

# Adjust Your Awe

*Psalm 27:1-4*

Whatever we are in awe of is what we will pursue after

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## Introduction

- **It is a pleasure to be Back at Mercy Church**
  - Always great to walk shoulder to shoulder and so Godly proud of this Church and how you all lead in the past 5 months in the Kingdom.
  - I am grateful for the Leadership of Pastor and Spence and the Elders and Leaders of this Church.
  - Thankful for my wife April and my family allowing me to come and serve.
  - Thankful for the care and support of my favorite Church Vertical Church for encouraging me and supporting.
- God has given me a word today that I think is timely and necessary but I have to warn you I am going to challenge and push you today
  - **So let's Pray!!**
  - I don't know about anyone else but a part of me wants to jump ahead to the end of 2020 so here we go for the sake of this intro.
    - Let's start with Christmas!
  - Christmas is a humbling time for me each year since I have had children.
    - My London Loves Christmas so much. She like most children is extremely excited about Christmas. She is excited for everyone honestly. She likes celebrations of any kind to be quite honest she likes a good party.
    - She cried when I took the Christmas Tree down. She wanted me to leave it up until her Birthday in April and put her presents under it and add balloons.
    - It's humbling because every night before she would go to bed she would ask how many more days until I get my presents. How long until we get to get up and go downstairs and open them. I can't wait. It is really innocent but very revealing about human nature.
  - She is way more excited about the gift than the giver.

- Truthfully the gift at best communicates a fraction of the heart of the giver.
  - The truth is that my baby like all of us in this room have misplaced our desires for the gift over the giver.
  - Here is the thing that is crazy
    - My daughter would have access to me daily, but when we got together every night all she could talk about was the gift that she wanted.
    - All I could think was here I am the one that is going to make this possible but you do not want me.
    - She would tell me daily, this is what she wanted, she would clean up her dolls to make room for a new one.
- We all have what London has. We all have AWE of something.
- We were hardwired for AWE to seek out what is Awesome that satisfies us, pleases us, gives us identity, gives us hope, make us happy. We are all in awe of something but of what and what does it do to us.
- **Whatever we are in awe of is what we will pursue after.**
- One of the great places we see Awe in scripture is in the life and words of David.
- **Psalm 27:1–4 (ESV)**

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
- Whether you believe it or not Your Awe shapes every area of your life.
  - This is why you need to pay attention to this sermon today because this is one of those sermons that if you get it will change everything.
    - The life you live
    - The decisions you make
    - The Person you married
    - The clothes you wear
    - The place you work
    - The school you went to
    - The food you eat
      - All are determined by AWE
  - Many of us have lost our AWE of God.
    - We have become disenchanting with who and what he is.

- There is no wonder in who he is
  - This affects our:
    - Faith in his word
    - The expectation for the Future
    - Obedience to the Mission
    - Urgency for the work
    - Life of Worship
- **If we are not careful losing our awe of God will cause us to wander away from him altogether.**
  - In this current season of uncertainty, challenge, adjustment, and distance we can unknowingly lose our awe.
- I believe the single greatest issue we see in the world and in the church
  - is not a sin problem
  - a government problem
  - a bible problem
  - an obedience problem
  - leadership problem
  - theology problem
- It's a problem with our Awe.
- Title of today's Sermon **Adjust your Awe**
  - **I feel that while many things we can do to help our church, systems, leadership, what we need most is a proper awe adjustment**

## Quote

**Whatever we are in awe of is what we will pursue after**

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## Context

### 1. What is Awe?

- a. **"Awe" is defined as: a reverential state or condition of the mind and heart that results in a respectful fear or genuine wonder.** In a secular sense, a person can be "in awe" or "filled with awe" towards another person, place or thing.
- b. **For example, the Grand Canyon**, with all of its splendor and beauty, can cause even the most unemotional individual to experience true "awe." That is, the distinct sense of fear and wonder towards this magnificent creation. Basically, it's just a hole in the ground. But what a hole! Clearly, it fills one with awe. The reverential fear and genuine wonder towards the Creator!

## 2. We were created for Awe.

### a. **Psalm 33:8 (ESV)**

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

b. God has been calling us to be in Awe of him. We are wired to be in awe of God.

i. This is not a spiritual issue this human issue that we are all in search for Awe for what is awesome.

## 3. The challenge of Awe.

a. Awe was meant for God and God alone.

b. Everything we see as awesome was meant to point us to God not become God.

c. Creation are meant to point to creators.

i. We have become in awe of the creations and not the creator of those creations.

ii. Here is why that is a problem

1. Creations were never designed to:

2. satisfy you

3. bring you peace

4. give you what your heart is longing for.

d. We are hardwired to be in awe that will lead us to God and there we will find our purpose and identity.

e. Everything in my life is shaped by awe

f. There is no such thing as a Human Being absent of Awe

g. Awe had been the cause of the fall of man since the beginning in the garden

### i. **Genesis 3:6 (ESV)**

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

h. We all have it and every one of us will find a place to place our AWE!!

## 4. **2 Places for our Awe**

### a. **Awe of God**

### b. **Awe of God's Creation**

i. We either have vertical awe for horizontal awe designed to pint us vertically

ii. Our awe can be found in

1. What we do

2. What we wear

3. What people say about us

4. Success

5. Stability
  6. Relationships
  7. Our children
  8. Our food
    - a. You can eat a sweet piece of cake and literally go AWEEEE
    - b. You can see a child and go awe
    - c. Someone give you a gift and you say awe
    - d. Because even you can be your awe.
- iii. This starts early in our life.
1. Ask a parent that has ever had a toddler that refused food.
  2. That child is saying that does not bring me satisfaction and you are not going to tell me what to do
  3. The child does not know it but it has an awe problem and it's self
  4. That child does not care if you know what it needs or when it needs it.
    - a. That child is in awe of self as he/she is the center of their world.
    - b. A child that has an awe problem of self will grow to an adult that has an awe problem as an adult if they do not adjust their awe.
- c. In this Psalm David is writing and reveals his Awe.
- i. Most theologians have 2 different theories about the time of this writing as the setting gives context to the content of the writing.
    1. Fleeing from King Saul who wanted to Kill him
    2. Fleeing his son Absalom who wanted to Kill him
      - a. 2 people who should have loved him are pursuing him with armies
    3. Either way life has happened to him in the worst kind of way.
    4. Here we find out about his Awe and I feel that we need to know these things if we are going to adjust our Awe so that we can pursue after God.

## 1. Awe is adjusted Personally

### Explanation

1. **Psalm 27:1 (ESV)**

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- a. David starts with theology
- b. it's interesting that he starts with theology.
- c. What every your awe is, will be where your life will start when life happens to you in the worst way.

2. **Our awe is personal**

- a. David says The Lord is:
  - i. My Light
  - ii. My Salvation
  - iii. My Strong Hold of my life
- b. What many of us are in Awe of is a personal thing
  - i. You have to think that David is thinking on all the things that God has ever done.
  - ii. How we see God is not a simple act of cognitive understanding or academic articulation that is absent of experience.

3. **Proper Theology of God**

- a. Our theology of God as Christians is not a theology of the Bible but of the God of the Bible.
- b. It's not a theology of a book but of a person
- c. A theology that is simply knowledge and understanding of God that has not touched your personal experience of God is incomplete and extremely lacking.
- d. **Theology properly understood doesn't just define God, it redefines me as a Child of God. – Paul David Tripp**
- e. Many people know of the God of the Bible but do not know the God of the Bible and completely lack Awe.
- f. This will lead to people having a vertical knowledge of God but still searching for Awe horizontally.

4. **Misplaced Awe**

- a. Cause
  - i. Christians to spend themselves into debt trying to find life – horizontal awe
  - ii. Destroy one another in marriage searching for awe in someone that was never meant be your awe – horizontal awe
  - iii. eat our selves into illness in search for temporary satisfaction – horizontal awe
  - iv. treat Church like and ecclesiastical shopping mall asking the church to provide for us each and every one of our desires – awe of self.

5. **God is your salvation, light, life, strength**

- a. Or is it the horizontal things you pursue daily.
- b. The things that are creations were never meant to fulfill you but get you into a personal relationship with the God of the heavens and the earth.

## 2. Awe adjusts you Perspective

### Explanation

#### 1. Psalm 27:2–3 (ESV)

2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

- 2. David awe of God changes his perspective on life.
  - a. David is encamped with every dangerous thing pursuing to kill him and he says that he will not fear, he will be confident.
  - b. Why? read vs 1 (God is my salvation)
    - i. Now I am not saying that Awe denies reality and the challenges of life
    - ii. David did not say anything bad was happening because I am so focused on God.
  - c. His perspective was changed because of what he was in Awe of.

#### 3. **Fear is the only solution for Fear**

- a. My fear of God disarms my fear of other things.
  - i. David fights Goliath 1 Samuel 17
  - ii. David goes to bring some food to his brothers when gets word that Goliath has challenged a philistine and David says who is this uncircumcised philistine who defies the God of Israel.
    - 1. Why are we not fighting.
    - 2. He tells everyone I will fight him.
    - 3. He tells King Saul I will fight him
  - iii. **1 Samuel 17:36–37 (ESV)**  
 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”
  - iv. David’s awe was what changed his perspective that it removed the fear of this Giant
    - 1. It cause him to walk into a valley as boy, with no military training

2. With an army to his back
  3. The weight of this whole battle on his shoulders
  4. brothers doubting him
  5. giant mocking him
  6. a shepherd's cloak and sling with 5 stones
- v. It was the awe of God that changed his perspective
- b. He knew God would be his deliverer
- i. Most of us are in Awe of what we feel will deliver us from what we are in.
  - ii. Those are the things that we have a hard time parting with
    1. Whenever you have found something that you are not willing to part with for the sake of God you have just found an Idol.

#### 4. Proper placed Awe of God will change your perspective of your situation

##### a. Pilot Fish

- i. I was talking with Lynette Jackson our executive director
- ii. She was telling me she fell in love with God scuba diving like never before
- iii. PilotFish are the fish that we swimming beside sharks but sharks never eat them.
  1. Pilotfish actually just hangs close to the shark to eats ectoparasites or the leftover flesh from the prey of the shark.
  2. This fish cleans the sharks body, nose, gills whatever
    - a. The shark cant clean it's self
    - b. The pilot fish-free left overs from the shark
    - c. The pilot fish gets protection from the predators of the sea, the shark gets freedom from parasites
    - d. The pilotfish is even known for swimming into the mouth of the shark clean between the teeth of the shark.
- iv. See if God would do this for the Shark he can do it for you.
  1. God is providing for the shark and the pilot fish
  2. **Matthew 6:25–26 (ESV)**  
 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"



### 3. Awe adjusts your Pursuit

#### Explanation

1. **Psalm 27:4 (ESV)**

4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

- a. David is surrounded by people who wanted to kill him but what he says he wants is strange.
- b. His prayer is not to deal with them but to see God.
- c. God is more beautiful than how ugly your situation is
- d. When God is your awe he will be your pursuit.

2. **The deception of our Consumeristic approach to life.**

- a. Our consumeristic nature is shaped by our awe.
- b. **When we are our Awe our pleasure, comfort, and satisfaction become our pursuit.**
  - i. Self Awe deceives us into believing that when we are the object of our own affection we will be satisfied.
  - ii. Many of us come to our careers and jobs with self awe
  - iii. We come to our marriage with self awe, thinking this will fill that whole are gaps in our lives
  - iv. Trying to satisfy yourself on the creations and not the creator will always leave you wanting. It is all temporary
    1. Our marketing culture feeds off of people that have self awe.

3. **How to get your Awe Back and Pursue God. (Disconnection and Reconnection)**

- a. **Identify the what of your Awe. (London)**
  - i. What is it that has caught captured your heart that is not God. It may be a good thing but not a God thing
  - ii. If you would not give it up for God it is an idol in your life and has your awe.
  - iii. We often experience destruction by distraction because of Awe.
- b. **Identify the Why of that Awe. (London looks at Me)**
  - i. There has been a way that my daughter loves me and believes in me that has given me identity. She loves me unconditionally so I think in that moment. She wants me and genuinely cares for me.
  - ii. The problem is not my relationship with my daughter but now I see my relationship with my daughter.

- iii. My identity has to be in Christ and Christ alone.
- c. **What are you looking for in that thing that God is supposed to be providing**
  - i. It is completely unfair to put the weight of your identity on your spouse, children, career, church, friends.
- d. **Increase Awareness of God**
  - i. **Through Biblical Community**
    - 1. People and what God is bringing them through should create awe in your life
    - 2. This is why when you say you do need to be in a biblical community or missional community and you don't need it but maybe the group needs you. You are robbing the Church of an opportunity to be in Awe of God through your life.
    - 3. We live in a culture of isolation when God has called us to relationships.
  - ii. **Spiritual Disciplines**
    - 1. Solitude vs Isolations
    - 2. Solitude is when you go away to be with the father
    - 3. Isolation is when you tell others to stay away.
  - iii. **Expose yourself to Nature**