

The Fear of the Lord

Isn't it in the desire of our hearts to always walk in Godly wisdom, knowing God's will and following it? Is this something we can do in this life? What does the Word say about it? I have come to realize the secret to achieving Godly wisdom to the best of our ability is to walk in the fear of the Lord. I have also come to realize the fear of the Lord can be used to draw people to salvation.

Let's explore what the Word says about the fear of the Lord. What is it? How does it work? How do we know we are fearing the Lord? How can fearing the Lord help us to walk in Christlikeness and reach the lost?

"Fear of the Lord" is mentioned 28 times in Scripture, only once in the New Testament (**Acts 9:31**). The fear of the Lord was instrumental on growing the Church.

First mention – **1 Samuel 11:6-8** Fear of the Lord caused people to react, obey in unity

Biblical Definition of the Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

(AMP) The [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of wisdom [its starting point and its essence], And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding and spiritual insight.

Job 28:28 says the same thing as does **Psalms 111:10, Proverbs 1:7**.

Psalms 19:9 the fear of the Lord is clean (pure; morally, ethically, ceremonially clean)

Psalms 34:11-14 teaches what the fear of the Lord is

Proverbs 8:13 defines fear of the Lord as hating evil, pride, arrogance and the evil way.

Proverbs 1:29 says each CHOOSES to fear the Lord or not

Proverbs 2:1-7 when you seek wisdom (by implication, Godly wisdom) you will come to understand the fear the Lord

Proverbs 10:27, 14:27, 19:23 says the fear of the Lord will prolong days, is a fountain of life, the fear of the Lord leads to life

Proverbs 15:33 the fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, humility is key

Proverbs 16:6 by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil

Proverbs 23:17-18 be zealous for the fear of the Lord all day

Fear Defined

Fear translated in English can come from several words in Hebrew or Greek that mean either to be afraid of a dreadful thing or to be in awe and revere something.

Fear of the Lord for ungodly. For the unbeliever, the fear of God is the fear of the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God (**Luke 12:5; Hebrews 10:31**).

“Wait until your Father gets home” kind of fear.

Fear of the Lord for the Godly

For the believer, the fear of the Lord is something much different. The believer’s fear is reverence of God. **Hebrews 12:28-29** is a good description of this. This reverence and awe are exactly what the fear of God means for Christians. This is the motivating factor for us to surrender to the Creator of the Universe.

Reverential fear can be described as not wanting to do wrong because you fear disapproval.

Since the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge, until we understand who God is and develop a reverential fear of Him, we cannot have true wisdom. True wisdom comes only from understanding who God is and that He is holy, just, and righteous. The fear of the Lord is the basis for our walking in His ways, serving Him and loving Him. GOD IS REAL!!!!

You can say the fear of the Lord for believers to “respecting” Him, and respect is definitely included in the concept of fearing God, there is more to it than that. A biblical fear of the Lord, for the believer, includes understanding how much God hates sin and fearing His judgment on sin, including ours! **Hebrews 12:5-11** describes God’s discipline of the believer. While it is done in love it is still a fearful thing. When we were children, our fear of discipline from our parents helped to keep us from doing things we knew were wrong. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should fear His discipline, and therefore seek to live our lives in a way that pleases Him.

Conclusion

Believers are not to fear (be afraid of) the Lord God. We have His promise that nothing can separate us from His love (**Romans 8:38-39**) and God’s love does not involve fear or torment (**1 John 4:18**). We have His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**). Fearing God means having a reverence for Him that greatly impacts the way we live. We want to live in a way that pleases Him. How do we please Him? By walking by faith (**Hebrew 11:6**). The fear of the Lord is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshiping Him in awe. The fact that God is a just judge, and the only way to be right with God is to believe on the finished work of the Lord Jesus, can be used to draw the unsaved to Him.