

- The fear of the Lord is an important topic because it is found all through the Bible. It is not just mentioned 'here and there'. It is all through the Word.
- *"A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. How joyful are those who fear the Lord— all who follow his ways! You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How joyful and prosperous you will be! Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table. That is the Lord's blessing for those who fear him. May the Lord continually bless you from Zion. May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live. May you live to enjoy your grandchildren. May Israel have peace!"* (Psalm 128, NLT)
- Joy and fear do not seem to be words that you would use together...but God does.
- Neither does blessing and fear. But that is how our God works with us.
- He is so awesomely good it scares me to not walk in His ways! What is the fear of the Lord? How do we get it? What are the benefits of the Fear of the Lord?

I. What Is The Fear Of The Lord

- A. The fear of God is to keep you from sinning. Ex 20:18-20
 1. *"Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.""* (Exodus 20:20, ESV)
 2. The manifestation: crash, boom, fire, shaking, lightning...*don't be afraid.*
 3. This is a test: *"God is testing you so that the fear of Him will keep you from sinning!"* Don't fear, but you only pass this test if you do fear Him. Stay close and you have nothing to fear...but stray away and you need to be scared!
 4. The fear of the Lord keeps you from evil. *"There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil."* (Job 1:1, NLT) *"Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.""* (Job 1:8, NLT)
- B. The fear of the Lord is fear of moving out of his fellowship into the ways of sin.
 1. Therefore, the fear of the Lord is full of peace and security and hope. It keeps us near to the merciful heart of God, our fortress, our refuge, our sanctuary, our shield, our sun.
 2. Is 8:13 says, *"The Lord of Hosts . . . let him be your fear, and let him be your dread, and he will become a sanctuary."* A proper fear of the Lord keeps us under the shadow of his wings where we need not be afraid.
- C. The fear of the Lord corresponds with humility and a tender heart towards God.
 1. *"Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity."* (Proverbs 28:14, ESV)
 2. *"... But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."* (Isaiah 66:2, ESV)
- D. The fear of the Lord makes us friends with God. *"The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant."* (Psalm 25:14, ESV)
 1. Friendship - Heb. sod = a very close friend in you share confidence.
 2. Covenant - a treaty of alliance or friendship, a pledge or agreement rendered under oath. (usually a blood sacrifice).

- E. The fear of the Lord is...
1. the beginning of wisdom. Ps 111:10; Prov 9:10
 2. the beginning of knowledge Prov 1:7
 3. to hate evil Pr 8:13
 4. is a fountain of life. Prov 14:27
 5. is the instruction of wisdom. Prov 15:33
 6. will be your treasure. Isaiah 33:6

II. Learning to Fear God

- A. We can learn to fear God.
1. *"Call them all together—men, women, children, and the foreigners living in your towns—so they may hear this Book of Instruction and learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully obey all the terms of these instructions." (Deuteronomy 31:12, NLT)*
 2. Lamad - Heb. It is one of twelve words for learning in the OT. This word means to be educated and trained. We learn and we do. (Heb. mindset="How do I live this instruction?" Learn to fear the Lord - educated; obey - practice. *"Never forget the day when you stood before the Lord your God at Mount Sinai, where he told me, 'Summon the people before me, and I will personally instruct them. Then they will learn to fear me as long as they live, and they will teach their children to fear me also.'"* (Deuteronomy 4:10, NLT)
- B. We can be taught to fear God.
1. *"Uzziah sought God during the days of Zechariah, who taught him to fear God. And as long as the king sought guidance from the Lord, God gave him success." (2 Chronicles 26:5, NLT)*
 - a) Uzziah sought God. Sought - means to seek with care. He was not hasty about it, but careful.
 - b) Uzziah was taught by Zechariah the prophet who taught him to fear God. The Hebrew word used here means that Zechariah taught him to understand, to perceive. It was not just the gathering of information. It became part of him.
- C. Teaching our children to fear God is one of the greatest things we can do for them.
1. Dt 3:12; 4:10 see above in letter A.
 2. How do we teach children to fear God?
 - a) You have to teach them the Word of God. Education.
 - b) You have to live the Word before them. Demonstration.
 - c) You have to provide opportunity to practice. Application.
 - d) You have to be consistent with discipline.
 - (1) Ie. Your word has to be your word. If you say "one more time." Keep your word.
 - (2) You have to talk through why you disciplined them and the importance of understanding consequences of wrong choices.
 - e) Ps 34:11; 13-14 teach them not to lie, not to speak evil turn from evil and to seek peace and work to maintain it.

III. Benefits To Fearing God

- A. Delight and discernment. Jesus is our supreme example...when the Spirit rests upon you. : *"And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."— "And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,"* (Isaiah 11:2, NLT) (Isaiah 11:3, ESV)
- B. Ps 25:14 Friendship and covenant. see above
- C. God's goodness for us and lavish protection. *"How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world."* (Psalm 31:19, NLT)
- D. A shield and protection. *"For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him."* (Psalm 34:7, NLT)
- E. God grants desires and hears their cry and rescues them. *"He grants the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them."* (Psalm 145:19, NLT)
- F. The fear and hope combo: The promises God makes to those who fear him are so enormous that the summons to fear God and the summons to hope in God are inseparable.
 1. *"Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,"* (Psalm 33:18, ESV)
 2. *"but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love."* (Psalm 147:11, ESV)
 - 3.

Conclusion:

- We are safe. We have a kingdom that cannot be shaken. But our God is a consuming fire. You don't come near him without reverence and awe.
- Running from God, walking away from God, should scare us real bad. Especially when security, peace, success and prosperity are found in Him.

In the same passage where God begins discipling a nation, and it says love Him....He also says: *"You must fear the Lord your God and serve him. When you take an oath, you must use only his name."* (Deuteronomy 6:13, NLT)

"I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most." (Nehemiah 7:2, NLT)

NT *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:12-13, ESV)