

The Fear of God is a Genuine Treasure

Isaiah 33

Isaiah 33:6 and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; **the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.**

I. Why Should We Fear God?

A. The Endurance of God's Righteousness

Isaiah 33:1 Ah, you destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed, you traitor, whom none has betrayed! When you have ceased to destroy, you will be destroyed; and when you have finished betraying, they will betray you.

*There are no unsolved equations in God's mathematics.
Whoever does evil will surely receive a just retribution.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God** and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴**For God will bring every deed into judgment,** with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Luke 12:4-5 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵**But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell.** Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Psalms 119:118-120 You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain. ¹¹⁹**All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies.** ¹²⁰**My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.**

Revelation 22:12-13 "Behold, I am coming soon, **bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.** ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

B. The Fullness of God's Power

Isaiah 33:7-9 Behold, their heroes cry in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly. ⁸The highways lie waste; the traveler ceases. Covenants are broken; cities are despised; there is no regard for man. ⁹The land mourns and languishes; Lebanon is confounded and withers away; Sharon is like a desert, and Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves.

Isaiah 33:10-13 "Now I will arise," says the LORD, "now I will lift myself up; now I will be exalted. ¹¹You conceive chaff; you give birth to stubble; your breath is a fire that will consume you. ¹²And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are burned in the fire." ¹³Hear, you who are far off, what I have done; and you who are near, **acknowledge my might.**

C. The Greatness of God's Holiness

Isaiah 33:12-14 And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are burned in the fire.”¹³ Hear, you who are far off, what I have done; and you who are near, acknowledge my might.¹⁴ **The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless:** “Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?”

Isaiah 6:1-3 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.³ **And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

Isaiah 6:5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with **reverence and awe**,²⁹ **for our God is a consuming fire.**

II. What Does it Mean to Fear God?

Isaiah 33:6 and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; **the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.**

The fear of God is a reverent attitude towards God, stemming from an understanding of His holiness, His power, and His goodness, and expressed in admiration of Him, in reverence to Him, trembling before Him, and in trust and obedience to Him.

The Components of the Fear of the Lord

- An understanding of God's absolute power, authority, holiness, infinite wisdom, glory and righteousness, and also His incomprehensible goodness and love.

Job 38:1-5 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:² “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”³ Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?”

Job 40:3-5 Then Job answered the LORD and said:⁴ “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.⁵ I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”

- A reverent and honoring attitude toward God, expressed in admiration and trembling before Him, in reverence and respect for Him, in trust and submission to Him, enjoyment of Him, in finding peace and satisfaction in Him.

Rev. 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Rev. 4:9-11 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

- Heartfelt obedience to Him, faithful walking before Him, sincere service to Him, and joyful cooperation with Him.

Gen. 39:9 He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”

Lev. 19:14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but **you shall fear your God**: I am the LORD.

Lev. 19:32 “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and **you shall fear your God**: I am the LORD.

Lev. 25:17-18 You shall not wrong one another, but **you shall fear your God**, for I am the LORD your God. ¹⁸ “Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and then you will dwell in the land securely.

The Components of the Fear of God

- An understanding of God's absolute power, authority, holiness, infinite wisdom, glory and righteousness, and His incomprehensible goodness and love.
- A reverent and honoring attitude toward God, expressed in admiration and trembling before Him, in reverence and respect for Him, in trust and submission to Him, enjoyment of Him, in finding peace and satisfaction in Him.
- Heartfelt obedience to Him, faithful walking before Him, sincere service to Him, and joyful cooperation with Him.

The fear of God is a reverent attitude towards God, stemming from an understanding of His holiness, His power, and His goodness, and expressed in admiration of Him, in reverence to Him, trembling before Him, and in trust and obedience to Him.

III. What is the Value of Fearing God?

Isaiah 33:6 and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; **the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.**

A. The fear of God makes life firm and stable

Isaiah 33:6 and **he will be** the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

Isa. 33:2 O LORD, be gracious to us; **we wait for you. Be our arm** every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.

Isaiah 33:20 Behold Zion, the city of our appointed feasts! Your eyes will see **Jerusalem, an untroubled habitation, an immovable tent**, whose stakes will never be plucked up, nor will any of its cords be broken.

Isa. 33:21-22 But there the LORD in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass.²² For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Isa. 33:24 And no inhabitant will say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

B. The fear of God opens the way to salvation

Isaiah 33:6 and he will be the stability of your times, **abundance of salvation**, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

Ps. 37:39-40 **The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD**; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Romans 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Isaiah 33:14-15 The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: "Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?"¹⁵ He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil,

Jeremiah 32:40 I will make with them **an everlasting covenant**, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And **I will put the fear of me in their hearts**, that they may not turn from me.

Isaiah 33:16-19 he will dwell on the heights; his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks; his bread will be given him; his water will be sure.¹⁷ Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar.¹⁸ Your heart will muse on the terror: "Where is he who counted, where is he who weighed the tribute? Where is he who counted the towers?"¹⁹ You will see no more the insolent people, the people of an obscure speech that you cannot comprehend, stammering in a tongue that you cannot understand.

Exodus 20:18-20 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."²⁰ 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.**"

Ps. 34:9-11 Oh, **fear the LORD**, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me; **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

ESV **Psalm 86:11** Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; **unite my heart to fear your name.**

NIV **Psalm 86:11** Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; **give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.**

C. The fear of God leads to a fountain of wisdom

Isaiah 33:6 and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, **wisdom, and knowledge;** the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

Job 28:28 And he [God] said to man, **'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,** and to turn away from evil is understanding.'

Ps. 111:10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;** all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Proverbs 9:9-11 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. ¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

Issues to Pray About

- What is the place of the fear of God in your life?
- Are you learning the fear of God as you are filled with Christ?