

## The Fear of the Lord

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### A Dreadful Fear of God

We all know fear, and there are common traits to all our fears...

- Fears arise from what we love, and they excite the body and fixate the mind

But it's important to remember there are different types of the fear of God in the Bible and confusing them can have deadly results. The first is condemned: Sinful fear

- It's true that a holy God is terrible to those who are far off. This flows from sin (Gen 3:10; Jam 2:19)
- But seeing God as pure threat is at odds with the love of God, driving people away from Him. It is the motor of unbelief
- Even Christians are not immune. Poor teaching, hard times, and Satan's accusations can all feed this cringing fear of God

How do we counteract this satanically inspired false teaching? Puritan Pastor and author John Bunyan would ask, "Do these fears...

- ...make you question whether there was ever a work of God in your life? Do they sometimes weaken your heart in prayer?"
- ...keep you from laying hold of the promise of salvation by Jesus Christ? Do they tend to harden your heart and make you desperate?"
- "Look back at your answers and ask, how much of God is in these fears?"

Sinful fear arises from a misunderstanding of God.

- We must remember that Satan's chief labor is to misrepresent God (Gen 3:1-5)
- The Spirit's work is the opposite. It produces in us a wonderful fear that wins and draws us to God

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*"It cannot be that these things are the true and natural effects of the workings of the Spirit of God. These are not His doings. Do you not see the very paw of the devil in these fears?" – John Bunyan*