Our scripture this morning comes from Hebrews 12:25-28. While you’re finding that, A long time ago, a pastor was walking down a country road when he saw a young farmer struggling to load hay back onto a wagon. He walked up and said, “You look hot, my friend. Why don't you rest a moment?" "No thanks," said the young man. "My father wouldn't approve." "Don't be silly," said the pastor. "Everyone is entitled to a break. Come and have a drink of water." Again the young man said, “My father wouldn’t approve”. The pastor was upset. “Your father is a real slave driver. Tell me where I can find him so I can give him a piece of my mind!" "Well," replied the young farmer, "you can tell him whatever you like just as soon as I get the hay off of him."

**Hebrews 12:25-28 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, 26whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” 27Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**

Roses in God’s garden – reverent, obedient, self-controlled, and enduring. The last few weeks, we’ve been looking at reverence. Reverence is an awe! Our relationship with God will never outgrow our reverence for God. The picture we have of God’s greatness will determine the demonstration of God’s greatness in our lives. If we’re looking for the Father, how much hay will we find Him under? In order to speak with Him, must we first uncover Him?

Last week, we talked about showing God reverence by giving Him first position in our lives, giving Him our focus, and giving Him our fidelity. God is a jealous God. Over and over in the Old Testament, God warns us that He is jealous over those that He calls His own. More than 20 verses concern His jealousy. We’d do well never to forget Proverbs 27:4 that says, Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?

This week, we’ll look at how we reverence God with our person, our praises, our purpose, and our places. God will be reverenced in our person. He must be reverenced with our whole person – 1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? God expects us to be holy as He is holy. This must be our goal… will we ever reach perfection? No, but I must always strive for perfection. The Holy Spirit lives in us when we’ve accepted Jesus… our whole person is His temple… not just a small room or the front porch. Listen to verse 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. We were bought with Jesus blood. We need no better reason to reverence God with our whole person.

Reverence God with our praises. Listen to 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. When we read God’s Word, pray great prayers, praise God’s name, God shows up in mighty, mighty ways! Small prayers don’t magnify God Word. Our praise must be bold.

Reverence God with our purpose. Our purpose should always flow from our prayers. Listen to Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Offering ourselves to God for His use, giving up our purpose to serve His purpose is not an extraordinary sacrifice… Paul says it’s our reasonable sacrifice. Not everyone will become a pastor, we are all ministers of Jesus. We all have a ministry. When we seek God’s Face and we bow to His purpose, we are reverencing Him as the God of our lives.

Finally, reverence God with our places. The sanctuary of this church is not the only place that God is to be reverenced, but it is surely one of THE PLACES He must be reverenced. Reverence means that we bring nothing into this place that will distract us! Food, drink, loud talk, cell phones… when we have right reverence for God, we know what we should and should not do in His church… but, anywhere that we connect with our God is a place to be reverenced. When Moses encountered the burning bush, it wasn’t the dirt that made it hallowed ground… it was the presence of God Almighty! Make your prayer closet a hallowed place!

We reverence God with our person, our praises, our purpose, and our places. This week: let’s take a hard look at how we’re personally reverencing God in our person, our praise, our purpose, and our places. We can be assured that no revelation, no revival will ever take place without proper reverence first being in place. How does our reverence look to God?