

June 14th, 2026
Fear Factor - Week 5

God is not to be Feared in the sense that He's angry and mean (which is how He's often portrayed to many people), HOWEVER, He is to be FEARED in the sense of Honor, Holiness and Righteousness!

For the Unbeliever, or the uneducated church go-er, the Fear of God usually means FEAR of the judgment of God which leads to eternal death (which is eternal separation from God). (*Luke 12:5; Hebrews 10:31*)

1 John 4:18 NIV

For the Believer, the Fear of God is based in Relationship, and that involves emotions much different than straight fear!

The Believer's "FEAR" is based on the Reverence & the Understood Position of God.

Hebrews 12:28-29/Deuteronomy 4:24

More accurately described as a Refiners FIRE! When we think of a Fire consuming something, we would think the remaining product to be Ash, Charred wood, Soot, and the like, creating worthlessness. However, the Refining Fire of God is a PURIFYING Fire! One that burns so hot inside of a vessel that ALL the impurities come to the surface so it can be removed, and the remaining product is even more useful!

But the Believers approach can be fueled by either Ignorance or Indifference.

- 1.) To someone NEW on the journey, they may continue to walk with "sinful" behaviors for a while because of Ignorance.
- 2.) The challenge to those who have been on the journey for a while, or refuse the discipline the Lord offers, is we can become Indifferent to the PERSON of God!

The FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom!

Deuteronomy 10:12

A Biblical Fear of God, for the believer, includes understanding how much God hates Sin and His necessity to place judgment on Sin!

The trouble with that is, we're so good at seeing Sinful actions in the lives of Others, but not so good at seeing it in our lives!

Hebrews 12:5-11 NIV

Believers are not to be SCARED of God! We have no reason to be scared of Him!
Fearing God means having a reverence for Him that greatly impacts the way we live.
The FEAR of God is...

- Respecting Him
- Obeying Him
- Submitting to His discipline, and
- Worshiping Him in awe

Most of Jesus' teaching while He was here on earth was based on the subject of Hypocrisy.

Luke 12:1-5