

MOMENTUM BUILDERS

DIGGING INTO THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE.

FRANCIS CHAN

"IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU"

Francis Chan implores us to spend time in the Word, to seek truth, to fear the Lord & to reject false messages which claim to point us to God—but only promote self.

MESSAGE OPENER: I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND-A COMMANDERS INSIGHT

"I began to understand God's omnipotent power," Commander Struecker said. "He was orchestrating every single bullet that was fired that night. ... The peace that I had was not only for my own life, but for the lives of my soldiers. If any of them were to get shot, then that was part of God's sovereign plan." And God chose to preserve Struecker that night. "

Reflecting on this, he said "To make our religious life deep and strong we need to recover that lost sense of awe. We need to be taught afresh the fear of the Lord. And to recover that lost sense of awe, to create a feeling of reverence, we need a fresh vision of God as the Holy Sovereign. ... We have only to realize that God is the Holy Sovereign, and the awe is bound to come back. The will that rules is a holy will. The power that governs is a holy power. All who sin bring themselves into collision with the sovereign will and power of the universe...The destinies of the world are not, for instance, at the mercy of fleets and armies. The Lord reigns. To know that God rules – to realize His sovereignty – is to be delivered from fear and despair." "There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought to more earnestly contend to than the doctrine of their Master over all creation—the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands—the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne...for it is God upon the Throne whom we trust." – Spurgeon, C. S. Lewis wrote, "Our leisure, even our play, is a matter of serious concern. There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God."

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-stories-death-60869.asp>

READ: 1 Kings 22:1-28

WATCH: Francis Chan—Momentum 2013. 47 Minutes. <http://onmissioninsights.com/itsnotaboutyou>

KEY POINTS:

Discovering Truth is vital. It isn't only the world that lies. There is a lot of corruption and mishandling of the Word of God even from those who claim to know him. How will you know who is speaking truth or lie if you are not regularly handling the Word?

The biggest lie of culture: "Life is all about you." This has slipped into religious programming and messages. So much so, that we approach God with the attitude of "This is what I expect you to do for me, God."

Fear God. This is not only reverence. Think of the stories in the Bible in which God displayed his awesomeness. Many reacted in reverence and fear. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. The world will tell you that you don't need to fear God. But it is a lie.

CLOSING CHALLENGES:

People are going to lie. We live in a world that is very deceptive. Sometimes it creeps into the church. Your challenges to read what you hear preached. Do not take words at face value. Read the Book for yourself. Don't listen alone. Check the Word of God.

Conquering "It's all about You." How do you conquer the Christian version of the lie "Its all about you"? Do not put yourself at the center of the story. Reflect on the starting point of Scripture—God is holy, sovereign, and working out his plan for humanity. Read Proverbs and see what is the fare of those who fear the Lord. (Proverbs 3:7-8)

The Starting Point. The starting point is fear of the Lord. But as we grow closer to him, we marvel at his beauty, strength, and awesomeness. Is your relationship with God taken for granted, kept at surface level, or will you dive into the starting point of fear?