

Podcast Episode Notes

Season 1 Episode 6 “The Fear of the Lord”

One of the most misunderstood concepts in the Bible is the “fear of the Lord.” Fear is a word with a negative connotation. We condemn anyone or anything that causes fear; we react from a place of fear; we take medications to calm fear and anxiety. But the Bible lists promises for those who fear God. Is there a disconnect? Isn’t God supposed to be loving? Why are we asked to practice “the fear of the Lord?”

Scriptures that state the many promises for those who fear the Lord:

- Fruitfulness (Exodus 1:17-21)
- Deterred from sin (Exodus 20:20)
- Blessings on us and our children (Deuteronomy 5:29)
- Prolonged days (Proverbs 9:10-11)
- Guidance (Psalms 25:12)
- The confiding of God (Psalms 25:14)
- Angelic protection/deliverance (Psalms 34:7)
- Provision for needs (Psalms 34:9)
- Wisdom (Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 9:10)
- Earned respect (Nehemiah 5:9)
- Blessing related to family life (Psalms 128)
- Companionship (Psalms 119:63)
- Wealth, honor and life (Proverbs 22:4)
- Fulfilled desires (Psalms 145:19)
- Abundant goodness (Psalms 31:19)
- Preservation of life (Proverbs 19:23)
- Honor of women (Proverbs 31:30)
- A heritage (Psalms 61:5)
- Blessings from God (Psalms 112:1-10)

Defining the Fear of the Lord (A Hebraic Perspective)

1) The Fear of the Lord is taking God seriously

- It is standing in deep respect and awe of who God is (Isaiah 40:12-31)
- It is the recognition that God is the Supreme Authority in the universe (Psalms 33:8-9)
- Moses encountered God and the ground became holy (Exodus 3:1-6)
- Isaiah saw a vision of heaven where God was holy (Isaiah 6:1-8)
- Our obedience to God is directly related to how much we fear the Lord (Genesis 22:1-14)
- When we see God for who He really is, which moves us to take Him seriously, it becomes a ridiculous thought to disobey God
- God wants to bring us to the place where *what He tells us to do* is not nearly as important as *Who tells us to do it*. The commands pale in the glory of a majestic Commander

2) The Fear of the Lord is the hatred of evil – Proverbs 8:13, 16:6

- God has absolutely no tolerance for sin (Gen.6:6-7; Gen.19-20; Lev.19:2).
- To the degree we Fear the Lord is the degree that we hate sin.
- We are only as holy as our thought lives are holy (Ps.19:14, 51:6; Phil.4:8).
- We are to have the Fear of the Lord on our tongues (Ps.34:11-14; Mt.12:36; James 3:1-12).
- We are to have the fear of the Lord in the way we relate to others (James 4:11-12).
- We are to walk in the Fear of the Lord in the way we relate to those in authority (Num.12:9-10; 1Sam.24:1-7; 2Ki.2:23-24; Ps.105:15).

3) The Fear of the Lord Leads to Seeking God in Everything

- Those who fear God reference Him in their daily lives, in everything they do (Psalms 25:14).
- Those who fear God avoid the sin of presumption—they avoid doing things without referencing God (Psalms 19:13).

The Fear of Man

To serve God, one must place no other gods before Him. Concerned more for man's reactions than God's reactions indicate a greater respect for man than for God. Rather than a righteous fear of God, this represents an unholy fear of man. The fear of man is present when we determine what we will or won't do based on anything other than God's truth and His leading in our lives.

- The fear of man brings a snare (Proverbs 29:25)
- The fear of man leads to people pleasing.
- The fear of man hinders our obedience to Jesus

Deuteronomy 8:6

"So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by **walking in his ways** and by **fearing him**."

Deuteronomy 10:11-13

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear the LORD your God**, to **walk in all his ways**, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"

2 Chronicles 6:30-31

"...for you, you only, know the hearts of the children of mankind, that they may **fear you** and **walk in your ways** all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers."

Psalms 128:1

"Blessed is everyone who **fears the LORD**, who **walks in his ways**!"

For more on this subject, check out Chapter 2 in *A Discipleship Journey*, Lionshare's primary tool for discipleship [here](#).