

# Walking in the Fear of the Lord

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

## Introduction:

- A. The fear of God is a reverential respect and deference of oneself to the Almighty Sovereign God of this universe. When children of God live their lives in the fear of God, they have found the key to living instrumental lives for God, and accordingly increase in the knowledge of God.
  - 1. Prov. 2:1-6
- B. We seldom hear lessons on fearing the Lord; we tend to focus on faith, love, and obedience toward God.
  - 1. This is sad as well as unbiblical. Of course you should love God. That is not the issue. What we are saying is that we must relate to God in more than one way. Loving God is not enough according to the Bible. We must also fear Him.
  - 2. "Solomon says the fear of the Lord is the foundation. The fear of the Lord is the single most important essential. The fear of the Lord is where it all begins." (Jon Courson)
  - 3. The Bible speaks of fear of the Lord in 295 verses. Scripture speaks of fearing God, His name, His Law, or His Word.
  - 4. In the NT, there are 43 references to the fear of God which, by the way, is the same number of references as man's love for God.
  - 5. "From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible proclaims that the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life; and, those who drink deeply of it, shall have the blessings of God in this life and in the life to come. However, those who reject the fear of the Lord will end up in the ways of death." (Precept Austin)
- C. Godly fear - Heb. 12:28-29
  - 1. But what is the fear of the Lord? It is that affectionate reverence; by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father's law.
  - 2. Godly fear is not a paralyzing fear as in approaching danger; rather, it is a prudent fear which causes one to consistently exercise self-examination as a person stands in the reverent awe of God.
  - 3. Unbelieving fear develops in the reprobate mind, and usually develops scenarios or anxieties, and is often linked to physical anxiety and bodily degeneration. The fear of God in a believer's life is a healthy fear.

## I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY OF THE FEAR OF GOD?

- A. Psalm 103:13 - The fear of God brings the compassion of God
  - 1. "Pities - caress fondly; to love in a compassionate manner; to show mercy and affection for" (Strongs 07355)
  - 2. Isa. 63:7-9 - God loves and protects those who live in His fear.
- B. Prov. 8:13 - The fear of God is to hate what He hates.
  - 1. Sins like this should raise our emotional ire.

- C. Prov. 10:27 - The fear of God lengthens days.
  - 1. Living in God's fear keeps us separate from the sins of dissipation and excesses of this world - 1Peter 4:1-4
- D. 2Cor. 7:1 - The fear of God provides a healthy environment for Christian growth - 2Cor. 6:17-18
  - 1. Fearing God is a maturing process; "perfecting" - to bring to completion
  - 2. As we strip off the old nature, the new nature begins to show through.
    - a. James 4:8
- E. Eph. 5:21 - The fear of God is the means of constant reconciliation.
  - 1. "Submitting" - "put in subjection to or to submit one's self"
  - 2. Phil. 2:4 - Be concerned with others.
  - 3. Heb. 12:14 - Cultivate peace with all.
  - 4. Because we reverence or fear God, we will love and treat with respect all who have been created in His image.
- F. The fear of God is understanding who He is.
  - 1. Matt. 10:28 - He destroys body and soul in hell.
  - 2. Heb. 10:31 - We fall under His judgment.
  - 3. Heb. 12:29 - He is a consuming fire.
  - 4. Ex. 19:16-20 - God in His limited manifestation at Sinai was overwhelming to Israel; imagine Him in His unlimited glory outside the confines of this material universe!

Conclusion: Ecc. 12:13-14