

Heart Attitudes for the Worship Choir

III. THE FRAMEWORK: FEARING GOD

“Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth. Unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.” (Psalm 86:11-12).

Regarding the phrase - “Unite my heart to fear thy name”:

*Having taught me one way, give me one heart to walk therein, for too often I feel a heart and a heart, two natures contending, two principles struggling for sovereignty. Our minds are apt to be divided between a variety of objects, like trickling streamlets which waste their force in a hundred runnels. Our great desire should be to have all our life-floods poured into one channel and to have that channel directed towards the Lord alone. A man of divided heart is weak. The man of one object is **the** man. God who created the bands of our nature can draw them together, tighten, strengthen, and fasten them, and so braced and inwardly knit by his uniting grace, we shall be powerful for good, but not otherwise. To fear God is the beginning, the growth, and the maturity of wisdom. Therefore, we should be undividedly given up to it, heart and soul. (C.H. Spurgeon, The Treasury of David, Volume 2, p.467).*

Key passages regarding FEARING GOD:

- **Deuteronomy 6:24** – And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
- **2 Corinthians 5:11** – Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.
- **Acts 2:43** – And awe (fear) came upon every soul, and many signs and wonders were being done through the apostles.

“I think the key is found in verse 43 in the phrase, “fear came upon every soul”—a joyful, trembling sense of awe that you don’t trifle with the God of the apostles. That is not our experience. Today for most people, including most professing Christians, God is an idea to talk about, or an inference from an argument, or a family tradition to be preserved. But for very few people is God a stark, fearsome, stunning, awesome, shocking present REALITY. He is tame. He is distant. He is silent. Where are the churches of whom Luke could say today, “Fear—awe, wonder, trembling—is upon every soul”? The absence of this fear has a direct effect on the way we accumulate possessions for ourselves, the way we ignore the needy, the way we trivialize fellowship, and the way we play more than we pray.” (John Piper. Used by permission of Desiring God Resources, www.desiringgod.org).