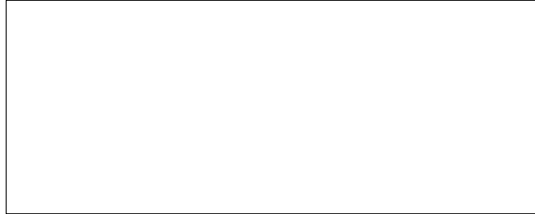


“THE FEAR OF GOD”

2 CORINTHIANS 7:1



“PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD”

Context:

- “Having therefore these promises.”
- “Let us cleanse ourselves”
- “From all defilement of flesh and mind.”
- “Perfecting holiness ...”
- “In the fear of God.”

EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO FEARED GOD

- Abraham. Genesis 22:12
- Joseph. Genesis 42:18; 39:9
- Jonah. Jonah 1:9
- Nehemiah describes the remnant. Nehemiah 1:11; cf. Nehemiah’s description of Hananiah. Nehemiah 7:2

WHAT FEAR MEANS

Respect And Awe Of God. cf. Luke 7:16

- They “**glorified**” God.
Their fear was that of awe, homage, and respect. (*phóbos*) – to flee from. Fear, terror, reverence, respect, honor. (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*)

Note: Romans 1:18-23; 3:9-18

WHAT FEAR MEANS

Being Afraid Of Displeasing God

- Saul and Samuel. 1 Samuel 11:7
- David trembled at the judgments of God. Psalms 119:120
- 2 Corinthians 5:9, “Wherefore also we make it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be well-pleasing unto him.”
- Hebrews 12:28, “Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe.”

WHAT FEAR MEANS

- The Lord said, “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: what manner of house will ye build unto me? and what place shall be my rest? For all these things hath my hand made, and (so) all these things came to be, saith Jehovah: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at my word.” Isaiah 66:1-2; cf. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

WHAT FEAR CAUSES USTO DO

Do What God Says

- We do not live under the Old Testament (Galatians 3:24-25; 2 Corinthians 3), yet emphasis of obedience in Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy 6:2; 8:6; 13:4; 17:19; cf. 1 Samuel 12:14
- When one fears God, he will obey to the utmost as Abraham did in his attempt to sacrifice Isaac. Genesis 22:12
 - "Now I know that you fear God."

WHAT FEAR CAUSES USTO DO

Be Dedicated With All Your Heart.

- There is no half-hearted service among those who fear God.
- Deuteronomy 10:12; 10:20; 17:19; 31:12
- READ Deuteronomy 28:58ff

WHAT FEAR CAUSES USTO DO

Hate Sin

- Proverbs 3:7, "Be not wise in thine own eyes; Fear Jehovah, and depart from evil."
- Proverbs 8:13, "The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil: Pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, And the perverse mouth, do I hate."
- Proverbs 16:6, "By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for; And by the fear of Jehovah men depart from evil."

WHAT FEAR CAUSES USTO DO

Honor God

- Nehemiah described himself as one of the people who "desire to fear Thy name" Nehemiah 1:11
- He described God – Nehemiah 1:5**
- "I beseech thee, O Jehovah, the God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and lovingkindness with them that love him and keep his commandments" (ASV)
- "I beseech Thee, O Lord God of heaven, **the great and awesome God.**" (NASB)

WHAT FEAR CAUSES USTO DO

Honor God

- Revelation 4:8, "the four living creatures ... and they have no rest day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, (is) the Lord God, **the Almighty**, who was and who is and who is to come."
- He is the creator of heaven and earth. Genesis 1:1
 - He caused the sun and the moon to stand still. Joshua 10:12-14
 - He delivered His people from the hand of the Egyptians with wonders and signs. Exodus 7-14
 - He raised his Son from the dead. John 20

WHAT FEAR CAUSES USTO DO

Respect The Word Of God Nehemiah 8:5

The WORD of God is:

- Inspired. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- The standard of judgment. John 12:48
- Timothy is not to be ashamed of it. 2 Timothy 1:8
- More important than any man. 1 Corinthians 6:4; cf. Galatians 1:6

WHAT FEAR CAUSES US TO DO

Respect And Treat Others Right

- Nehemiah 5:9, “Also I said, The thing that ye do is not good: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God, because of the reproach of the nations our enemies?”
- David spoke of those who rule over men that they should do so in the fear of God. cf. 2 Samuel 23:3
- Many of the laws given on Sinai dealt with proper treatment of others because of the fear of the Lord. cf. Leviticus 19:14; Leviticus 19:32; 25:17, 36, 43

CONCLUSION:

To “*perfect holiness in the fear of God*” (2 Corinthians 7:1) is more than being baptized, more than “going to church.”

Reflected in every decision I make!

It is a challenge to:

- Do what God says.
- Be dedicated.
- Hate sin.
- Honor God.
- Respect the word of God.
- Respect and treat others right.