

Views from the Fish Bowl

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Ministers' Wives

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- * Be A Good Samaritan...

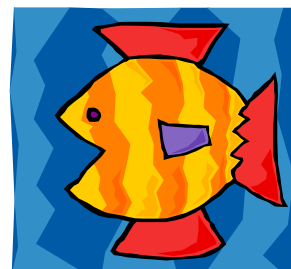
View from the Fish Bowl!

I've been meditating a lot lately on the reverent fear of God. I have been reading through the book of Acts this month and came across these verses: *Acts 9:31 So the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was edified [growing in wisdom, virtue, and piety] and walking in the respect and reverential fear of the Lord and in the consolation and exhortation of the Holy Spirit, continued to increase and was multiplied.* And also *Acts 10:2 A devout man who venerated God and treated Him with reverential obedience as did all his household, and he gave much alms to the people and prayed continually to God. (both verses from AMP version)*

Do we treat God with reverential fear? Do we respect who He is

enough to live a holy life like He asks us to?

I have also been teaching my kids, (Sunday school



He is my Creator, and I will glorify Him!

and Wed. night group) that we need to make decisions based on who God is, on His character, not on our feelings. In other words, if God is Truth and is truthful, then we must base our decisions on truth. If God is pure, then we need to compare our choices to who God is and base our decisions on purity. If God is love, then we are to love also—love God foremost and love others. (Continued on page 3)

Sketches of New Testament Women

Anna: "The Faithful One"

Being a woman of faith is a great thing, but being a women of faith and being continually faithful is a whole different realm. That is what Anna was. Let's look at the testimony of her life in Luke 2:21-38, with the key verses being 36-38.

What do disappointments do to you as a woman? Are you strengthened by them

or are you beaten down? Here's a woman who had disappointments at an early age, but that did not stop Anna from being a faithful godly servant. Take a look at verse 36 and 37.

1. What had happened to Anna 7 years into her marriage? _____

(Continued on page 2)

Anna (continued)

2. Did she have any children? _____ To be happily married with children was all any Jewish girl could ever want from life. But God, in love, (though she did not understand it then), broke up her plans for earthly joy when He took away her husband after only seven years of married life. As far as we can tell, there are no children either. In her sorrow and loneliness she had turned to her Lord. She had set her affection on things above and had dedicated her life to her Maker, who was better to her than a husband. Anna chose not to remarry. In this time, that must have been a very hard decision, but Anna chose to spend the rest of her life in the _____. V.37

3. Into this setting comes the promised Messiah, the Son of God, as a baby. How many were anticipating His coming? How many were expecting Him? How many were looking for Him? We know from this scripture that there were two at least. "Simeon, who was righteous and devout was waiting for the _____ and the Holy Spirit was upon him." v.25 "Coming up to them at that very moment, she (Anna) _____ thanks to _____." v.38

4. Anna was blessed by God to be one of a handful of key witnesses who knew and understood the significance of Jesus' birth. And she made no attempt to keep it a secret. Thus she became one of the first and most enduring witnesses to Christ. "She spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the r _____ of J _____. V.38

5. What title does Luke give her in verse 36? A _____. We are not to imagine that a "prophetess" was an office she fulfilled. Most likely, it meant that she had a reputation as a gifted teacher of other women and a faithful encourager of her fellow worshipers in the temple. When she spoke, it was about the Word of God. She had spent many years hiding God's Word in her heart. How old was she _____ yrs. V.37



Be Faithful in Prayer.

6. Luke gave another significant detail about Anna: "(she) never _____ the _____." There were some apartments in the outer courts (Neh. 13:7-9). They were modest chambers, probably used as temporary dwelling places for priests who lived on the temple grounds while doing their two weeks' annual service. Perhaps because of her long faithfulness, her obvious spiritual gifts, her steadfast devotion to the Lord, she was given a small chamber.

"She gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for the redemption in Jerusalem."

We will look into the life of Faithful Anna more next time. In the meantime, remain our Lord's faithful servant.

What Do Children Need?

1. Acceptance
2. Praise and appreciation
3. To learn they can trust their parents not to deceive them or break promises
4. Consistency and fairness
5. To feel that their fears, their desires, their feelings, their inexplicable impulses, their frustrations, and their inability are understood by their parents
6. To know exactly where the limits are—what is permitted and what is prohibited
7. To know that home is a safe place, a place of refuge
8. Warm approval when they do well



One of the best things you can do is love you spouse!

9. Firm correction when they do wrong
10. To know that their parents are stronger than they are, able to weather the storms and dangers of the outer world, and able to stand up to their children's rages and unreasonable demands
11. To feel their parents like them and want to and will take time to listen
12. Perceptive responses to their growing needs for independence
13. To be hugged and noticed

Taken from Let's Hide the Word by Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson

Communicating Projects for a Husband and Wife! (Part 3-ending)

19. Make a list of the things that would make up the kind of relationship you want to have one year from now, five years, ten years. Later, when you feel that you and he are ready, discuss this list lovingly.

20. List ways that you could foster an atmosphere in which intimacy can grow.

21. Make the home more interesting and beautiful for your husband. Do not be so predictable. Have lunch on the porch one day; have unusual placemats; eat in the living room another day. This makes life more interesting.

22. Set some traditions for your communicating. Plan together so that this is something both of you enjoy and can do without upsetting the schedule. Be flexible if his plans change. This can be something you have already done many times since your wedding day, or you can begin some new

things: having breakfast out on Saturday morning; eating in "our" place, or walking "our route."

23. Share in your world of ideas: read a book together; read another one separately and then discuss it; study an issue of joint concern; discuss a stimulating speech.

24. Learn at least one game or sport that you can do together. Forget your bashfulness or the fact that he does it so much better. Just do it in order to be together.



25. Create something together: a garden; flower box; do a painting together; build something to give to your children next Christmas or for a birthday; help each other grow; feed the heart hungers of each.

Fish bowl (continued)

So how does this all relate? Reverential fear of God is to understand that God is holy. He is worthy of our respect and obedience. He is "Highest Authority," and "Lord." How do we match up? Far short I know, but are our choices coming even close? We, as ministers wives and families, are supposed to be examples. God chose us to be leaders of His Church. Do we base our choices on who God is? Really? I look at us and I think, how are we different from the world? Do they see a difference in us? The neat thing about these two passages in Acts was the result of reverential fear and obedience for God. In 9:31 the Holy Spirit was evident in their lives and they continued to increase and multiply. Not a lot of that happening here and now. And in 10:2, which is about the Gentile Cornelius, God sent him Peter who showed him the truth, and Cornelius was saved, along with all his

family and friends. Wow, now that's what we'd all love to see.

Here is another verse: *Acts 10:34-35 AMP "And Peter opened his mouth and said: most certainly and thoroughly I now perceive and understand that God shows no partiality and is no respecter of persons. But in every nation He who venerates and has a reverential fear of God, treating Him with worshipful obedience and living up-*

**"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"
Ps. 111:10
Prov. 9:10**

rightly, is acceptable to Him and sure of being received and welcomed by Him."

How is you respect of God?



Recipe Corner (Cream Spinach Bake)

My sister served this dish the last time I was at her house and it was yummy. She had cut the recipe in half.

2 pkgs. (8 oz each) cream cheese softened (you can use the low fat)

2 cans (10 3/4 oz each) cream of mushroom soup

4 pkgs. (10 oz. each) frozen chopped spinach—thawed and well drained, pat dry.

2 cans (2.8 oz. each) French-fried onions.

2/3 cups crushed saltines (about 16 crackers) (not crushed too fine)

1/4 cup butter or margarine— melted

In a bowl beat the cream cheese until smooth. Add soup and mix well. Stir in spinach and onions. Transfer to a greased 2 1/2 qt baking dish. Combine cracker crumbs and butter. Sprinkle over spinach mixture. Bake, uncovered at 325 for 30-35 minutes or until heated through.

Yields 10 servings.



Eat your vegetables then you can have dessert!

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Views from the
Fish Bowl

B.A.G.S.

I Ran across this idea on Jennifer Rothschild's women ministry website. This could be a good project for a church or women's group. Thought I would share it.

B.A.G.S.

Know what that stands for? Be A Good Samaritan. Clever! This is a ministry idea that anyone can begin with a little shopping and some zip lock bags. Follow the simple steps below, and you will be on your way to becoming a Good Samaritan.

- **BUY**...the following items: gallon-size zip lock bags, bottled water, granola bars, cheese/peanut butter crackers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, liquid soap, small New Testaments, etc.
- **ASSEMBLE**...the items in zip lock bags, and stow them away in your car within reach of the driver's seat.
- **GIVE**... a bag to anyone who asks for food, money, work, etc.
- **SAY**...that you will pray for them...and then do it.

Ask their name. Let them know that you are giving the bag because God has given to you, and you want to give to them.

The contributor's family does this, and they've found that giving some thought to caring for someone who is more accustomed to being an object of scorn makes a big impact. They talk with those they give the B.A.G.S. to and look them in the eye to share the love of Christ.

"In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."—Mother Teresa

Jesus said a cup of cool water given in His name matters. I'm pretty sure the blessing applies to bottled water too! So spread the news, and let's change the world.

