

# Jesus and Fear of God

Philippians 2:5-11

**Jn. 6:57** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, **he also will live because of me.**

**Jn. 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except **through me.**

**Jn. 14:20** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and **you in me, and I in you.**

**Jn. 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides in me and I in him**, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**Jn. 15:9-10** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

**Jn. 15:11** These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you**, and that your joy may be full.

**Jn. 14:27** Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give to you.** Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**Eph. 3:17-18** **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

**Heb. 5:7** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard **because of his reverence.**

Reverence – **εὐλάβεια** – *godly fear or reverence, reverent regard, awe*

**Phil. 2:5-9** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name...

## I. Essence of the Fear of God in Jesus

### A. Humility expressed in obedience to God

*The fear of God is grounded in a clear understanding of who God is and who we are.*

**Gen. 3:5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**Phil. 2:5-8** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- **Step one – He emptied Himself.**
- **Step two – He humbled Himself.**
- **Step three – He became obedient to the point of death**

*Humility is not the absence of will, nor the denial of it; it is the conscious, deliberate submission of your will to the will of God.*

*The fear of God is grounded in a clear understanding of who God is and who we are.*

*The fear of God is the fitting, conscious response of humble reverence and obedient submission to the infinite greatness and holiness of God.*

### B. Trust driven by confidence in God

**Phil. 2:9-11** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Jn. 17:1** When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,

**Jn. 17:5** And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

**Heb. 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- The fear of God is grounded in a clear understanding of who God is and who we are.
- The fear of God is the fitting, conscious response of humble reverence and obedient submission to the infinite greatness and holiness of God.
- The fear of God is a sense of awe and reverence born out of deep understanding of infinite goodness of God and His glorious purpose for us.

## II. Expression of the Fear of God in Jesus

**Matt. 4:3-4** And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

*Jesus came to earth to be controlled not by the desires of His flesh but by the will of His Father.  
This is the fear of God.*

**Matt. 4:5-7** Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup> and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

*Jesus came to earth not to control the Father, but to obey Him.  
This is the fear of God.*

**Matt. 4:8-10** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

*Jesus came to earth to worship God alone—and no one else—even when it cost Him His life.  
This is the fear of God.*

**Jn. 19:9-12** He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." <sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate sought to release him,

- The fear of God frees us from the fear of people.
- The fear of God frees us from sinful responses toward others.
- The fear of God gives us freedom and confidence in the most intense and pressured circumstances.

## Final Conclusions

- Entrust your life to Christ. Be united with Him by faith.
- Be filled with Christ, seeking His understanding of God and His attitude toward God.
- Delight in God, trust in Him, humble yourself before Him, and walk in obedience to Him.