

HONORING GOD, OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

"There is nothing new under the sun." Do you know where that phrase comes from? Yep. The Bible.

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun." Ecclesiastes 1:9 KJV

Ecclesiastes is a book that is hard to follow. However, those who read it have a better knowledge of the human experience. Everything we can do while we are here on earth will be vanity.

Did you know Abel, the second son of Adam and Eve, was named Vanity? His name also means breath, vapor, something transitory and unsatisfactory. He was the keeper of the flock, and God found his offering pleasing.

Cain, destined from the fall to claim and possess all he saw, did not please God. He was a worker of the ground.

Why Cain's was offering unacceptable? Because the seed was sown into Eve's womb after the fall, and she named the firstborn of the living Cain. His name means possession and references the Kenites, the "smiths" who worked metal into spears. As the firstborn, he would inherit the earth, right?

However, God placed respect on Abel's offering because he gathered and led to God those from out of the firstlings who have the birthright, the Spirit, the richest, choice part of God's creation.

The fruit of the ground, of a human who does not recognize that the Spirit came first, not the spear, no matter the means used to produce it, will never be acceptable to God. Thus, all on the earth is vanity, and the offerings of the Shepard are pleasing to God.

Ecclesiastes ends with the conclusion of all that the Preacher found: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: because this is the whole duty of man. God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12)

Give all honor to our Spiritual Father in Heaven because there is only One like Him!

Blessings and honor, Angela Errett



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That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Psalm 26:7

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2023 JUNE-JULY



Honoring God

by Angela Errett

There is no other God like ours

Fear And Afraid by Bob Jacobus

Fearing God and being afraid of God are two very different human experiences

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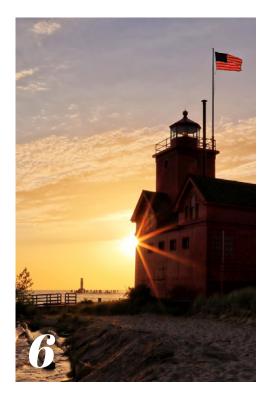
What Is Truth? The Answer Is...

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The Five G's: God, Grace, Generosity, Gentleness, and Glory



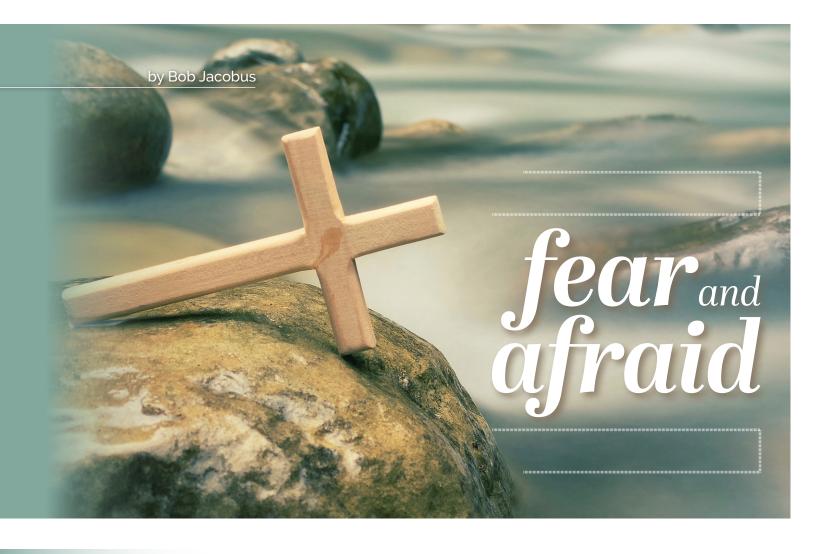
ON THE COVER

American flag on side of barn, Etna Farm, Upshur County, WV. Alan Tucker/Backyard Photography

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Fearing God and being afraid of God are two very different human experiences.

Fear and afraid are two words that are used interchangeably in casual conversation and, by dictionary definition, considered matching counterparts. However, fear can have an entirely different depending meaning the context and perspective of

the speaker, transmitter, and receiver. Confusion, misunderstandings, quarrels, and ill feelings are common outcomes of bad communication. Not distinguishing between fear and being afraid can lead to loss of relationships, position in life, and good esteem. In this day and age, it is important to know what to fear and what to be afraid of. Having a mutual understanding with The Lord makes for a strong relationship, position in His kingdom, and good esteem with oneself and others.

To set the table, one arena in which to rightly handle the words fear and afraid is the stadium of

World Views. For example, in one world view, there is great concern over environmental conditions; some are afraid that outcomes from the use of fossil fuels will be irreparable. Another view would be a healthy respect for the risks involved in utilizing that source by acknowledging that wise management can mitigate the danger. The "shut it all down" position is a reaction of panic, while the "wise use" world view is a response of thoughtful and considerate action. The former behavior is being abridgedly afraid, while the other is having tempered fear. Panic never figures things out. The "clean" alternatives to fossil fuel may well be more detrimental to the earth's environmental conditions.

Total electric, yeah, right. If one looks only at the battery issue, the environment loses. It takes the mining of rare minerals to produce storage for clean energy. How much dirty energy does it take to provide the necessary infrastructure to make clean energy available? What are the costs and benefits of shutting down fossil fuel energy in a highly accountable culture only to rely on a less responsible national entity to use unabated dirty energy to produce goods and services so that the "ethical" society can have unlimited clean energy to consume?

Sorry for the soap box, but not really. There is no such thing as renewable energy except eternal energy. When humans tap into solar power, natural energy is just being redirected to consumptive use. That energy was used somewhere else in the environmental system. Is there any general fear that this redistribution may cause calamity? Hydropower, is there a dam involved that destroys a downstream ecosystem? Do the windmills alter wind patterns besides killing birds? Do vibrations off oceanic windmills interfere with marine life and their reproductive patterns? Is there enough energy robbed from the wind to change ocean temperatures and currents? Is the Chicken Little shortterm panic leading to long-term catastrophe? Just some word salad: dirty energy is used to produce a clean energy battery that will need to be replaced after its useful life by another clean energy battery which will be produced by more dirty energy. There is a cost here that has yet to be calculated in the afraid cheering section of this ball game. It is hard to cover all the bases.

"In the Kingdom of God all bases are covered by Jesus and the principle of The Christ."

Bob Jacobus

Another world view in which fear and afraid have different connotations is in the realm of faith and religion. If one holds that there is no God, then there is nothing to be afraid of or fear. If a god is in one's world view, then that god can be feared and is someone to be afraid of. Now this is where context is important because different faiths have different gods. I do not claim to know any of them except the Judeo-Christian God. If you fear this God, He calls you a friend. If you are afraid of this God, you really don't know Him.

Surely God is my salvation; I WILL TRUST AND NOT BE AFRAID Isaiah 12:2 (NIV)

In the Holy Bible, fear and afraid do interchange. However, in some contexts, fear better conveys respect and reverence. Fear as a word has a dual origin, danger from Anglo-Saxon and revere from German. When one knows God, they know His power, His righteousness, His faithfulness, and His mercy. In His salvation, dread turns to rest, calm, and peace. Abraham had a long history with God, a lasting relationship available to anyone seeking His face.

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called God's friend.

James 2:23 (NIV)

With all the turmoil in the world, it is good to have friends, even better to have one that is God. Jesus, being the Son of God, is also God. And scripture says the first thing to do is believe in the Son and embrace the fullness that came to dwell with us in a created body. Jesus said, "I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15, NIV). Not a bad deal if you know Jesus. He knows almost everything and is willing to share what He knows with a friend. A caveat, most everything since He doesn't know the day or hour He returns to re-establish common sense and bring order to the dumb stuff people are doing, believing, and giving their lives to today.

Now then, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10, NIV). It may take some time to be vindicated, but after an offer of mercy is extended to the proud and the cup of wickedness becomes full, the believer will float right on out of the bad situation. No punches should be pulled here; physical death in this world is sometimes involved. The silver lining is that in God's great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope, and death in this world only ratifies an inheritance of that new birth which cannot perish, spoil, or fade. (See 1 Peter 1:4) Can you only envision eternity in Glory as friends of the Most High God? Can you believe God even as Abraham did?



ould you know the truth if you heard it? In chapter 18 of the Book of John, Truth is revealed. When we understand that our emotions and what we see in this world can lie to us, then our minds can come to realize, just as the Apostle Paul did, that Jesus Christ carried the Word of God and revealed truth for us to receive it and come into agreement with it. His Living Word gives guidance, and through works of faith, we gain hope in Christ and life everlasting as it was from the beginning.

The first truth you must believe? God is Spirit, and He created us in His image. He is not found by any physical means. He is found by Spirit. And His creation, humans, carry His logos or image. For example, just as a car manufacturer creates a new vehicle, the company is not driving the car around, people are, and only their logo and style are visible. By watching your behavior, would others know what kind of "car" you drive?

This essay on Truth starts in John 18, where Judas arrives with a band of men and officers from the chief priests and

"AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, and the Truth shall make you free."

John 8:32 (KJV)



Pharisees to take Jesus. He already knew they were coming for Him, and He spoke first. "Whom do you seek?" (Truth, the Spirit, always comes first.) They answered Jesus of Nazareth. He tells them, "I am He," they went backward and fell to the ground. Showing them, in Spirit, through His command of the wind against them, who He was. But they did not understand the Truth. Again, He asks, "Whom do you seek?" And they reply again, Jesus of Nazareth. This time, He concluded, "I have told you that I am He: if therefore you seek me, let these go their way." The first response to them was His divine Spirit revealed, and the second response was to their inability to discern it. They were only looking for the person of Jesus.

When Jesus arrived at the hall of justice, Pilate—whose name means armed with a spear—went out to them. Upon hearing the crowd's demands, to be judged by Roman law, Pilate enters the judgment hall again, calling Jesus. He asks, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus questions Pilate whether he is saying the title on his own or because others have told him so. Pilate responds, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests brought you to me: what have you done?"

Here, the Truth is revealed again. Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world." Why? Because His kingdom is found in Spirit. Then He says, "If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews." Read that again. You can discern here this Truth: Jesus does not require His servants to contend with adversaries in the world by physical means. He knew His assignment was to be delivered to the Jews. His rule at that present moment was not the world. (He had not given Himself on the cross yet.)

Pilate now asks, "Are you a king then?" Jesus remarks, "You say I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." Jesus tells us that He was sent into this world by the Father to affirm, testify and give the honorable testimony, revealing to the mind the certainty and truth of all things concerning God, the duties of man, and morality.

His following sentence reveals who knows Him and who does not. He says, "Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice." Breaking down the sentence, we can see that every being who came out of the Spirit of Truth can hear Jesus' voice. The word for *voice* here is the Greek word *phone*. It is a noun (person, place, or thing) which means *sound*, *cry*, *yell*, *language*, *speech*, and *discourse*. His sound brings forth light into a dark world and appears to the mind in the midst of a person, so the truth can become clear and manifest in the lives of His people.

We are earthen vessels, cars if you will, with many parts working together. And these "cars" are filled with the Spirit. Parts need to be used and oiled, or they lock up and become sedentary, and no matter the type, they need an energy source. We may need to seek the manufacturer's book to find out what part is acting up and how to replace it with a new one, or we may need a technician to work on it occasionally. And the older the "car" gets, the more you may need to work on it! Truth is, the Bible contains the Living Word of the Spirit, which guides us, gives us faith, and blessed assurance that Jesus, the Christ, gave us the only manual we will ever need in this life, and access to the Spirit of Truth, so that we may have everlasting life, in Him. Worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth. Blessing and Honor.



REVEALING God's Glory

White Pine Chapel, White Pine, MI

I stood there in remorse, ashamed that I could have acted so disgracefully! I experienced this emotion last May (2022) when my wife had an eye doctor's appointment at the West Virginia University Eye Institute in Morgantown. Those doctor's visits always seem to run long, so to put in my time waiting, I decided to drive over to see if the place where we lived in the mid-1960s when I was going to WVU was still there. It was a small basement apartment that cost us a whopping \$28.50 per month. While several houses had been torn down over the years, to my surprise, our place was still standing. I parked on the street above and walked down the narrow steps and walkway to the back of the house. There it was, our meager basement apartment. Its porch had been increased, and the original siding had been replaced. Standing there brought back a flood of memories. There was the time my mother-in-law came to attend the WVU - Penn State game. It was the only college game Mom ever saw in person. Unfortunately, we got beat-badly at that.





I-r: Our Morgantown basement apartment where we lived from 1967-1969. The same apartment in 2022

"I KNOW, MY GOD, THAT YOU TEST THE HEART and are pleased with my integrity."

1 Chronicles 29:17 (NIV)

There was another time when we were going to the car. It was a very icy morning and the car was parked on the steep slope on a side street. I managed to get to the car and told Liva, come on, I'll catch you. I didn't, and she went sliding by, but with no harm done. And then there was the time when we could be a refuge for family friends whose daughter was the national poster child for Cystic Fibrosis. Mindy was very ill at the WVU Hospital, and our friends needed a place to rest, which we could provide. Sadly, that courageous little girl did not survive this hospital stay. Like most homes, our tiny apartment provided many happy occasions and a few sad ones.

As I stood there reminiscing about those days, I looked around the small yard and suddenly became filled with guilt. Our sloping yard had a small planting of roses in the middle. They were long gone and now were replaced by some out-of-control shrubbery. It was my responsibility to maintain the yard back then. However, it wasn't high on my priority, plus pushing that old-style push mower around wasn't fun. The grass would often get high, and the weeds would grow tall, obscuring the roses. The upstairs tenants, a much older couple, often fussed at me about mowing the yard. I would

ignore them. One weekend we returned home after being away to find the grass and weeds cut. I became angry, so I raked up the debris, took it to his porch, and dumped it in front of his screen door, probably muttering, "There, take that and stay out of my yard!"

How immature and spiteful! I'm sure I was proud of "showing him." It saddens me to think I could have been so nasty and hurtful. You would think I wasn't a churchgoer in those days. But I was. My problem back then was I only knew about Jesus and didn't know Him personally as my Savior. So, my little side trip to kill some time while waiting on my wife turned out to be a painful reminder of who I was, a hypocrite. I clearly didn't please God with integrity that day. But I am glad I went because I think He wanted to remind me of how important it is to show grace no matter the situation.

In the last edition of *Glory Magazine*, I wrote about trying to use God's gift of Grace and the unique talents He gave me to the fullest in serving and glorifying Him. Easter may have come and gone, but the need to serve Him hasn't. In fact, it is more important! Like everyone else, I have been allotted so much time "to redeem" trying to please God.

Two of those months are gone forever since the last edition, never to be re-lived. I was 80 years and 7 months when I wrote my previous testimony; now, I am 80 years and 9 months. When I look at the past two months, I see where I have tried to find opportunities to serve Him and to continue to try to grow in Grace (2 Peter 3:18). It does take diligence and perseverance! I stumble occasionally and get frustrated, but I am trying to use those failures for learning and growth. That's why the memory of my past failure regarding the grass and weeds incident was so useful to me. We are going to falter and make mistakes; at least I am. Today with the Holy Spirit's help, I'm learning to grow from them.

I have been reading the Old Testament recently, and in doing so, I am reminded of how much I appreciate David's example. Even though he loved God with his whole heart, he stumbled quite a bit, sometimes epically! But he always repented and rededicated himself to serving the Lord, praising Him throughout and exalting His glory. I'm currently working my way through Chronicles, which are not the easiest books to read. I prefer one of the Gospels or Paul's letters anytime, but I learn so much wisdom from



West Virginia Scenic Highway, Mountain Meadow, Pocahontas County, WV; Georgetown Road Barn, Harrison County, WV; International Mother's Day Shrine, Grafton, WV

the early Saints and from God's work through them. Even in Chronicles, God's wisdom comes through.

As I have thought more about redeeming my allotted time, how I do that has taken on a greater sense of urgency. In earlier articles, I have written about my search for God's purpose in my life and how I feel that revealing His Glory is one of His purposes for me. But I have learned that how we live our lives for Him is just as important as the works. You cannot be a hypocrite if you want to influence someone positively and steer them to the Lord. That's where **integrity** takes center stage. We all have our understanding of that term which deals with the quality of being honest and possessing a strong moral backbone. Integrity is one of those things you either have or don't. You can't have just "a little bit of integrity." That's the same as saying one is a "little bit honest."

Integrity is a precious commodity; it requires doing the right thing in all circumstances. When I was in the Air Force, my wing commander (top officer on base) invited me to play in a golf tournament with his two sons, who were home from college for the summer. It was a team event based on all four of us hitting from the same spot each time and then selecting the best shot to determine where we would hit the next shot. That applied also on the green, and you recorded the score for the hole when the putt was made. We had about a twenty-foot putt for a birdie early in the round.

The first son attempted his putt, which went right up by the hole. He walked up and started to knock it in.

I shouted, "Don't!" as we had three more attempts to make the birdie. I was too late, and he tapped it in. I told them we had to take the par and move to the next hole. Colonel C said why? I explained the rule, to which he replied, who is going to know? I said we will. There was an uncomfortable pause when one of the boys said, "He's right, Dad," and his words helped diffuse the moment. Fortunately, we played well the rest of the way and won the tournament. It's not always comfortable doing the right thing. I have had many of those moments in my professional career. I am sure there were times when I could have handled things much better, but for the most part, I believe trying to do the right thing served me well.

When you get saved, you learn or should learn, that integrity is the very fabric of being a Christian. You are no longer living per what you think or what society tells you is right or wrong. There is only one measure: what God expects of you. It is all spelled out in the Bible, the only true source of His Word. It is a big book and can seem very daunting. But study it, and you will begin to grow, strengthening your spiritual integrity. I quickly learned I was not on my own. There was something different about me. I was seeing and doing things differently, old motivations and feelings disappeared, and I could feel myself wanting more and more of this



Holland Harbor Big Red Lighthouse, MI

new life in Jesus. I now realize that the Holy Spirit poured into me when I crossed that threshold into His kingdom. I didn't grasp everything about what God expected of me all at once. But I have studied individually and in groups, surrounded myself with Christian mentors, listened attentively to those who love the Lord, sought God's guidance in prayer, and tried to apply what I learned. I'm still a work in progress. But I love the way He works in me, and I love trying to please Him, which Paul stressed to the Ephesians and Corinthians should be our primary goal in life.

I have always thought about integrity in terms of being honest, loyal, reliable, and trustworthy, all of which have been of major importance to me in my life and to the organizations to which I belonged. They still are, even in my Christian walk. However, I have learned there is a greater meaning to the concept of spiritual integrity. It brings heightened responsibility to one's Christian life. I have listened to many sermons, read many devotionals, participated in group studies, and determined it is the bedrock of being a Christian. I found several areas of consistency across those avenues of learning, and each has been very useful in my walk with Jesus. I call them the "Five G's." This is not some 1950's or 60's rock group nor some communication network capability (i.e., 5G). They are five intertwined Godly areas that, for me, capture the essence of spiritual

integrity as I seek to please Him. I call them God, Grace, Generosity, Gentleness, and Glory. We will begin this testimony by examining the first two "G's," God and Grace. Next time, we will explore the other three. I will not be going into an in-depth discussion on each area. First, I am not qualified to do so, and I believe each person should study and pray about the concept itself, and in doing so, God will reveal what He expects of you. However, I hope my learning journey will inspire you to seek how better to please Him.

Everything begins with God, what He expects, and what He commands, no matter the situation. We are told first and foremost to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30 NIV). Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15 ESV). Very simply, God calls us to live by His ways, not by our own devices nor by how society tells us. I have learned that these are not suggestions; they are His standards upon which I should build my life. Billy Graham said when we live by these truths, we possess integrity.

The bottom line is it all boils down to obedience to God's Word, His Truth, which clearly tells me that His priorities must be my priorities. I know I will never be like Daniel or Joseph—the one with the coat of many colors—who were both seemingly without blemish in

Photo: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker



Dents Run Covered Bridge, Monongalia County, WV

their obedience. But I am trying to be obedient and grateful for His Grace and mercy where and when I fall short. Peter reminds us that the devil is on the prowl like a lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8), indicating that he would like nothing better than for us to compromise our integrity. The good news is God does give me the strength to build and maintain my integrity. A key for me is to constantly ask Him to test my heart so I can determine if I'm doing what I should do to please him. This leads to my second foundational piece on what I have learned about integrity. It is a special gift from God reserved only for His children. It is called Grace.

Thinking of the uniqueness of Grace, I am reminded of an old *Seinfeld* episode in which Elaine was interviewing for a position at an upscale women's clothing store. Somehow, during the interview, which was not going well for Elaine, Jackie Onassis' name came up. The interviewer mentioned that Jackie had this air of grace about her, meaning she was very graceful, which is different from God's Grace. To which Elaine threw her head back slightly and remarked, "I like to think I have a little bit of grace." The interviewer arrogantly replied, "Miss, you can't just have a little bit of grace,

you either have grace or you don't, and I am sorry you aren't suitable for the position." Elaine angrily retorted that, "She never had grace and never wanted grace in the first place." It turns out that God's Grace is just like that; you either have it or you don't, and you only receive it by committing your life to Christ.

I believe that living an obedient life with integrity is impossible without God's Grace. We are beyond blessed that "God so loved the world He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV). While none of us deserved it, nor could we earn it, no one is disqualified from His Grace. Just think about that, it is available to everyone. That is an amazingly loving God. I am living proof that He doesn't give up on pursuing you, either. I drifted for seventy years before God's Grace found me, for which I am eternally grateful. There is hope for everyone. If you are reading this and not saved, He is pursuing you. He wants to share His Grace with you. He freely gives it to all who believe Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead to give them eternal life, including you and me. Although Grace is totally undeserved and unmerited, it is the bridge or



McNeel Mill, Mill Point, Pocahontas County, WV

requirement that allows us to build a relationship with Him based on integrity. We can only receive His Grace through faith: "For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2: 8-9). Billy Graham says, "Faith is simply the channel through which God's Grace to us is received." Once received, Grace truly is amazing, not only because it saves but also equips each child of God to think and act in the way He would want. I can attest to this as it has allowed me to repeatedly experience His Grace working through me. Resulting in Grace being another foundational piece upon which my integrity is built.

I have much more to share on integrity and how it has enriched my life. We still have three more "G's" to cover, which I hope will reveal what and who guides me in my walk with the Lord as I try to please Him and reveal His glory. Today, I wanted to introduce my take on integrity as I have gleaned from His many teachings. I hope it gives you an inkling of how God is working in my life. Until next time, two months from now, allow God to test your heart to see if He is pleased.

God Bless and Happy Redeeming!



He that loveth

pureness of heart,

for the grace of his lips

the king shall be his friend.

Proverbs 22:11 XJV



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