

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The Fear of the Lord Is Our Treasure Study Outline

INTRODUCTION

We are often taught in the Christian life that we are not to fear. The fear is a negative.

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and self-control.

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. Whoever fears is not perfect in love.

Yet, in our Christian walk, there is a fear that is healthy!

Isaiah 33:5-6 - The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. He shall be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is His treasure.

God says (through Isaiah) – that the fear of Him (the Lord) would be his (their) treasure.

Out of the fear of God comes

- stability
- wisdom
- knowledge
- salvation
- justice and righteousness

The fear of God is a treasure storehouse. It is a gift God gives us, not so we will shy away in fear, but so we will appropriately reverence Him. Having no fear of God will have catastrophic results in our lives.

Psalms 112:1 - Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.

TRUTHS ABOUT THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Beginning Point of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Psalms 111:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who live it have insight.

Recognizing who God is - is the foundation for wisdom. If someone is desiring to be wise, the place to begin is in the fear of God. This should lead to seeking Him, and to trusting and obeying Him.

It is Clean and Endures Forever

Psalm 19:9 - the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

There is nothing impure in the fear of the Lord. It will make us clean or it will cleanse our walk. It is an enduring activity because it prevents us from departing from God.

We are to Continue All Day Long in the Fear of the Lord

Proverbs - 23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the Lord all day long;

Do not envy sinners – **Psalm 37:7 - do not fret because of those who prosper in their way, because of those who make wicked schemes. (Rest in the Lord)**

The prosperity of the sinner is short. **Hebrews 11:25 - enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time.** There may be temporal satisfaction/gratification that comes from sin but the ultimate reward is death. Our eyes should not get caught up in this but we need to continue to live in the fear of God.

DEFINING – WHAT IS THE FEAR OF THE LORD?

What the fear of the Lord is not

- It is not natural fear (*fear of the heights/fire*)
- It is not demonic or tormenting fear, we do not live in terror/horror
- It is not like the fear of man
- It is not simply respect (*you can respect someone and not fear them*)
- It is not saying that God is unapproachable

What is the fear of the Lord

1. Sometimes it is a very powerful, physical fear

i.e. Moses, on Mount Sinai confronted with God (Hebrews – trembled with fear)

Psalm 2:11 Serve the Lord with fear; tremble with trepidation!

2. Sense of awe; reverence; worship

3. Recognizing who God is

- God is Holy - **Revelation 15:4 - Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy.**
- Greatness of God - **Deuteronomy 10:12-20**

- Goodness of God - **1 Samuel 12:24** - **Fear the Lord; serve Him in truth with all your heart, and consider what great things He has done for you.**
- Forgiveness of God - **Psalm 130:3-4** - **If you, O Lord, should keep track of iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.**
- Wondrous works of God - **Joshua 4:23-24**
- Judgments of God - **Revelation 14:7** and **Matthew 10:28** - **Do not fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**
- Hatred of Evil - **Proverbs 8:13** - **The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.**

4. Submissiveness/Obedience/Faith

Genesis 22:12 - Then He said, “Do not lay your hands on the boy or do anything to him, because now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your only son from Me.”

FEAR OF GOD IS NECESSARY FOR

The worship of God

Psalm 5:7 - **But as for me, in the abundance of Your mercy I will enter Your house; in fear of You I will worship at Your holy temple.**

We surrender/submit to what we fear. Worship is an activity of surrender/submission.

The service of God

Hebrews 12:28-29 - **Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be moved, let us be gracious, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.**

Our service to God in the grace that He has given us should be done in recognition of the incredible gift that God has given us and recognizing who He is.

To Avoid Sin

Exodus 20:18-20 - **All the people witnessed the thunder and the lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, so that the fear of Him may be before you so that you do not sin.”**

Proverbs 3:7 - **Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.**

Perfecting Holiness

2 Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Fear of God will continually push us to see His cleansing work, holiness come to pass more and more in our lives.

PROMISES WE RECEIVE AS WE FEAR THE LORD

Psalms 25:14 - The counsel of the Lord is with those who fear him, and He will make His covenant known to them.

Proverbs 10:27 - The fear of the Lord prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Proverbs 14:26 - In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.

Proverbs 14:27 - The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 19:23 - The fear of the Lord tends to life, and he who has it will abide satisfied; He will not be visited with evil.

Proverbs 22:4 - By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life.

Psalms 147:11 - but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.

Psalms 103:13 - Like a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord gives compassion to those who fear Him.

Acts 10:35 - But in every nation he who fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

Psalms 115:13 - He will bless those who fear the Lord, both the small and great ones.

Psalms 115:11 - You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

Proverbs 16:6 - By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

Psalms 145:19 - He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and will save them.

To the Church - Acts 9:31 - Then the churches throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and were built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

THE FEAR OF GOD SHOULD BE

Prayed for

Psalms 86:11 - Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I will walk in Your truth; bind my heart to fear Your name.

Taught to others

Psalm 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Proverbs 2:1-5 - My son, if you will receive my words, and hide my commandments within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Thoughts

- Receive God's Word - take to heart God's teaching and treasure up his commands.
- Incline your ear, bow down your head, become submissive and teachable
 - apply your heart to understanding
- There must be an open ear and an open heart or mind. Be an attentive listener, not a compulsive talker.
- Be teachable
- Listen to the Word of God
 - cry out for discernment (passionate prayer)
 - seek and search for wisdom/understand

Result - **then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.**