

Fearing God and Finding Favor

Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 22:1-4

Proverbs 1:7 AMPC

⁷ The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline.

Proverbs 22:1-4 AMPC

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

² The rich and poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all.

³ A prudent man sees the evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished [with suffering].

⁴ The reward of humility and the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

Riches	}	Favor
Honor		
Life		

How do we Fear the Lord?

Proverbs 8:13 AMPC The reverent fear and worshipful awe of the Lord [includes] the hatred of evil; pride, arrogance, the evil way, and perverted and twisted speech I hate.

- Hate Evil
- Hate Arrogance
- Hate the Evil Way
- Hate the Perverted Mouth

Proverbs 16:6 AMPC By mercy and love, truth and fidelity [to God and man—not by sacrificial offerings], iniquity is purged out of the heart, and by the reverent, worshipful fear of the Lord men depart from and avoid evil.

- By mercy, love, truth, and fidelity to God and man, NOT by sacrificial offerings, iniquity is purged out of the heart.
- And by the reverential Fear of the Lord men depart from and avoid evil.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NASB 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

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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?

- Hear
- Listen
- Walk in His ways

Deuteronomy 13:4 NASB You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

- Cling to Him

Joshua 24:14-15 NASB “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. ¹⁵ If 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.”

1 Samuel 12:14 & 23-25 NASB ¹⁴If you will fear the Lord and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the Lord, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God.

²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. ²⁴ Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. ²⁵ But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king will be swept away.”

Psalms 33:18 AMPC Behold, the Lord's eye is upon those who fear Him [who revere and worship Him with awe], who wait for Him and hope in His mercy and loving-kindness.

- A believing attitude

Psalms 103:11-13 NASB For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

Psalms 31:19 NASB How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of men!

2 Chronicles 19:5-9 NASB He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city. ⁶ He said to the judges, “Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord who is with you when you render judgment. ⁷ Now then

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let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality or the taking of a bribe.”

⁸ In Jerusalem also Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the heads of the fathers’ households of Israel, for the judgment of the Lord and to judge disputes among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ⁹ Then he charged them saying, “Thus you shall do in the fear of the Lord, faithfully and wholeheartedly.”

- By decision or choice
- By our faithful whole hearted cooperation
- A blameless heart

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

- A product of being established in the Word and having the Word established in you.

Proverbs 28:14 AMPC Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) is the man who reverently and worshipfully fears [the Lord] at all times [regardless of circumstances], but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

- The opposite of the Fear of the Lord is a “hard heart.”

Psalm 34:1-15 NASB

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

² My soul will make its boast in the Lord; The humble will hear it and rejoice.

³ O magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.

⁴ I sought the Lord, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.

⁵ They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed.

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

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁴ Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry.

- Angelic assistance (v.7)
- Fear of the Lord equated with seeking Him (v.8-10)

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- Listen - He will teach us what the Fear of the Lord is (v.11)
- Keep your tongue from evil or deceit. Who reigns?
- Who has the reins? (the tongue...again) (v.13)
- Depart (repent) from evil and do good (with your mouth). Seek peace and pursue it (Lordship) (v.14)
- Righteous doing (v.15)

All these things make us “Ripe” to invite and experience the Favor of the Lord.

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**John’s Journal 3/10/96**

Lord, how would You speak to me today?

I am pleased that you desire to please Me, but where is the *follow through*?

The Fear of the Lord is an invisible boundary of heart, mind and experience. Your affections, your thoughts, 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” or pay later proposition. If you hate evil then you don’t have to deal with ordering it or having it on your plate, even if it is “on the menu” and being ordered by others around you. The Fear of the Lord is an attitude, a “leaning of the 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 freedom; understanding that we are freed from so much and freed unto a disciple’s yoke. The Fear of the Lord is a gift, a choice and an empowerment.