

FEAR OF THE LORD

Prov.1:7

- **Biblical Definition**
- **Basis of Knowledge**
- **Done In The Past**
- **For Us Today**

There is a **NEED** in our hearts for a Deep, Strong **RESPECT** toward God:
THAT is the bed-rock of a **GOOD** life, in **PROPER** knowledge and **RIGHT** behavior.

- “**The FEAR** of the Lord **IS** the **BEGINNING** of knowledge:
but fools **DESPISE** wisdom and instruction.” ([Prov.1:7](#))

There is a **FAMINE** of genuine **REVERENCE** toward God in the world today,
as people **OPENLY** show their **DISREGARD** and **CONTEMPT** for the Creator of the universe,
which always leads to **DIRE** consequences.

[Rom.3:10-18](#) reads,

- “⁹ What then? are we better than they? **No**, in **no** wise: for we have before **PROVED** both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all **UNDER** sin; ¹⁰ **AS** it is written, There is **NONE** righteous, **NO**, not one: ¹¹ there is **NONE** that understandeth, there is **NONE** that seeketh **AFTER** God.

¹² They are all gone **OUT** of the way, they are together become **UNPROFITABLE**;
there is **NONE** that doeth good, **NO**, not one. ¹³ Their throat is an **OPEN sepulchre**;
with their tongues, they have **USED** deceit; the poison of asps is **UNDER** their lips:

¹⁴ whose mouth is **FULL** of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ their feet are **SWIFT** to shed blood:

¹⁶ destruction and misery are in **THEIR** ways: ¹⁷ and the way of **PEACE** have they **NOT** known:

Now carefully consider [Vs.18](#) of [Romans Chapter 3](#),

- ¹⁸ **there is NO FEAR** of God before their eyes.”

The lesson is entitled, “*Fear of The Lord*”.

I. It Seems Difficult To Fully Define “FEAR”

- A. It is **REVERENCE** produced by **HOLY** fear; It is an Attitude of **GREAT** Respect,
that includes a **HEALTHY** Horror of Displeasing GOD; It is **LOVE** and **APPRECIATION**,
Holding God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit **IN** the **HIGHEST** esteem.

The Bible says this of Noah,

- “**By FAITH** Noah, being **WARNED** of God of things **NOT** seen as yet, **MOVED** with **FEAR**,
PREPARED an ark, to the SAVING of his house; **BY** the which he **CONDEMNED** the world,
and became **HEIR** of the righteousness, which is **BY** faith.” ([Heb.11:7](#))

- B. Every intelligent being **Owes** **REVERENCE** to our Creator,
Which includes, Honor, adoration, respect, worship, awe, amazement.

- “God is greatly to be **FEARED** in the assembly of the saints,
and to be had in **REVERENCE** of all them that are **ABOUT** him.” (Don’t forget [Psalm 89:7](#))

John said that he saw an,

- “...angel **FLY** in the midst of **HEAVEN**, having the **EVERLASTING** gospel,
to **PREACH** unto them that **DWELL** on the earth,
and to **EVERY** nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
⁷ saying with a **LOUD** voice, **FEAR** God, and give **GLORY** to Him;
for the hour of His **JUDGMENT** is come: and **WORSHIP** Him
that **MADE** heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the **FOUNTAINS** of waters.” ([Rev.14:6-7](#))

- C. Let us be **AWARE** that there are **WRONG** kinds of **FEAR**.

- For example, “There is **NO** fear **IN** love; but **PERFECT** love casteth **OUT** fear:
because **FEAR** hath torment. He that feareth is **NOT** made perfect **IN** love.” ([1Jn.4:18](#))

The Feeling of Terror, and **SLAVERY** to law & sin, **BREEDS** fear;

This is the fear that is **NOT** the beginning of knowledge, referenced in [Prov.1:7](#).

- “For ye have **NOT** received the spirit of bondage, **AGAIN** to Fear;
BUT ye have received the Spirit of **ADOPTION**, whereby we **CRY**, Abba, Father.” ([Rom.8:15](#))

We **SERVE** God **GLADLY**; Not slaves **IN BONDAGE** to law, but spir-itu-ally **FREE** children of God. That is free from the bondage of sin.

- “by whom also, we have **ACCESS** by **FAITH**, into this **GRACE**, wherein we **STAND**, and **REJOICE** in **HOPE**, of the **GLORY** of God.” ([Rom.5:2](#))

WITH love and gratitude, we **SERVE** Him Who **LOVES** us, without being **FORCED** to do so with **FEAR**.

- “God be **THANKED**, that ye **WERE** the servants of sin, but ye have **OBEYED** from the **HEART** that **FORM** of doctrine which was **DELIVERED** you. ¹⁸ Being then made **FREE** from sin, ye **BECAME** the servants of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.” ([Rom.6:17-18](#))
- “Rejoice **IN** the Lord always: and again I say, **REJOICE**.” ([Phil.4:4](#))

What about **CRINGING FEAR** of Cowardice and Timidity?

Some are too Tim-id to stand **AGAINST** sin and stand **UP** for the **TRUTH**; That **KIND** of fear will cause people to be **LOST**.

We must **NOT** be “timid” in dealing with **UN**righteousness.

- “For God hath **NOT** given us the spirit of **FEAR**; **BUT** of power, and of love, and of a **SOUND** mind.” ([2Tim.1:7](#))
- “But the **FEARFUL**, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and **ALL** liars, shall **HAVE** their part, **IN** the lake, which **BURNETH** with fire and brimstone: which **IS** the second **DEATH**.” ([Rev.21:8](#))
- “We, having the **SAME** spirit of **FAITH**, according as it is **WRITTEN**, **I BELIEVED**, and therefore have I **SPOKEN**; we also **believe**, and therefore **SPEAK**;” ([2Cor.4:13](#))

D. Now We turn to the **RIGHT** Fear, we are to **HAVE** for God.

- “Let us **HEAR** the conclusion of the **WHOLE** matter: **FEAR** God, and **KEEP** His commandments: for this is the **WHOLE** of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring **EVERY** work **INTO** judgment, with **EVERY** **SECRET** thing, whether it be **GOOD**, or whether it be **EVIL**.” ([Ecc.12:13-14](#))

E. The Old Testament **EMPHASIZES** this Attitude of Devotion.

- “And unto **MAN** He said, Behold, the **FEAR** of the Lord, that is **WISDOM**; and to depart from evil, **IS** UNDERSTANDING.” ([Job 28:28](#))
- “**IN** the **FEAR** of the Lord **IS** strong **CONFIDENCE**: and his children shall have a place of **REFUGE**.
²⁷ The **FEAR** of the Lord **IS** a fountain of **LIFE**, to **DEPART** from the snares of **DEATH**.” ([Prov.14:26-27](#))

F. The New Testament requires the **Right** **KIND** of Fear, to **BRING** Repentance, and to **PREVENT** Carelessness before God.

Notice these few passages:

- “...fear **NOT** them which **KILL** the body, but are **NOT** able to **KILL** the soul: but rather **FEAR** Him which is able to **DESTROY** both soul and body **IN HELL**.” ([Matt.10:28](#))
- “Knowing therefore the **TERROR** of the Lord, we **PERSUADE** men; but we are **MADE** manifest unto God; and I **TRUST** also, are **MADE** manifest in your consciences.” ([2Cor.5:11](#))
- “Wherefore we **RECEIVING** a kingdom which can**NOT** be **MOVED**, let us have **GRACE**, whereby we may **SERVE** God acceptably with **REVERENCE** and godly **FEAR**:
²⁹ for our God is a **CONSUMING** fire.” ([Heb.12:28-29](#))

G. Throughout the WORD of God,

FEAR is Loving and Obedient Reverence toward God, with the Dread of Displeasing Him.

- “He sent **REDEMPTION** unto His people: He hath **COMMANDED** His covenant **FOREVER**: Holy and **REVEREND** is **HIS** Name. The **FEAR of the Lord** is the **BEGINNING** of wisdom: a **GOOD** understanding **HAVE** all they that **DO** His commandments: His **PRAISE** endureth **FOREVER**. **PRAISE** ye the Lord. **BLESSED** is the man that **FEARETH** the Lord, that delighteth **GREATLY** in His commandments.” ([Psalms 111: vs.9 – 112: vs.1](#))
- “Then had the churches **REST**, throughout **ALL** Judæa and Galilee and Samaria, and **were EDIFIED**; and **WALKING** in the **FEAR** of the Lord, and in the **COMFORT** of the Holy Spirit (...revealed Word), **were MULTIPLIED**.” ([Acts 9:31](#))

H. And yes, FEAR Includes being Afraid of Being Lost

- “Wherefore, my beloved, **AS** ye have always **OBEYED**, **NOT** as in my presence **ONLY**, but now much **MORE** in my **ABSENCE**, **work OUT** your **OWN** salvation with **FEAR** and **TREMBLING**.” ([Phil.2:12](#))
- “Let us therefore **FEAR**, lest a promise being **LEFT** us, of **ENTERING** into His **REST**, (lest) any of you should seem to come **SHORT** of it.” ([Heb.4:1](#))

II. This Fear Of The Lord, Is The Basis Of All True Knowledge

A. REVERENCE toward God, including OBEDIENCE to God,

is the Foundation, without which, All other Knowledge is Vain. Notice [1Cor.1:18-31](#) which reads,

¹⁸ For the **PREACHING** of the cross (which is, **TRUE** knowledge) is to them that perish **FOOLISHNESS**; **BUT** unto us which are **SAVED**, it is the **POWER** of God ([Rom.1:16](#)). ¹⁹ For it is **WRITTEN**, I will **DESTROY** the wisdom of the **WISE** (which is, **VAIN** knowledge), and will bring to **NOTHING** the understanding of the **PRUDENT** (also, **VAIN** knowledge). ²⁰ **WHERE** is the wise? **WHERE** is the scribe? **WHERE** is the disputer of this world? Hath not **God** made **FOOLISH**, the wisdom of this world?

²¹ For after that **IN** the wisdom of God, the world **BY** wisdom knew **NOT** God, It **PLEASED** God by the foolishness of **PREACHING**, to **SAVE** them that **BELIEVE**.

²² For the Jews **REQUIRE** a sign, and the Greeks **SEEK** after wisdom:

²³ but we **PREACH** Christ crucified, **UNTO** the Jews a **stumblingblock**, and **UNTO** the Greeks **foolishness**; ²⁴ but **UNTO** them which are **CALLED** (that is, called by the gospel [2Tim.2:14](#)), **BOTH** Jews and Greeks, **Christ** the **POWER** of God, and the **WISDOM** of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is **WISER** than men; and the weakness of God is **STRONGER** than men.

²⁶ For ye **SEE** your **CALLING**, brethren, how that **NOT** many wise men after the flesh, **NOT** many mighty, **NOT** many noble, are **CALLED**:

²⁷ but God hath **CHOSEN** the **FOOLISH** things of the world, to **CONFOUND** the wise; and God hath **CHOSEN** the **WEAK** things of the world to **CONFOUND** the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and **BASE** things of the world, and things which are **DESPISED**, hath God **CHOSEN**, yea, and things which are **NOT**, to bring to **NOUGHT** things that **ARE**: ²⁹ that **NO** flesh should **GLORY** in His presence.

³⁰ But **OF** Him, are ye **IN** Christ Jesus ([Rom.6:3-4](#); [Gal.3:26-27](#)), who **OF** God, is **MADE** unto us **WISDOM**, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

³¹ that, according as it is **WRITTEN**, He that glorieth, let him **GLORY** **IN** the Lord.” ([1Cor.1:18-31](#))

- B. **FOOLS** (or wicked people) **Despise Knowledge of the Truth, and they do Not VALUE the Scriptures, which is the ONLY means of GETTING or Obtaining TRUTH.**

The Bible says,

- “Sanctify them through Thy **TRUTH**: Thy Word **IS** Truth.” ([Jn.17:17](#))
- “The **SUM** of Thy Word, **IS** Truth;
And every one of thy **RIGHTEOUS** ordinances endureth **FOREVER.**” ([Psa. 119:160](#) ASV)

III. Consider What The Fear Of The Lord Has Done In The Past

- A. **The Savior’s Fear was involved, in Securing our Salvation,**

- “Who in the **DAYS** of His flesh, when He had **OFFERED** up prayers and supplications with **STRONG** crying and tears unto Him, that was **ABLE** to **SAVE** Him from **DEATH**, and **was HEARD** in that **He FEARED**;
⁸ though He were a Son, yet learned He **OBEDIENCE** **BY** the things which He **SUFFERED**; ⁹ and being made **PERFECT**, He became the **AUTHOR** of **ETERNAL** salvation, unto **ALL** them that **OBEY** Him;” ([Heb.5:7-9](#))

- B. **It was True FEAR, that Motivated the apostles to PREACH Even WHEN, civil rulers COMMANDED them to Stop .**

- Notice [Acts 5:25-29](#), ²⁵ Then came one and **TOLD** them, saying, **BEHOLD**, the men whom ye put **IN** prison **ARE STANDING** in the temple, and **TEACHING** the people.
²⁶ Then **WENT** the captain **WITH** the officers, and **BROUGHT** them with**OUT** violence: for they **FEARED** the people (**SADLY**, rather than **FEARING** God), lest they should have been **STONED**.
²⁷ And when they had **BROUGHT** them, they **SET** them before the council: and the high priest **ASKED** them, ²⁸ saying,
Did **NOT** we straitly **COMMAND** you, that ye should **NOT** teach in this Name? and, **BEHOLD**, ye have **FILLED** Jerusalem **WITH** your doctrine (or teaching), and intend to **BRING** this Man’s blood (that is, Christ’s blood) **UPON** us.
²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and **SAID**,
We OUGHT to OBEY GOD, RATHER than men.” ([Acts 5:25-29](#))

- C. **Timothy was to Teach, when people turned a Deaf Ear. ...In [2Tim.4:2-5](#), He was told to,**

- ² **PREACH the WORD**; be instant **IN** season, **OUT** of season; (preach it, when it’s liked and not liked) reprove, rebuke, exhort with **ALL** longsuffering and doctrine.
³ For the time **WILL** come, when they will **NOT** endure **SOUND** doctrine;
but after their **OWN** lusts, shall they **HEAP** to themselves teachers, having **ITCHING** ears;
⁴ and they shall **TURN AWAY** their ears **FROM** the **TRUTH**, and shall be **TURNED** unto fables.
⁵ But **WATCH** thou, in **ALL** things **ENDURE** afflictions,
DO the work of an **EVANGELIST**, make full **PROOF** of thy ministry.” (that’s [2Tim.4:2-5](#))

- D. **Saints or Christians, SPOKE Even When it Brought the Threat of Death. [Acts 8:1-4](#) reads,**

- “And Saul (before he became the apostle Paul) was **CONSENTING** unto his death (Stephen’s death). And at that time, there was a **GREAT** persecution **AGAINST** the church which was **AT** Jerusalem; and they were **ALL** scattered abroad **THROUGHOUT** the regions of Judæa and Samaria, **EXCEPT** the apostles.
² And devout men carried Stephen to his **BURIAL**, and made **GREAT** lamentation over him.
³ **AS** for Saul, he made **HAVOCK** of the church,
ENTERING into every house, and **HALING** men and women **COMMITTED** them to prison.
⁴ Therefore **THEY** that were scattered abroad **WENT** every where **PREACHING the WORD.**” ([Acts 8:1-4](#))

E. Obedient Reverence, has Always United God's People. Notice [Deut.4:7-10](#).

- “7 For **WHAT nation** is there **SO GREAT**, who **hath God** so **NIGH** unto them, **AS** the Lord our God **IS** in all things, that we **CALL upon** Him **FOR**?

⁸ And **WHAT nation** is there **SO GREAT**, that **HATH statutes** and **judgments SO RIGHTEOUS** as **ALL** this law, which I **SET** before you **THIS** day?

⁹ Only **take HEED** to thyself, and **KEEP thy SOUL diligently**, lest thou **FORGET** the **things** which thine eyes have **SEEN**, and lest they **DEPART** from thy **heart**, **ALL** the **days** of thy **LIFE**:

but **TEACH** them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; ¹⁰ specially the day that thou **STOODEST** **before** the Lord thy God in Horeb, **WHEN** the Lord said unto me, **GATHER** Me the **people TOGETHER**, and I will make them **HEAR My Words**, that they may **LEARN** to **FEAR** Me **ALL** the days, that **they** shall **LIVE** upon the earth, and that **they** may **TEACH** their children.” ([Deut.4:7-10](#))

- The New Testament Bible says, “⁴¹ they that **gladly RECEIVED** His **Word** were **BAPTIZED**; and the **SAME** day, there were **ADDED** unto them about three thousand **SOULS**.

⁴² And they **CONTINUED** stedfastly **IN** the apostles' **doctrine** and **fellowship**, and **IN** breaking of bread, and **IN** prayers. ⁴³ And **FEAR** came upon **every SOUL**: and **MANY** **wonders** and **signs** were **DONE** by the apostles.” ([Acts 2:41-43](#))

IV. The FEAR Of The Lord Does GOOD For Us Today

A. Holy Fear causes us to DEPART from evil.

- “Be not wise in thine own eyes: **FEAR** the Lord, and **Depart** from evil.” ([Prov.3:7](#))
- “The **FEAR** of the Lord is to **HATE** evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I **HATE**.” ([Prov.8:13](#))

B. Therefore Holy FEAR, Serves as a Basis for our Personal Holiness

- “Having therefore **THESE** **promises**, dearly beloved, let us **CLEANSE** ourselves ([Eph.5:26-27](#); [Acts 22:16](#)) from all **FILTHINESS** of the **flesh** and **spirit**, **PERFECTING** **holiness** in the **FEAR** of God.” ([2Cor.7:1](#))

C. Reverence Helps Us, in Our Study of the Inspired Word

- “My son, **IF** thou wilt **RECEIVE My Words**, and **HIDE My commandments WITH** thee; ² so that thou **INCLINE** thine **ear** unto **WISDOM**, and **APPLY** thine **heart** to **UNDERSTANDING**; ³ yea, **IF** thou criest **after KNOWLEDGE**, and liftest up thy **voice** for **UNDERSTANDING**; ⁴ **IF** thou **SEEKEST** her **AS silver**, and **SEARCHEST** for her **AS** for **HID** treasures; ⁵ **THEN** shalt thou **understand the FEAR** of the Lord, and **FIND** the **knowledge of God**. ⁶ For the Lord **GIVETH** **wisdom**: **OUT** of His **mouth** **COMETH** **knowledge** and **understanding**.” ([Prov.2:1-6](#))

D. FEAR and REVERENCE Helps us in Teaching the Word – ([2Tim.2:2](#))

Teach facts of course, but **INFLUENCE** others to **RESPECT** God and His Word – ([1Thess.2:13](#)).

- Religious leaders do not have sincere respect for God, when they disregard plain teaching, such as [Mk.16:16](#) and [1Pet.3:21](#) concerning one's soul salvation.
- It's Not a matter of **NOT** understanding, **BUT** a demonstration of infidelity! ...which Indicates the **ABSENCE** of **Reverence** for God and His Word, **WHEN** men **CHOOSE** religious **traditions** of men, Over **Devine TRUTH** ([Col.2:8](#)).

E. Fear of the Lord gives us quiet confidence.

- “Let **NOT** thine heart **ENVY** sinners:
BUT be thou **IN the FEAR of the Lord**, **ALL** the day long.” ([Prov.23:17](#))
- “When thou liest down, thou shalt **NOT** be afraid:
yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be **SWEET**.
²⁵ Be **NOT** afraid of **SUDDEN** fear,
NEITHER of the desolation of the wicked, **WHEN** it cometh.
²⁶ For **the LORD** shall be thy **CONFIDENCE**,
and shall **KEEP** thy foot, from being **TAKEN**.” ([Prov.3:24-26](#))

IN-CONCLUSION,

- Parents and grandparents should instill godly **FEAR** and **REVERENCE** in their children and grandchildren
- Preachers and Teachers need to present lessons designed to encourage this **AWE** for the Lord
- Elders need to have the **FEAR** of God in their own lives,
and make every effort to **lead** others to this disposition of heart.

Let us maintain the **FEAR** and **Confidence** of the Lord in our lives and hearts – [Prov.14:26](#)

Build your life on the right basis now –

- “**FEAR** God and **KEEP** His Commandments” [Ecc.12:13](#);

- You can do that by, having a “**change of mind**” or repenting of past sins ([Lk.13:3](#))
- By confessing your belief, that Jesus is the son of God ([Acts 8:36-38](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#))
- By putting on Christ, through baptism ([Gal.3:26-27](#));
- by **REMAINING** faithful ([Rev.2:10](#)), by **ENDURING** until the end ([Matt.10:22](#))
- AND by **ADDING** to your faith... ([2Pet.1:5-8](#))

May God help us to Seek Him, and to Come to Him, while opportunity exists.

If you have a spiritual need, Please **COME**, as together we **STAND** and **SING**.