



### The Fear of the Lord

#### It changes the way we live and act!

Not just the fear of punishment (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8) but the desire to please God. (2 Corinthians 5:6-11; Ephesians 5:7-10; Colossians 1:9-10; Psalms 19:14)

Our knowledge of what pleases and displeases God should then lead us to avoid not only sin, but the opportunity for sin (Romans 13:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

### The Fear of the Lord

#### It changes the way we look at sin ... our own in particular!

*"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way, and the perverted mouth, I hate"* (Proverbs 8:13).

Our fear for God should cause us to despise and hate sin and anything opposed to the truth of God's word. (Psalms 11:5; 97:10; 139:20-22; Proverbs 8:12-13; 13:5; 28:16)

In particular, our own! (Psalms 51:1-4; Matthew 7:5; 2 Corinthians 7:11)

The danger of becoming apathetic to sin and not only failing to hate it, but even tolerating it. (1 Corinthians 5:1-2)

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Paul was clear in his admonition in the Roman letter to *"abhor what is evil; cling to what is good"* (Romans 12:9).

*"Abhor"* - "detest utterly" (Strong), "have a horror of" (Thayer)

Not just the sin, but the fact that we have wasted so much of our life in it. (1 Peter 4:1-3)

We need to always be aware of him who who seeks to devour us (1 Peter 5:8) and lead us into sin.

*"From Thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way"* (Psalms 119:104).

### The Fear of the Lord

#### It changes the way we look at the present!

*"The fear of the LORD leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil"* (Proverbs 19:23).

Godly fear establishes a peace that the world simply does not understand.

Godly fear will provide one with a peace and contentment that the world cannot understand (cf. Philippians 4:11).

Whatever comes our way as children of God, fearing God can enable us to *"sleep satisfied"* even in the midst of *"fiery ordeals"* (1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12).

Example of Peter in Acts 12:6 or Paul and Silas in Acts 16:25

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#### It changes the way we look at the future!

*"The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened"* (Proverbs 10:27).

The one who fears God is going to submit to His will, which God has designed to be for our own good, both in this life and in the life to come (cf. 1 Timothy 4:8).

*"So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today"* (Deuteronomy 6:24).

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#### It changes the way we look at the future!

*"The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life."* (Proverbs 22:4)

Looking for our reward, not in this life, but rather a hope for an inheritance which is unlike anything here. (John 10:10; 1 Peter 1:4)

Paul prayed that the *"eyes of your heart"* would see *"the hope of His calling ... the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and ... the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe"* (Ephesians 1:18-19).

We are not to seek the honor and glory of men (Luke 14:8) but rather, to be honored by God (John 12:26).

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### It changes the way we look at the future!

*"In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge" (Proverbs 14:26).*

To fear God means that we are not to doubt nor are we to live our lives never knowing where we stand spiritually.

*"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)*

*"... we may have confidence ..." (1 John 2:28; 4:17; cf. 2 Timothy 4:7-8)*

## The Fear of the Lord

### The basis for the invitation:

2 Corinthians 5:9-11, *"Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences."*