

# Why People are Big

## WHEN PEOPLE ARE BIG AND GOD IS SMALL

Psalm 128:1 *Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.*

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Proverbs 10:27 *The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.*

Proverbs 14:27 *The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.*

### 1. The Fear of \_\_\_\_\_ "PEOPLE WILL \_\_\_\_\_ ME."

THIS IS ALSO CALLED \_\_\_\_\_-FEAR.

### 2. The Fear of \_\_\_\_\_

What these two fears have in common: \_\_\_\_\_-building

We want \_\_\_\_\_, but we don't want \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 20:18-19 *When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance<sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."*

When I have made \_\_\_\_\_ out of people, I may...

- think and feel responsible for other people
- feel compelled to help people solve their problems
- get tired of feeling like I always give to others but no one gives to me.
- blame, blame, blame.
- feel unappreciated.
- fear rejection.
- feel ashamed of who I am.
- worry whether other people like me or not.
- focus all my energy on other people and problems.
- threaten, bribe, beg.
- try to say what I think will please, provoke, or get me what I need.
- manipulate.
- let other people keep hurting me and never say anything.
- feel angry.
- feel like a martyr.
- be extremely responsible or irresponsible.

## Examples from the Bible

John 5:44 *How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?*

John 12:42-43 *Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*

## Moses

Exodus 3:10 *Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.* 11 *But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"*

## Peter

Mark 14:66-68 *While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. 67 When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. 68 But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.*

Galatians 2:10-13 *But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. 12 When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. 13 As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.*

## Paul

Ephesians 6:10-12 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 6:19-20 *And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. 20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.*

1 Peter 3:13-15 *Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats ; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

**STEP 1: RECOGNIZE THAT THE FEAR OF MAN IS A MAJOR THEME BOTH  
IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ AND IN \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE.**