Our scripture comes from Psalm 89:6-14. While you’re finding that, A little boy came home from the playground with a bloody nose, black eye, and torn clothing. It was obvious he'd been in a bad fight and lost. While his father was patching him up, he asked what happened. "Well, Dad," said the boy, "I challenged Larry to a duel. And, you know, I gave him his choice of weapons." Well that seems fair,” said his father." "I never thought he'd choose his big brother!"

***Who is your weapon when you duel the devil?***

**Psalm 89:6-14 For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? *Who* among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord? 7God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all *those* around Him. 8O Lord God of hosts, Who *is* mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. 9You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. 10You have broken Rahab in pieces, as one who is slain; You have scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm. 11The heavens *are* Yours, the earth also *is* Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them. 12The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Your name. 13You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, *and* high is Your right hand. 14Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.**

 Last week, we spoke about being a rose in God’s garden. A child of God is called to be reverent, obedient, self-controlled, and enduring. Today, we’ll talk about reverence, but we’ll talk more about reverence in the next few weeks… Reverence is the border of our relationship with God. Reverence for God defines our obedience, self-control, and endurance.

 First, what is reverence? It comes from the Latin word reverentia meaning awe, respect rooted in the word revereri, meaning to stand in awe of, respect, honor, fear, be afraid of. When was the last time we stood in awe of God? When was the last time we were driven to our knees in awe of God? When was the last time tears streamed down our faces in awe of God? The answer to these questions tell a lot about the current state of our reverence for God?

 Verse 6 says For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who can be compared? Nobody can be compared. Compared to God, our very best thoughts are filthy rags.

 All of us have had an experience of awe in our life. My last physical experience was the eclipse of the moon in January. I stood in awe and stared at the moon. In August 2017, I sat in a parking lot and stared in awe at the eclipse of the sun. I’ve stood in Yosemite and stared in awe at the granite mountains. I’ve stood atop the Alps and stared in awe at the land laid out before me. Yet, I know that none of these compare to the awe and the reverence I owe my God and Father. Verse 7 says that He is held in reverence by all those around Him, greatly to be feared. Those who encountered God in the Bible fell on their faces. God hid Moses in the cleft of the rock because seeing God would kill him. In Revelation 7:11, it says All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God. Verse 14 of our scripture tells us that the very foundations of God’s throne are righteousness and justice… Mercy and truth go before His face. Who is like God? No one!

In the world today, God has become our fall back and not our frontal assault. Often, we pray when the doctors fail, when the job runs out. We don’t cry out for our children until the trouble starts. We don’t pray for our nation until the vote has been cast. Oh God forgive us for our irreverence! We know Your faithfulness surrounds You… You rule the raging sea… You scatter Your enemies… and when Your enemies are my enemies, I am protected Oh God.

Reverence for God is the beginning and the ending of living our life for Christ and becoming more and more like Him. Reverence always leads to obedience; obedience to self-control; self-control to endurance; and endurance to greater reverence. How we view God and His power in our lives colors every corner of our daily existence.

Until we are struck with true awe that “**The heavens *are* Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them. 12The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Your name”,** we do not view God as God. When we reverence God, we reverence everything associated with Him. This sanctuary becomes a place to be reverenced, our brothers and sisters become people to be reverenced, the Word of God will be reverenced… God will have the highest place of honor and respect!

This week, let’s take time to examine the reverence… the awe… with which we hold God. This is one of the most important decisions we can ever make. AW Tozer wrote, “The destiny of a man may safely be predicted from the idea of God which that man holds. No man can rise higher than his conception of God.” We cannot rise to the heights God has planned until we hold God in the reverence He deserves. If God is revered with a cup of coffee in one hand, while driving, listening to the radio, and checking e-mail, well that’s what will feed our obedience, self-control, and endurance. Reverence is the very border of our faith. The fabric of our relationship with God will not expand beyond it. Little reverence… handkerchief relationship. Our relationship expands as our reverence and awe grows. Do you serve an awesome God today? Oh I hope so, I hope so! So much of our delight in God depends on the reverence with which we hold Him.