

Revelation 1:17-18 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead

Daniel 10:5-9 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: 6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. 7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. 8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. 9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

Daniel and John, among the best servants of God, could not stand even a vision of the Son of Man in glory. It took away all their strength, leaving them fallen on the ground. They were overwhelmed. Why? What was going on in these men?

Part of what happens is that the person is overwhelmed with fear, because of his sense of unworthiness. He knows himself to be a mere creature, in contact with the all-powerful creator. And he knows himself to be sinful, in contact with the One who is holy, holy, holy. He senses that he deserves only death for his many sins against that holy Creator.

Isaiah 6:1-5

We are not in the position of being overwhelmed by a great vision of the Son of God. But we may perceive when reading about the experience of others what we would feel in the same case. Take stock of your own unworthiness, in being a mere creature before the Creator, and a sinful creature before the holy, holy, holy Creator. We may fear the eternal death in hell that our sins deserve.

And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not

For the one who is overwhelmed because of his sense of unworthiness, and repents, there is forgiveness with God.

Isaiah 6:6-8

-One of the seraphim cleansed Isaiah of his sin

-God called him to service

Because there is forgiveness with God through Him, Jesus is able to say to such an one, "fear not."

Luke 5:10-11

-Jesus told Peter, "Fear not"

-Jesus called Peter to service

I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Jesus Christ is both eternal God and the man who has died and now is alive forevermore. And He has the keys of hell and of death. He determines who will be damned, and who will be saved; and He has the power to raise the dead to everlasting life with Him. So, one who falls at His feet, believing in Him, will have everlasting life.

Luke 8:41-42 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: 42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying...

Luke 8:49-50 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. 50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

See others, fearful, falling at the feet of one who would be a type of Jesus

1 Samuel 25:1-28 - Abigail fell at David's feet to seek forgiveness for her and her household

1 Samuel 25:35 So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

Ruth 3:1-11

verse 7 she laid down at his feet

verse 11 "fear not"

Matthew 17:1-7 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. 7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

Esther 8:3-4 - Esther fell at the king's feet to seek protection for her people

Matthew 18:21-29 - The servant fell down at his creditor's feet

John 11:32-33 - Mary fell at Jesus' feet

I am the first and the last

His statement of His divine nature.

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen.

His statement of His immortal human nature.

and have the keys of hell and of death

The concept is of hell as the place where the unbelieving dead are, and death as the state of lifeless bodies.

