



## The Fear of the Lord

**T**he fear of the Lord is to have a hatred for evil, and it is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 8:13; Prov 9:10; Job 28:28).

*To fear the Lord is to hate evil;  
I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Prov 8:13*

The fear of the Lord has to do with relationship, not religion. We no longer live by the law but by the Holy Spirit who fulfills the law.

God gives us life and peace so that we might fear Him (Mal. 2:5-7).

The Lord reminds us of who He is, so that we can understand the greatness of our God and fear Him.

*But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart,  
consider what great things He has done for you. 1 Sam. 12:24*

*The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. Psalm 19:9*

*"Should you not fear me?" declares the Lord  
"Should you not tremble in My presence?  
I made the sand a boundary for the sea an everlasting barrier it cannot cross.  
The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.  
But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts, they have turned aside and gone away.  
They do not say to themselves  
"Let us fear the Lord our God who gives autumn and spring rains in season,  
who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.  
Your wrongdoings have kept these things away;  
your sins have deprived you of good." Jer 5:22-25*

*Who will not fear you, oh Lord,  
and bring glory to your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come and worship before you,  
for your righteous acts have been revealed. Rev.15:4*

In the proper fear of the Lord, there is obedience, intimacy, reverence, worship, trust, thankfulness, sacrifice, honor, and love. God's attributes such as holiness, power, majesty, and justice inspire reverence in us.

Fear of the Lord is evidenced by our obedience, and love for God. He said, *"If you love Me, you will obey Me"* (John 14:15).

You cannot have intimacy with God without the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord leads us to friendship with God where we can walk and talk with Him like Adam & Eve did in the Garden before the fall. When we have the fear of the Lord, we really care what He thinks, and how He feels. When we draw close to our Father in intimacy, we also begin to see things from His perspective. We will hate what He hates, and love what He loves. We will become His friends. He said He confides in those who fear Him.

*The Lord confides in those who fear him;  
he makes his covenant known to them.  
My eyes are ever on the Lord,  
for only he will release my feet from the snare.  
(which is the fear of man). Psalm 25:14-15*

You won't learn God's ways without walking in the fear of the Lord. Along with Moses, I have often prayed, *"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you."* (Exodus 33:13)

The fear of the Lord will keep us from sinning as we walk in obedience, even though we may not understand with our minds. Those walking in the fear of the Lord will influence all spheres of society. I believe God is preparing His people, and the world will not be able to deny His power (Acts 2:43).

When we are doing well in life, we can start to rely on our own thinking and depend on our own strength. So be careful that you do not forget the Lord when you are satisfied with good things and you prosper. Otherwise, God may have to discipline us because He loves us, and He's jealous for us. FEAR the Lord your God and serve Him only (Deut 6:10-13).

Sometimes, God tests us to see if we truly love Him and will walk in obedience & fear of the Lord.

*But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"  
"Here I am," he replied.  
"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said.  
"Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God,  
because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Gen 22:11-12*

*Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid.  
God has come to test you,  
so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Exodus 20:20*

Like Moses, Joseph also walked in the fear of the Lord through his testing (Gen 42:18).

Sometimes, God allows us to grieve the consequences of our sins through suffering.

In 2 Chron 6:30-31, part of Solomon's prayer is *"hear from heaven your dwelling place. Forgive and deal with each man according to what He does, since you know his heart (for you alone knows the hearts of men), so they will fear you and walk in your ways, all the time they live in the land you gave our fathers."*

God's promises towards those who fear Him:

- Great is His love for us (Psalm 103:11).
- He confides in us (Psalm 25:14).
- He provides for us (Psalm 34:9).
- He has compassion for us (Psalm 103:13).
- He blesses us (Psalm 67:7; Prov 28:14).
- He promises a secure fortress and refuge (Prov 14:26).
- He will be a sanctuary (Isaiah 8:13). If you want to run to God to be your sanctuary, you must have clean hands and pure heart (Psalm 24:3-4; 2 Cor 7:1).
- He heals and nourishes (Prov 3:7-8).
- He will instruct in the way chosen for us (Psalm 25:12).
- The eyes of the Lord are on us (Psalm 33:18).
- He adds length to life (Prov 10:27).
- The angel of the Lord encamps around, and He delivers us (Psalm 34:7).
- He accepts men and women from every nation who fear Him and do what's right (Acts 10:35).
- He will teach us (Psalm 34:11).
- He forgives us (Psalm 130:3-4; Prov 28:13-14).
- He listens to us (Mal 3:16).

*Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other,  
and the Lord listened and heard.  
A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence  
concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. Malachi 3:16*

Jesus (our model) delighted in the fear of the Lord. And God delights in those who fear Him (Psalm 147:11).

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him –  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of power,  
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord –  
and he will delight in the **fear of the Lord**.  
He will not judge by what he sees with His eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears,  
but with righteousness He will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. Isaiah 11:2-3*

This is a great description of what living in the Spirit of the fear of the Lord looks like. Humility and fear of the Lord walk hand in hand. The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom. Humility is the fear of the Lord, and humility comes before honor (Prov 15:33; Prov 22:4).

Joy Dawson said, "Through God's love we have His acceptance. Through the fear of the Lord we have His favor."

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was highly favored by God, and she sang in her song, "His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation." (Luke 1:50)

Your obedience of walking in the fear of the Lord will affect your children, your children's children, and all future generations (Deut. 6:1-2; Psalm 103:17; Prov 14:26).

*They will be my people, and I will be their God.  
I will give them singleness of heart and action,  
so that they will always fear me  
and that all will then go well for them  
and for their children after them.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with them:  
I will never stop doing good to them,  
and I will inspire them to fear me,  
so that they will never turn away from me. Jer 32:38-40*

When we choose leaders, we should select those who walk in the fear of the Lord. Do not be impressed with spiritual gifts but look for those with godly character. Appoint those who will serve God with the fear of the Lord, and with joy.

*But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God,  
trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain ...*  
Exodus 18:21; see also verses 17-23, and Acts 6:3

*Serve the Lord with fear  
and celebrate his rule with trembling.*  
Psalm 2:11; see also Psalm 103:11

Additional verses on the fear of God to meditate on:

- Psalm 19:9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.
- Psalm 22:23 You who fear the Lord, praise Him!
- Psalm 34:11 Come, my children, listen to Me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- Prov 14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life turning a man from the snares of life.
- Proverbs 31:30b A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
- Prov 16:6 By the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil. (1 Cor.10:13 He will always make a way out. God is just, he would never set us a standard without making full provision for us to attain to it.)
- 1 Peter 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially live your lives as strangers in reverent fear.

*And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you  
but to fear the Lord your God to walk in all His ways,  
to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees  
that I am giving you today, for your own good. Deut 10:12*

*Now all has been heard,  
here is the conclusion of the matter;  
Fear God and keep His commandments,  
for this is the whole duty of man. Eccl 12:13*

In obedience to God, I recorded a DVD series on "Listening to God". After spending almost seven hours with the Lord studying the fear of the Lord, I sensed the Lord say so clearly that one of the keys to seeing His Kingdom come, is the fear of the Lord & listening to Him. I knew this in my head, but not such heart revelation. It was a 'now word'.

I was on the last teaching session on the "Fear of Man", and the "Fear of the Lord". When I tried to explain the fear of the Lord, I sensed the Spirit say, "*Just read the scriptures on the fear of the Lord from Genesis to Revelation, and don't try to explain it.*" I was going quite quickly, reading scripture after scripture, and got to the last scripture below.

*Then a voice came from the throne, saying:  
"Praise our God, all you his servants,  
you who fear him, both great and small!"  
Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude,  
like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:  
"Hallelujah!  
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.  
Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!  
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.  
Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." Rev 19:5-8*

At the exact moment when I read: "*For the wedding of the Lamb has come,*" there was a LOUD peal of thunder that came into the room. Lightning came like a bolt outside the house.

Some jumped, others cried, or fell on their knees, or had visions. The Spirit of God came on me. With tears running down my cheeks, I said, "you who have ears to hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying!"

A native woman I respected among the First Nations was with us. She has a voice in the education of her people, and this was the vision she had:

“I saw in the heavenlies, warriors, and soldiers of many nations preparing, and mounting up on horses. I saw the shoes of many nations. The warriors and soldiers heard the battle cry of our KING! There was a trumpet sound! Quick! Roaring of horses! (This was just after the lightning bolt and thunder.) Fear hit me for Canada, and I realized that my people have lost the fear of God. They don’t hate what He hates, and they don’t love what He loves. I repented for our people because they were given eyes to see but don’t see, ears to hear but they don’t hear. I pray now for the warriors to arise across this land -- with eyes of fire, and hearts that tremble when they hear the voice of our King of kings and Lord of lords! And with such fear and reverence to touch the hearts of the nations to arise -- for our Lord has called for us!”

If you continue reading Revelation 19:11-16, she described a little of what is going to take place. The passage says Jesus will return on a white horse, and “*On His robe and on his thigh He has His name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.*”

My heart is to see God’s Kingdom come, and His will be done on earth. And that can only be achieved through the fear of the Lord.

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” Heb 12:28-29; see also verses 25-27*

Jesus taught us how to pray:

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed (greatly revered) be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth  
as it is in heaven. Matt 6:9-10*

Those who fear the Lord **will** greatly revere His name.