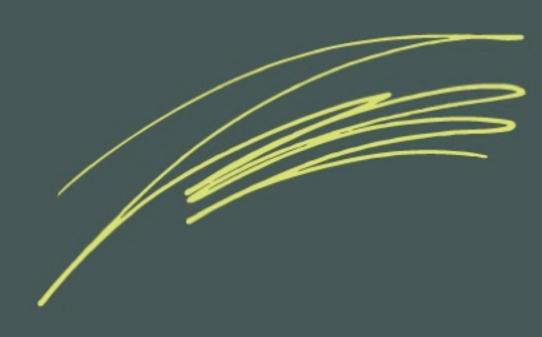


### REVERENCE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

# Only the call of God is <u>eternal</u>, <u>meaningful</u>, and <u>fruitful</u>.



- <sup>12</sup>Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD . . .
- But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod . . .
- will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind.
- 1 Samuel 2:12, 18, 35 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup>Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD. 13 Now it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled "and would plunge the fork into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot.

Whatever the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh. <sup>15</sup>But even before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the person who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw."

16 If the person said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force." <sup>17</sup>This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.

<sup>22</sup>Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

1 Samuel 2:22 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup>And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people. 27 Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Did I not clearly reveal myself to your ancestor's family when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh?

<sup>28</sup>I chose your ancestor out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your ancestor's family all the food offerings presented by the Israelites.

<sup>29</sup>Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?'

30"Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.

who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always.

1 Samuel 2:35 (NIV)

### Reverence:

Genuine respect and honor for the Lord; a respect that results in spiritual, moral, and ethical health and wealth before God and people.



The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

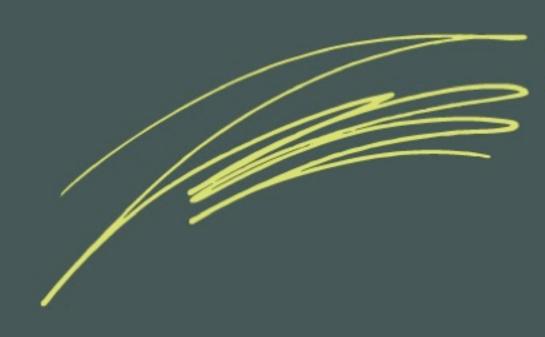
Proverbs 1:7 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

#### Reverence is the doorway to:

- 1. His Nearness and Voice
- 2. His Wisdom and Guidance
- 3. His Power and Protection



#### REVERENCE MEANS YOU HAVE RESPECT FOR GOD AND HONOR FOR WHAT HE'S ASSIGNED YOU TO DO

TEMPLE

HOME

HEART



The Assignment



The Life



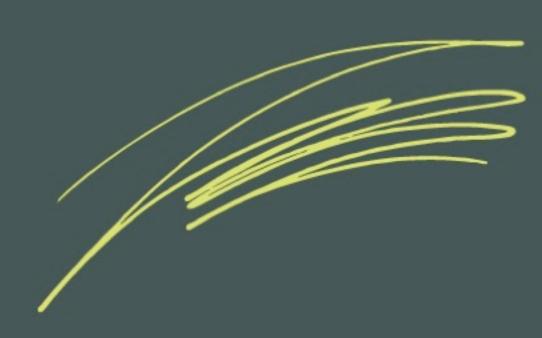
The Private Life

# Reverence Keeps You Close to God in the Midst of Corruption

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.

### "We make ourselves what we are by the way we address God."

Thomas Merton



## Reverence Will Grow Your Stature When the Word Needs

<sup>26</sup>And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.

#### William Wilberforce

Led the British Abolitionist Movement, 1759-1833



Wilberforce almost left public service for the ministry before John Newton told him, "It's hoped and believed that the Lord has raised you up for the good of the nation."

Wilberforce was persuaded: "My walk is a public one. My business is in the world; and I must mix in the assemblies of men, or quit the post which Providence seems to have assigned me."

But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.

1 Samuel 2:18 (NIV)

#### You are a Royal Priesthood!