THE WATCHMAN'S LETTER

A WEEKLY LETTER FROM REVEREND GARY HOBAN

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RECOVER THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Reverence, Holiness and the Church's Witness

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." - Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

One danger of familiarity is that holy things can begin to feel ordinary. We can speak about God, sing worship songs, handle Scripture and attend church while slowly losing a deep awareness of who God is. The biblical fear of the Lord is not terror that drives a believer away from God. It is reverent awe that draws us into worship, obedience and humility. If the Church in Australia is to awaken, we must recover confidence in grace and reverence for holiness.

WHAT HAVE WE MADE COMMON?

The language of faith can become familiar long before the reality of faith becomes deep. We can say 'God is holy' without trembling at the thought, or say 'Jesus is Lord' while arranging life around convenience. Reverence begins when we stop reducing God to a supporting role in our plans.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD PRODUCES WISDOM

Our society has access to enormous information, yet information alone cannot tell us what is good, true or worth living for. Wisdom begins when God is given His rightful place. We ask not only what is permitted, but what honours the Lord.

GRACE DOES NOT MAKE GOD LESS HOLY

The cross reveals both the seriousness of sin and the greatness of mercy. Grace is not God deciding sin does not matter. Grace is God acting in Christ to save people who could not save themselves.

REVERENCE AND INTIMACY BELONG TOGETHER

Because we are welcomed through Christ, we can draw near with confidence. That confidence should deepen reverence, not erase it. The God who calls us children is still the Holy One. Intimacy without reverence becomes casual; reverence without grace becomes fear.

HOLINESS STRENGTHENS WITNESS

Public Christian witness loses credibility when private Christian life contradicts it. Australia needs believers whose character supports their confession: honest in business, faithful in relationships, careful with speech and generous with resources.

LEADERSHIP IS STEWARDSHIP

Christian leadership is stewardship, not celebrity. We need leaders who fear God more than people; who handle money, power and relationships carefully; who can receive correction; and who protect the flock rather than use it.

TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION WHO GOD IS

Children and young adults need more than rules about Christian behaviour. They need to know why God is worthy of worship. Give them a coherent vision of creation, sin, redemption, holiness, grace, mission and eternity.

THE FEAR OF GOD FREES US FROM THE FEAR OF PEOPLE

When God is first, cultural approval is no longer ultimate. We can speak truth without aggression because we do not need to dominate anyone, and remain gracious without compromise because we do not need acceptance at any price.

REVERENCE CHANGES WORSHIP

Worship should carry joy, but also weight. We gather before the living God. Songs, preaching, prayer and communion should not become performance. Reverence helps the Church resist making worship about personalities or production.

REVERENCE CHANGES SPEECH

The fear of the Lord affects how we speak about other people, leaders and even those with whom we strongly disagree. Gossip, contempt and careless accusations do not become righteous because they are spoken by Christians.

REVERENCE CHANGES OUR USE OF POWER

Where Christians carry authority - in homes, churches, workplaces or organisations - the fear of God reminds us that authority is accountable. We do not manipulate people in God's name.

REPENTANCE IS A GIFT

A reverent Church does not hide failure. It learns to repent quickly. Confession is not weakness; it is agreement with God. Grace gives us somewhere to go when the light exposes what is wrong.

PRAY FOR CLEAN LEADERSHIP

Ask God to protect pastors and ministry leaders from secret compromise, financial temptation, sexual sin, pride and isolation. Pray for healthy boards, accountability and relationships strong enough to tell the truth.

LET HOLINESS BECOME BEAUTIFUL AGAIN

Holiness is sometimes presented only as restriction. Scripture presents it as belonging to God. A holy life becomes free from the slavery of sin and increasingly reflects the beauty of Christ.

PRAY FOR A HOLY AWAKENING

Do not pray merely for larger meetings. Pray for transformed lives, restored marriages, clean leadership, honest business, reconciled relationships, generous churches and believers who love Jesus when no one is watching.

THIS MONTH: AWAKEN THE CHURCH

Pray for renewed reverence for God throughout the Australian Church, producing wisdom, holiness, humility, integrity and courageous witness.

10 PRAYER POINTS

- A fresh revelation of God's holiness - Isaiah 6:1-5
- Wisdom rooted in the fear of the Lord - Proverbs 9:10
- Integrity among Christian leaders - Titus 1:7-9
- Repentance from hidden compromise - Psalm 139:23-24
- Holiness in Christian homes - Joshua 24:15
- Young people to know and honour God - Ecclesiastes 12:1
- Courage to obey God above cultural pressure - Acts 5:29
- Restoration where witness has been damaged - 1 Peter 2:12
- Grace and truth to remain together - John 1:14

• A holy and lasting awakening across Australia - 2 Chronicles 7:14

A PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA

Holy Father, restore reverence for You among Your people. Forgive us where we have treated holy things casually or allowed culture to define what we believe. Search our hearts and cleanse what is hidden. Give pastors and Christian leaders integrity, humility and courage. Teach families to honour You and raise a generation that knows Your goodness and holiness. Let grace lead us to repentance and let holiness strengthen our witness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WATCHMAN'S RESPONSE

Ask God to identify one area where familiarity has produced casualness in your walk with Him. It may involve worship, speech, relationships, money, leadership or private obedience. Respond with specific repentance and a practical change.

OUR MISSION

To equip, encourage and mobilise Spirit-filled believers to pray, proclaim God's Word and contend for revival, reformation and the advancement of God's Kingdom in Australia.

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PIFA - AUSTRALIA
Wednesday Prayer - 6:30 PM AEST
Telegram: @IntercessorsforAustralia

CONTENDING FOR THE NATIONS
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NEXT WEEK
Issue 14 - 17 November 2026 - Become a House of Prayer Again.