

Fearing God

Fearing God means ordering EVERY PART of your life with careful attention to what is right in His eyes - 2 Sam 6:3-7 - 3 They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart 4 with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. 5 David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals. 6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of HIS IRREVERENT ACT; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

***We tend to cling to what we think God should have done, instead of proactively trembling at what He calls sacred**

We need to ask, where is God's respect? - Mal 1:6 - "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty...

Fearing God is still relevant for Christians today - Acts 9:31 - Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

God's creation ministers to us to Fear HIM - Eccl 3:14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

If the world would just recognize God, it would automatically revere Him - Ps 33:6-9 - 6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. 8 **LET ALL THE EARTH FEAR THE LORD; LET ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD REVERE HIM.** 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

God is the ONLY one that has complete control on our eternal outcome - Matt 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, **BE AFRAID** of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Christians are to live their lives in this world Fearing God and to always recognize who we are and where we came from - 1 Peter 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, **LIVE YOUR LIVES AS STRANGERS HERE IN REVERENT FEAR.**

What does it mean to fear God?

First know what fearing God IS NOT!

Reverent Fear - phobos (fob'-os); to be put in fear; alarm or fright: be afraid, exceedingly, fear, terror. (**Supreme respect**).

Timid Fear - deilia (di-lee'-ah); timidity, fear (**Fear based on anything else other than God**).

Timid fear is not of God - 2 Tim 1:7 -For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

- **Godly Power** for us to deal with situations
- **Godly love** for us to deal with others (relationships)
- **Spiritual Self-discipline** for us to deal with ourselves

Fear of the Lord is fear with the Godly purpose - Matt 25:24-30-24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 **So I was afraid** and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, '**You wicked, lazy servant!** So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Fearing God IS NOT just being scared

Fearing God IS NOT fearing because of God (Not using God as an excuse for timid fear)

Fearing God IS fearing Because of and Based on God!

To fear God is to hate evil things - Prov 8:13 -**TO FEAR THE LORD IS to hate evil;** I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Not fearing God is usually a worship of self - Ps 36:1-2 - An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. 2 For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.

Living through faith, NOT sight, and living to serve God is “fearing God” exemplified - 2 Cor 5:6-11 - 6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 **WE LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.** 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 **FOR we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.** 11 Since, then, **WE KNOW WHAT IT IS TO FEAR THE LORD,** we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

Christ was heard from God because of his Fear of God - Heb 5:7-9 - 7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and **HE WAS HEARD BECAUSE** of his **REVERENT SUBMISSION.** 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him...

Fear of God is what we lack and why we don't hear from God as much as we would like today - Ps 25:14 - The Lord confides in those **WHO FEAR HIM**; he makes his covenant known to them.

The Fear of God will be displayed by how we live - 1 Peter 3:1-2 - Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 **WHEN THEY SEE** the purity and **reverence** of your lives.

The meaning of life is based on fearing God - Eccl 12:13-14 - 13 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.** 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Why is it necessary for us to fear God and what are the Benefits?

Because it's not about us, but for us - Rom 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on **God's mercy.**

The Fear of the Lord is the beginning -

Prov 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Ps 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Fearing God is one of the valued qualities in a Christian's life - Ps 19:9-11 - 9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

The Fear of the Lord keeps us well supplied - Ps 34:9 **Fear the Lord**, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

Fearing God guides us to quality in life - Prov 19:23 The **FEAR OF THE LORD LEADS TO LIFE:** Then one rests content, untouched by trouble. ***(It did not say you will not have trouble, but you will be untouched by them)**

God's compassion is for those that fear Him - Ps 103:13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

Fearing God guides us to true wealth, true honor, and true life - Prov 22:4 Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.

Fearing the Lord extends your life (eternally) - Prov 10:27 The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

The Fear of the Lord teaches us - Prov 15:33 The **FEAR OF THE LORD TEACHES** a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

The answer to the real treasures of God is “fearing God” - Isa 33:5-6 - 5 The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. 6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; **THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE KEY TO THIS TREASURE.**

Fearing God keeps us blessed - Prov 28:14 Blessed is the man who ALWAYS fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

Benefits of having the fear of God outweighs not having it no matter the circumstances - Prov 15:16 Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.

Fearing God is a protective shelter & leaders should take note - Ps 2:10-12 - 10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth 11 Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Fearing God protects you and your family –

Prov 14:26-27 - 26 He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. 27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

Prov 16:6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; **THROUGH THE FEAR OF THE LORD a man avoids evil.**

The key to the husband/father success is fearing God - Ps 128:1-4 - Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. 2 You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. 4 **Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.**

We must raise our children in the fear of the Lord - Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Anything done for God must be done with the Fear of God - 2 Chron 19:5-7 - 5 He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. 6 He told them, "Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict." 7 Now **LET THE FEAR OF THE LORD BE UPON YOU. Judge carefully,** for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery."

Choosing not to fear God leaves you open for danger - Prov 1:29-31 - 29 Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord, 30 since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, 31 **they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.**

Fearing God protects us from God - Heb 12:25-29 - 25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God ACCEPTABLY WITH REVERENCE AND AWE, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

We Fear God because He's God!!!

Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Rom 9:20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"

What happens when we don't fear God?

Without the fear of God, the character of people changes - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - **But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.** 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — 5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with them.

Without the fear of God distorted ministries happen – 2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Due to the lack of reverence man has been honoring man's writings and traditions over God's Word - Matt 15:3-9 - 3 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For **God said,** 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 5 **But you say** that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. **Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.** 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They WORSHIP ME IN VAIN; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'"

A hidden trap is fearing man instead of God –

Prov 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; **fear the Lord and shun evil.**

Prov 29:25 Fear of man **WILL** prove to be a snare, but **whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.**

Not fearing God, distance us from God - Rom 1:28-32 - 28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they **not only continue to do these very things** but also approve of those who practice them.

We should Fear God also because of what will happen if we don't - Heb 10:26-31 - 26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 **IT IS A DREADFUL THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD.**

How do we Fear the Lord?

Learning the Fear of The Lord - Ps 34:11-14 - 11 Come, my children, listen to me; **I will teach you the fear of the Lord.** 12 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many **good days**, 13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. 14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Our salvation is a process of growing and the main ingredient is the Fear of the Lord - Phil 2:12-13 - 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — **continue to work out your salvation with FEAR and TREMBLING**, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Don't let sight stop you from fearing God –

Prov 23:17-18 - 17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but **always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.** 18 There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Ecc 8:12-13 - 12 Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God. 13 Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.

Like Noah, our actions must be driven by reverence - Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in **holy fear** built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

We need to remove everything spiritually unclean in our lives out of reverence for God - 2 Cor 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness **OUT OF REVERENCE FOR GOD.**

Our relationship with one another needs to be out of reverence for Christ - Eph 5:21 Submit to one another **OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST.**

We display the Fear of God by showing Godly respect to our authorities - Col 3:22-25 - 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and **REVERENCE FOR THE LORD.** 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Steps to knowing the Fear of God - Prov 2:1-6 - 1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 **THEN you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.** 6 For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- Accept my words
- Store up my commands within you

- Turning your ear to wisdom
- Applying your heart to understanding
 1. Call out for insight, 2. Cry aloud for understanding 3. Look for it as for hidden treasure

Understanding vs “your understanding “

***Understanding is clearly seeing what God is commanding me to do. My understanding is making sense to me of what God is telling me to do.**

Our understanding is not part of the understanding equation -Proverbs 3:5- Trust in the LORD with all your heart and LEAN NOT on your own understanding;

We must realize the danger of not acting in reverence - Numbers 20:6-12-6 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. 7 The LORD said to Moses, 8 “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. **SPEAK TO THAT ROCK before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.” 9 So Moses took the staff from the LORD’s presence, just as he commanded him. 10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” 11 Then Moses raised his arm and **STRUCK THE ROCK TWICE** with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.**

It worked, so everything was okay, right? ...wrong!!! - Numbers 20:12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.” *THE PURPOSE WAS NOT TO GET WATER, THE PURPOSE IS ALWAYS TO REVERENTLY OBEY GOD****

Ultimately fearing God is doing everything “God-purposed” - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, DO IT ALL for the glory of God.

Fear GOD!!! - Job 37:2-24 -

1. What exactly do wrong? -

2. What does it mean to live here as strangers?

3. Explain one of the qualities that the Holy Spirit gives us instead of timidity.

4. When is Fear God, because of God, wrong?

5. Not fearing God is usually a worship of what?

6. Christ was heard by God because He is God (true or False)?

7. What does the fearing of God being the beginning of Knowledge & wisdom mean?

8. When you fear God, you will never have trouble (True or False)?

9. What are the benefits of Fathers/husbands that live fearing God?

10. How does fearing God protect us from God?

