supernatural fire to love God with all our heart. The 120 believers in the upper room received a token of the baptism of God's fiery love.

¹⁶ He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Lk. 3:16)

³ There appeared to them...tongues, as of fire, and sat upon each of them. (Acts 2:3)

III. JESUS SEES OUR FAILURES: WALKING IN THE FEAR OF GOD

- A. Knowing that Jesus sees our failures in loving Him causes us to walk in the fear of God. His eyes search our heart with perfect knowledge. The fire that warms our heart also burns it.

¹³ There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Heb. 4:13)

² Who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire...³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold... (Mal. 3:2-3)

- B. Jesus releases His fire of judgment against immorality to deliver us from that which harms us. He knows what was happening in our lives because He searches our mind and the heart. Churches in the region of Thyatira feared God as they saw Jesus' judgment on some believers.

18 These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire...20 I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel...to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality...22 I will cast her into a sickbed...23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. (Rev. 2:18-23)

- C. He imparts His holy fire to those who open their heart to Him and His fire of judgment to those who refuse Him by continuing in immorality. As He searches us, He will honor our cry to be delivered by helping us. The same eyes of fire that judge will help with the fire of grace.

IV. JESUS SEES OUR LONGINGS TO LOVE HIM: CONFIDENCE IN LOVE

- A. Jesus sees both our negative and positive qualities. Jesus sees our private longings for love and righteousness. He sees the "yes" in our spirit and our cry for help to obey Him. On the last day, Jesus will praise you for the things that He saw in you that you may never realize in this age.

5 The Lord comes who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. (1 Cor. 4:5)

- B. Jesus sees every movement of our heart that seeks to love Him in our obedience. It is not in vain. Do you know the way that you move Him? Each time we repent of compromise it moves Him.

21 The ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD...He ponders all his paths. (Prov. 5:21)

- C. He sees the good motives of our heart as we reach in our spirit to obey Him. When we stumble, we can feel like a hopeless hypocrite and want to quit. No one understands you like Jesus. He sees our love for Him and even reminds us of how much we love Him as He did to Peter.

17 Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." (Jn. 21:17)

- D. Jesus sees the desires of our heart to obey Him before we they are manifest in our character. The revelation that a sincere believer is beautiful to God even in their weakness causes us to open our spirit to Jesus and run to Him without shame or fear of rejection or failure.

- E. Jesus affirms the "budding virtues" in our life, knowing that each virtue starts out as only a seed. God sees our desire for Him as the beginning of victory before it manifests in our outward life. He highlights our heart for Him far more than our failures. He treats us with gentleness as He affirms the budding virtues in us. This applies to sincere believers who seek to love Jesus.

- F. Our obedience begins when we set our heart to obey not just after we gain victory in an area of our behavior. After we set our heart to obey God, we declare war on areas that we struggle in. We can confidently receive His mercy and feel His pleasure in each step of the growth process.

- G. When we feel cherished, we become confident in our love for God as David did. After 16 months of compromise in Ziklag (1 Sam. 27-31), he knew God delighted in him.
*¹⁹ He brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me...
35 Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. (Ps. 18:19, 35)*
- H. Jesus does not define our life by our struggles or just our victories. He sees more than our outward actions. He defines us by what we set our heart on and by our longing to love Him. He takes our love seriously even when it is weak love because it is still genuine love. The Lord relates to us on the basis of what we long to be in Him, instead of what we fail to be.
- I. Many spend excessive emotional energy fighting the fires of condemnation and worthlessness. The baggage of condemnation and rejection takes a lot of energy to manage. This prevents us from effectively walking with the Lord because we are preoccupied with failure and shame.
- J. In raising children or in all relationships, we must speak ten affirmations for one correction.

V. JESUS SEES OUR WORKS: RELEVANCE

- A. Jesus perfectly sees, remembers and rewards all of our works. This makes every day of our life relevant. He sees the love, labor and money that we sow secretly into His kingdom. He remembers our prayers and how we blessed our enemies when they slandered us.
¹² If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (1 Cor. 3:12-14)
¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)
- B. What makes our life so valuable and important is that Jesus sees, esteems and remembers what happens in our life. He remembers every act of obedience. Every small act of service, including giving someone a cup of cold water is rewarded. We are not alone. We move His heart by sitting before Him (Lk. 10:38-42) and by doing small acts of service for others because of love for Him.
¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints... (Heb. 6:10)
⁴² Whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. (Mt. 10:42)
- C. When we understand that He sees all, then we are not compelled to tell others of our goodness. We don't have to prove things that are already proven in His sight. King David is an example of a person who possessed this unique ability or the grace of God to understand how God saw him.

VI. JESUS SEES OUR BURDENS: INTIMACY

- A. Jesus sees and walks with us in our burdens. Jesus knows everything that is important to our heart (Ps. 139). A significant aspect of intimacy with God is found in knowing that He sees our struggle, pain and even our greatness. Jesus knows our heart better than we do.

² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³ You comprehend my path...and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it...⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it...¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand... (Ps. 139:2-6, 17-18)

- B. He created us with a longing for intimacy with God and the desire to not be left alone in our life. He shares our joy and sorrows in love. To be fully known without shame brings us joy.

- C. What happens in our heart affects Him. He feels our pain, sees our value, plans our welfare and rewards our obedience. Jesus understands the secret aspects of our life that are unknown, unnoticed and misunderstood by others. It exhilarates us to be fully known without shame.

¹² Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1 Cor. 13:12)

- D. Jesus knows the depths of our longings, dreams and intentions to love Him. Even our failed intentions to love Him are seen. More than anyone else, Jesus rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice...weep with those who weep... (Rom. 12:15)

- E. Jesus celebrates with us as He shares our triumphs. He knows our true greatness and He sees the heights of our nobility in redemption. He sees the sacrifices we make in pursuing a life of love. Jesus treats us with honor. He walks us through every sin in our life and still treats us with honor.

- F. Jesus feels our pain and struggle with sin. He forgives us, feels our pain in failure, and protects us by not disclosing the vast majority of our sin. He knows our shameful deeds, yet believes in us. He knows the depths of our longings and dreams. He alone knows our true greatness and the full implications of our spiritual identity.

VII. JESUS SEES OUR FUTURE: DIRECTION AND HOPE

- A. Jesus, the prophet knows, our future as well as the future of all the nations. Nothing surprises Him. He has the clearest picture of the future because He determines it. The New Jerusalem will descend with the Father's throne. Jesus will restore to us all that He originally intended in creating the garden of Eden.

¹⁹ We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts... (2 Pet. 1:19)

- B. As we look at what Jesus sees about the future, we will walk in supernatural peace.

¹³ We according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless... (2 Pet. 3:13-17)

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:13)

VIII. JESUS SEES OUR ENEMIES: SECURITY

- A. Jesus knows all of our enemies and their strategies against us. This brings us great security.

³ For You are my rock and my fortress...lead me and guide me. ⁴ Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength. ⁵ Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth...¹⁵ My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. (Ps. 31:3, 5, 15)

- B. Jesus sees all the plans of our enemies.

¹ He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." ³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler...⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day. (Ps. 91:1-5)

- C. Jesus will strengthen us against our enemies.

⁹ Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, ¹⁰ No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; ¹¹ for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. ¹² In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. ¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. ¹⁴ "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him. (Ps. 91:9-14)

- D. The book of Revelation is Jesus' battle plan to destroy the enemy and is written out in advance. It is Jesus' very eyes of fire that will release great trouble on the Antichrist in the end times. Jesus is a King who will intervene to save the earth by taking over every nation. Jesus will replace all the wicked people on earth.

- E. This strengthens us so we resist temptation and endure persecution. Whatever it costs to overcome, living with Jesus in the New Jerusalem is worth the sacrifice.

IX. CONCLUSION

- A. Our knowledge of His omniscience persuades us to not quit, to pursue good and resist sin.

- B. Jesus' leadership is seen in His beautiful and brilliant mind and insight which is expressed as He executes His awesome plans for human history (natural and eternal).