

Hebrews 13:6 “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear.”

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

1 John 4: 18 “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”

Psalms 34:9 “Oh, fear the Lord, you his Godly ones.”

2 Corinthians 7:1 “...bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”

On the one hand we are admonished to fear and on the other, we are told fear not. Sooooooooooooo which is it? It's Both!

“Fear God and you'll have nothing else to fear.” —*Woodrow Kroll*

Word analysis of “fear”

1. In Greek: *Fobos*

Meaning: fear, terror, respect, reverence.

2. Hebrew: *Yare*

Meaning: frightening (DANGER), to fear, revere, be afraid, to stand in awe of, be awed.

1 John 4:13-18 “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

- “Fear not” means the believer has been delivered from judgement that deserves punishment, the wrath of God.



1 Thessalonians 5:8 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”

- For fear has to do with punishment.
- We need to be careful not to be careless in our confidence in our fearlessness.
- To take for granted: Not to appreciate something or someone that should be valued.
- Complacency: A feeling of being satisfied with how things are and not wanting to try to make them better.
- The "fear of the Lord" is often misunderstood. It is not a crippling terror or anxiety about God's character or intentions. Rather, it is a profound reverence and awe for God, recognizing His holiness, majesty, and power. **Proverbs 9:10** tells us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." This fear is the foundation of wisdom because it places God at the center of our lives, acknowledging His sovereignty and our dependence on Him.
- Fearing the Lord practically involves obeying His commands, seeking wisdom through Scripture, and living a life marked by reverence and respect for God. It also includes making decisions that align with His teachings and prioritizing a relationship with Him above all else.

2 Corinthians 7:1 “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”

Philippians 2:12-13 “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.”

THE TAKE AWAY (PRACTICAL APPLICATION)

1. Reverence in Worship

One of the most direct ways we demonstrate fear of the Lord is through worship. Worship is not just a Sunday activity but a lifestyle of honoring God in every aspect of life. In worship, we acknowledge God's greatness and our smallness, His holiness and our



sinfulness, His love and our need for grace. [Hebrews 12:28-29](#) exhorts us: "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"

2. Prayer

An expression of the fear of the Lord through prayer. An act of coming before the Almighty with humility, recognizing His authority and our dependence on Him. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" ([Matthew 6:9](#)). This opening line of the Lord's Prayer is a declaration of God's holiness and a recognition of His position as our heavenly Father.

3. Obedience

The fear of the Lord naturally leads to obedience. When we truly revere God, we desire to align our lives with His will. Jesus said in [John 14:15](#), "If you love me, keep my commands." Obedience is not a burdensome duty but a joyful response to God's love and authority. It involves daily decisions to follow God's ways rather than our own desires.

The Bible is replete with examples of individuals who demonstrated the fear of the Lord through obedience. Abraham, for instance, was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac because he feared God and trusted His promises ([Genesis 22](#)). Similarly, Joseph, when faced with temptation, declared, "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" ([Genesis 39:9](#)), illustrating his reverence for God above all else.

4. Holiness

Demonstrating the fear of the Lord also involves a pursuit of holiness. The apostle Peter instructs us in [1 Peter 1:15](#), "But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do." Holiness is about being set apart for God, living in a way that reflects His character. This pursuit involves turning away from sin and seeking to embody the virtues of Christ, such as love, patience, kindness, and humility.

The fear of the Lord compels us to examine our lives, to repent of sin, and to seek transformation through the Holy Spirit. It is a continuous process of sanctification, where we become more like Christ in our thoughts, words, and actions.

5. Cultivating Wisdom

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom in the biblical sense is not merely knowledge or intelligence but the ability to live rightly according to God's principles.



James 1:5 encourages us to seek wisdom from God: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Demonstrating the fear of the Lord involves making wise choices that honor God. This includes how we manage our time, resources, relationships, and responsibilities. It means seeking God's guidance in decision-making and being open to His leading, even when it challenges our own understanding or desires.

6. Trusting in God's Sovereignty

Another vital aspect of fearing the Lord is trusting in His sovereignty. Life is filled with uncertainties and challenges, but the fear of the Lord assures us that God is in control. **Proverbs 3:5-6** advises, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Trusting God involves surrendering our anxieties and fears, believing that He is working all things for our good (**Romans 8:28**). It means resting in His promises and faithfulness, even when circumstances seem daunting. This trust is a testament to our reverence for God's wisdom and power.

7. Engaging in Community

The fear of the Lord is also demonstrated in how we engage with others within the body of Christ and the broader community. **Ephesians 5:21** instructs us to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." This submission is an expression of our fear of the Lord, as we honor and serve others as Christ did.

In community, we are called to bear one another's burdens (**Galatians 6:2**), encourage and build each other up (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**), and live in harmony and peace (**Romans 12:16-18**). These actions reflect a deep respect for God's design for relationships and a commitment to living out His love.

8. Witnessing to the World

Finally, demonstrating the fear of the Lord involves being a witness to the world. Our lives should reflect the character of God and point others to Him. Jesus calls us to be the "light of the world" (**Matthew 5:14**), living in such a way that others see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**).

This witness is through words and actions that embody God's love, justice, and mercy. It involves standing for truth, advocating for the oppressed, and showing compassion to those in need. By doing so, we testify to the greatness of God and invite others to experience His transformative power.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the fear of the Lord permeates every aspect of our lives. It is about reverence and awe, obedience and holiness, wisdom and trust, community and witness. As we cultivate this fear, we grow in our relationship with God, becoming more like Christ and reflecting His glory to the world. Let us strive to live each day with a deep and abiding fear of the Lord, seeking to honor Him in all we do.

Hebrews 12:12-29 “Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 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, for our God is a consuming fire.”

