

FEARING GOD WITHOUT BEING AFRAID

Isaiah 11:1-5
Hebrews 12:28-29
Proverbs 28:11-12
Joshua 24:14-15

I fear God, yet I am not afraid of him.

Thomas Browne

The fear of God kills all other fears.

Hugh Black

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (**Proverb 1:7**). Happy the soul that has been awed by a view of God’s majesty, that has had a vision of God’s awful greatness, His ineffable holiness, His perfect righteousness, His irresistible power, His sovereign grace.

Author unknown

The essential ingredients of the fear of God are correct concepts of the character of God, a pervasive sense of the presence of God and a constant awareness of our obligation to God.

Al Martin

No man acts with true wisdom til he fears God and hopes in his mercy.

William S. Plumer

He that leaves off prayer leaves off the fear of God.

Thomas Watson

If Jesus in his humanity delighted in the fear of God, surely, we need to give serious thought to cultivating this attitude in our lives.

Jerry Bridges

Nothing is more powerful to overcome temptation than the fear of God.

John Calvin

Righteousness fear drives from God, gracious fear drives to Him.

C.H. Spurgeon

The fear of God promotes spiritual joy; it is the morning star that ushers in the sunlight of comfort.

Thomas Watson

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- The fear of the Lord is a reverential awe of God...a loving respect of who God is. The fear of the Lord is a genuine sincerity of heart to please Him in all that we do or say.
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- **John's Journal Entry:** March 10, 1996 – The Fear of the Lord

The fear of the Lord is an invisible boundary of heart, mind, and experience. Your affections, your thoughts, and your dealings need a 'sense of direction, limit, or border...this is the fear of the Lord.' The fear of the Lord is a 'flee now' so you won't have to 'pay later' proposition. If you perceive evil and hate it then you don't have to deal with 'ordering it' or having it on your plate; even it is 'on the menu' and many around you are 'buying it'.

The fear of the Lord is an attitude or posture; a 'leaning of heart and mind' that enables the inner witness of your spirit to be heard loud and clear. The fear of the Lord helps us experience real freedom; causing to know that we are freed from so much and freed unto a disciples yoke. The fear of the Lord is a gift of God and choice of man. **JEB**

- The fear of the Lord – a gift of God

1Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

2The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear.

4But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

5Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Isaiah 11:1-5 NASB

- The fear of the Lord – a choice of man.

¹⁴“Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:14-15 NASB

¹⁶Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. ¹⁷Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. ¹⁸And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” says the Lord Almighty. **2 Corinthians 6:16-18 NASB**

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¹Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. **2 Corinthians 7:1 NASB**

- ...” Let us be fully consecrated by reverence for God...**2 Corinthians 7:1**
- ...” Let us cleanse ourselves from all contamination...progressively accomplishing holiness in the fear of the Lord...**2 Corinthians 7:1 – Wuest N.T**

¹Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ²a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually. ³About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had *just* come in and said to him, “Cornelius!” ⁴And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Now dispatch *some* men to Joppa and send for a man *named* Simon, who is also called Peter. **Acts 10:1-5 NASB**

- Cornelius...” A pious man who worshipped God...**Knox**
- **Acts 10:2** – Men like Cornelius were not Jews, but they worshipped God and they were referred to as the ‘God-fearers.’
- What does the Bible say about the fear of the Lord?
 - It is a blessed requirement.

¹²“Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³*and* to keep the LORD’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? **Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NASB**

- It is the beginning of the wisdom and knowledge.

⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. **Proverbs 1:7 NASB**

- It means to hate evil-

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate. **Proverbs 8:13 NASB**

- It is the exact opposite of a hard heart-

How blessed is the man who fears always, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity. **Proverbs 28:14 NASB**

- It is an attitude of heart-

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Oh, that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!

Deuteronomy 5:29 NASB

- It is the result of a united heart-

¹¹Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.

¹²I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever.

Psalm 86:11-12 NASB

- How do we live our lives in the fear of the Lord?

¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness,

¹⁹To deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

²¹For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

²²Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, according as we have hoped in You. **Psalm 33:18-**

22 NASB

- Recognize that He rescues us and sends us help.

⁶This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.

⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

⁹O fear the LORD, you His saints; for to those who fear Him there is no want.

¹⁰The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; but they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

¹¹Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹²Who is the man who desires life and loves *length of days* that he may see good?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. **Psalm 34:6-14 NASB**

- By being grateful for being included in His kingdom through our awe and respect.

²⁸Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire. **Hebrews 12:28-29 NASB**

- By seeing that the fear of the Lord is related to being established in His Word and attuned to His voice.

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Establish Your word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You. **Psalm 119:38 NASB**

Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments. **Psalm 112:1 NASB**

¹⁰*Remember* the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' ¹¹You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the *very* heart of the heavens: darkness, cloud and thick gloom. ¹²Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form—only a voice. **Deuteronomy 4:10-12 NASB**

- By prayerful pursuit of the Lord through His Word.

¹"You shall therefore love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments. ²Know this day that I *am* not *speaking* with your sons who have not known and who have not seen the discipline of the LORD your God—His greatness, His mighty hand and His outstretched arm, ³and His signs and His works which He did in the midst of Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land; ⁴and what He did to Egypt's army, to its horses and its chariots, when He made the water of the Red Sea to engulf them while they were pursuing you, and the LORD completely destroyed them; ⁵and what He did to you in the wilderness until you came to this place; **Isaiah 11:1-5 NASB**

¹A *good* name is to be more desired than great wealth,
Favor is better than silver and gold.

²The rich and the poor have a common bond,
The LORD is the maker of them all.

³The prudent sees the evil and hides himself,
But the naive go on and are punished for it.

⁴The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD
Are riches, honor and life. **Proverbs 22:1-4**