

Last time we talked about %the fear that makes you fearless,+that is, the fear of God. I want to take that a step further this time and examine the qualities, characteristics, and consequences of this %foundational fear that frees.+

The fear of the Lord is the beginning (foundation) of wisdom. This word %beginning+can mean *first of its kind, first layer* (a stone foundation), *the best of* (first fruits), *the earliest of* (in the beginning). Each applies to the fear of God. The fear of God is reverential awe and desire for His presence, not the terror of being afraid of God and desire to *escape* His presence.

Fear controls. Fear controls my decisions about what I will do and where I will go. The greater the fear, the greater the influence and control it exerts in my decision making. Therefore, if God is my fear, God Himself will control my actions. The fear of God is the first step towards making wise choices. The fear of God is at the core of making wise choices. As we learned last time, *the cure for unholy fear is worship. And worship is born of the fear of God.*

Fear clarifies. Fear captures my vision and makes the peripheral, the non-essential, disappear. In this way, fear sharpens my focus and makes essential choices obvious. If I fear God, the consequences of my decisions come into clear focus.

To fear God is to be continually conscious that God is aware of all my thoughts, my attitudes, my motives, my words and my deeds. Ps 69:5 O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.

Ps 139:2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

Ps 139:4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

To fear God is to be continually conscious that God is active in my life. What I do matters to Him and He is constantly at work leading, correcting, convicting, motivating, and sovereignly directing my life moment by moment.

Ge 39:21 But the LORD was with Josephō and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

De 8:2 And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heartō

1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

Phil 2:13 ō for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

To fear God is to be continually conscious that God is the One I am accountable to for everything, every day of my life.

Mt 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

Ro 2:16 ō God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christō

Ro 14:12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, ō to whom we must give account.

1Pe 4:5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

When we are seeking to please God, this knowledge is a comfort and motivation to press on in obedience.

When we are resisting God, this knowledge is a terror to us that we seek to suppress and ignore.

Wisdom is the ability to respond to life's circumstances in a manner which brings blessing and peace.

Thus, the fear of God is where wise decisions begin.

Self Check Questions:

Am I consciously and consistently aware that God is present and active in my life and circumstances?

Am I consistently aware of my accountability to God? Describe the last time this thought occurred to you.

Is this the first time today I have thought %oday may be the day I stand before Him to give account+?

How many times in a week do I recognize and praise God for His sovereign activity in my life and circumstances?

How many times a week do I spend a minute or more thinking about the day of coming judgment and accountability?

When was the last time the fear of God so captured my thinking that every other fear faded from view and I was at rest?

For Further Study: Proverbs 9:10; 2Ch 19:9; Job 28:28; Ps 19:9; Ps 34:11; Ps 111:10 Pr 1:7; Pr 1:29; Pr 2:5; Pr 8:13
Pr 9:10; 10:27; 14:26; 14:27; 15:16; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; 23:17 Isa 11:2-3; 33:6; Acts 9:31; Rom 3:18; 1 Cor 3:11-15

%ord, I ask that the work of Your Word and Your Spirit to so fill my mind and heart that I live in Your fear. I want to live in the light of *that coming day* when I stand before You and all life's choices are made plain. O Father, let me not forget *that day* lest I forget why You have given me *this day*. Then I shall make wise present choices in light of certain future consequences. Let me never forget that I shall see this day againō in Your presence, O Refiner's Fire, Amen+

Remember, you are very special to us and are praying for you continually.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.