

FOUNDATIONS

As I sat by the little farm pond this morning in late August, the surface was glassy, and there was no sound from the usual songbird population. There was an awe about the moment, so much so that it became readily apparent that the quieter things are, the more the Presence is sensed. The reflection of the majestic red oak on the other side was clear, as was the gnarly old honey locust that had died several years back. Clarity of the trees was a function of the degree of calmness of the water. The greater the disturbance, the fuzzier the reflection of the trees became on the other side. It occurred to me that is the measure of the relation to our Father; the more commotion, the fuzzier our perception of Him becomes. In so far as our meditations and thought processes toward Him are concerned, activity detracts, noise suppresses; activity supplants, noise preoccupies; activity diminishes, noise inoculates; we don't hear the least whisper from the Spirit.

It also occurred to me the reflection of the old red oak was from my perspective; what about the perspective from the red oak towards me? Is that direction not as valid? What then, have I introduced into the reflection process that obscures and causes the two-way relation to be diminished?

There is a scripture that has always brought soberness; "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The scene at the little pond seemed to usher in at least part of the answer. Silence before God is one foundation part that necessitates respect, which in turn is under-girded by an awe of God. Awe of God is considered by some as the true fear of God. When examined together, all of the above are one and the same. I once heard that the transcribers of the Dead Sea scrolls had such a fear of God, they would lay down their pens whenever they would come to the name of God, and go set for a spell to humble themselves. Their transcription would never spell out the name, but place only the first letter of the Name.

The second part of the foundation is the love of the Word of God, and its diligent study and application. It is no accident He will only honor this, along with the man who fears Him.

What else is there?

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Issachar's seed.