

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger”

Diagram of Proverbs 15:1

Line 1	Line 2	Lessons
A gentle answer	A harsh word	Your replies reveal your character: gentle or harsh?
Turns away	Stirs up	Notice the power you have, seen in these verb pictures
Wrath	Anger	Synonyms

“The heart of man plans his way, but Yahweh directs his steps”

Diagram of Proverbs 16:9

Line 1	Line 2	Lessons
The heart of man	Yahweh	Contrast: would-be-sovereign vs real Sovereign
Plans	Directs	Man strategizes vs God establishes
His way	His steps	God’s work impacts the details (man’s steps)

“He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him”

Diagram of Proverbs 14:31

Line 1	Line 2	Lessons
He who oppresses	He who is gracious to	Opposite of “oppress” is not “don’t oppress”. It is “being gracious”
The poor	The needy	Synonyms
Reproaches	Honors	Man’s actions reveal his attitude toward God
His Maker	Him	“His Maker” should bring humility, submission

“The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; ignorant fools despise wisdom and discipline”

Initial diagram for Prov 1:7

Line 1	Line 2
The fear of the Lord	
Is	
The beginning of	
Knowledge	Wisdom and discipline
	Ignorant fools
	Despise

“The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; ignorant fools despise wisdom and discipline”

Diagram of Proverbs 1:7

* = Common idea to both lines

Line 1	Line 2	Lessons
The fear of Yahweh	(No fear of Yahweh)	Ps 36:1 or fear of man (Pr 29:25)
Is	(Is)	
The beginning of	(No beginning for)	No spiritual beginning, no faith foundation
*Knowledge	*Wisdom & discipline	Synonyms
(Wise people)	Ignorant fools	
(Love)	Despise	Prov 12:1 love discipline = love knowledge

“When arrogance comes, then comes disgrace, but with the meek is wisdom”

Diagram of Proverbs 11:2

* = Common idea to both lines

Line 1	Line 2	Lessons
When arrogance comes	With the meek	“Meek looks weak but brings wisdom and honor”
*(There is)	*[There] is	
(Folly)	Wisdom	Wisdom, disgrace not opposites
Then comes disgrace	(Comes honor)	

“He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses”


Diagram of Proverbs 28:27

* = Common idea to both lines

Line 1	Line 2	Lessons
He who gives to	(He who withholds from)	Give, shut eyes not opposites
*The poor	*(The poor)	
(He who opens his eyes to)	He who shuts his eyes	Alert giver vs willfully blind withholder
Will never want	(Will want)	
(Will have many blessings)	Will have many curses	



Fear: The Holy
Seriousness of Joyful
Faith In Yahweh



Worldly wisdom is
wisdom apart from
faith in God



Proverbs 1:7
Message

The fear of
Yahweh is a
relationship of
faith, providing
rich benefits to
those who
zealously seek it

The Fear of Yahweh

I. Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh

“Then you will understand...” (Proverbs 2:1-5)

Proverbs 1:7

Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh

A. The fear of Yahweh is in essence a relationship with God

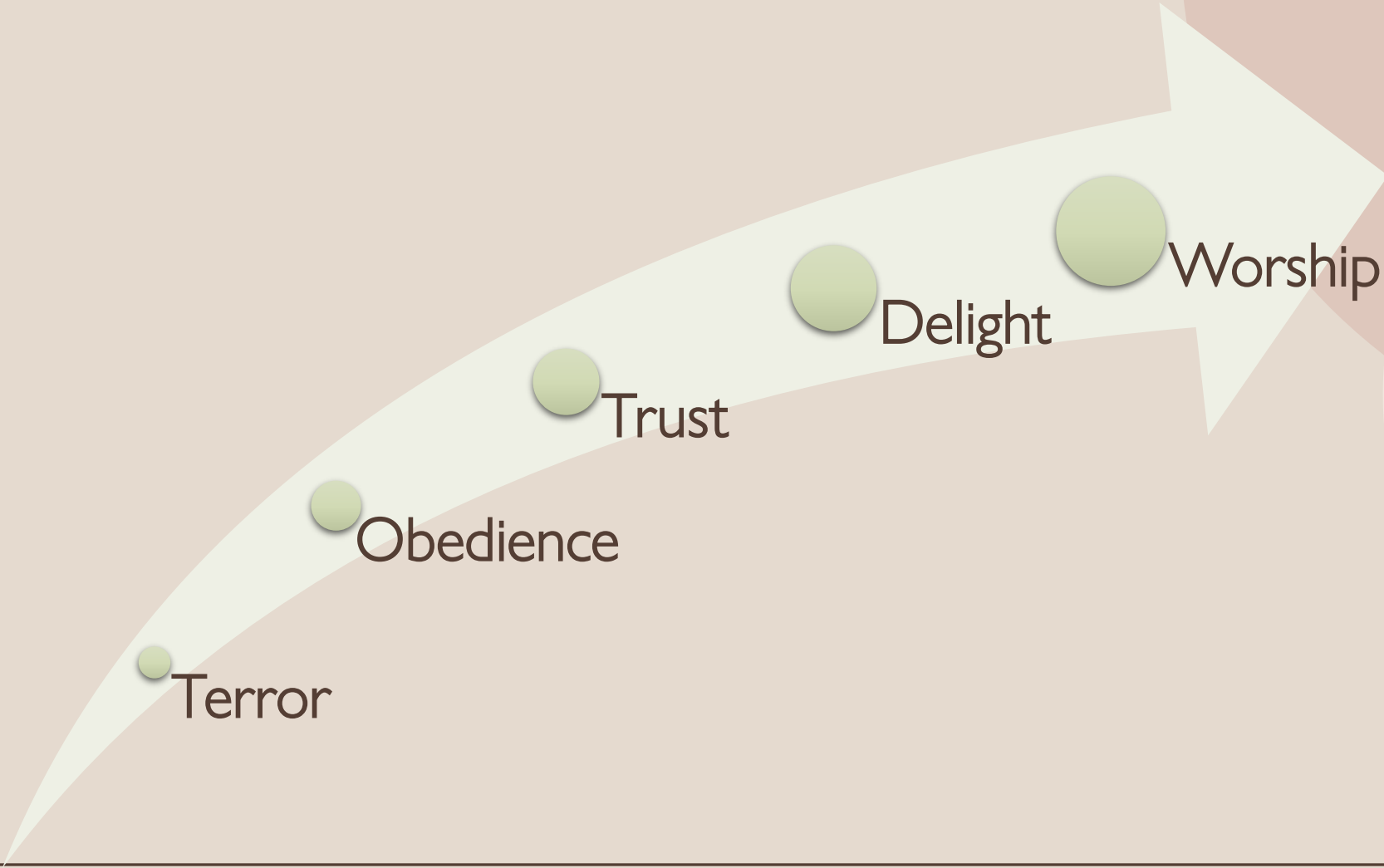
Knowledge (1:7a)

Knowledge of God (2:5)

Knowing God (9:10)

To fear Yahweh is to be in a close relationship with Him
(think Phil 3:8-10)

Fear of God - Broad range of meaning



Terror

Obedience

Trust

Delight

Worship

Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh

- A. The fear of Yahweh is in essence a relationship with God
- B. The fear of Yahweh is expressed in our faith and obedience

Two sides of the same coin: fear of Yahweh, turn from evil (Prov 3:7)

Aka: faith and repentance

Trust (Prov 29:25)

Humility (Prov 22:4; 15:33)

FEAR OF YAHWEH = RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH IN HIM

Genuine faith is not a flippant faith but a fearful faith

A person “does not have true or ultimate knowledge until he is in a redemptive relationship of reverential awe with God” (John MacArthur, Study Bible note on Prov 1:7)

“this fear of the Lord is the evidence of faith” (Allen Ross, *Expositor's*, vol. 5, p. 890)

Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh

- A. The fear of Yahweh is in essence a relationship with God
- B. The fear of Yahweh is expressed in our faith and obedience
- C. The fear of Yahweh is being chastened in love

Believers have a reverential respect, a sobering awe of Yahweh because He chastens them in love (Prov 15:33; 8:13; 16:6; done in love, 3:11-12)

FEAR OF THE LORD FOR BELIEVERS

“This fear of the Lord means *reverent submission that leads to obedience*, and it is interchangeable with “worship,” “rely on,” “trust,” and “hope in”” (Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*, p. 97).

“The Bible teaches that God’s people are no longer driven by terror-fear, or fear that has to do with punishment. Instead, we are blessed with worship-fear, the reverential awe motivated more by love and the honor that is due him” (p. 98)

The Fear of Yahweh

- I. Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh
- II. Be refreshed by its benefits
 - A. The Lord hears those in distress who fear Him (Prov 1:29)

Proverbs 1:7

The Fear of Yahweh

- I. Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh
- II. Be refreshed by its benefits
 - A. The Lord hears those in distress who fear Him (Prov 1:29)
 - B. Fearing Yahweh yields an abundant life of fellowship with Him (14:26-27; 19:23; 10:27)

Life “refers to abundant life in fellowship with the eternal and living God” (Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, vol. 1, p. 240)

Proverbs 1:7

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- I. Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh
- II. Be refreshed by its benefits
 - A. The Lord hears those in distress who fear Him (Prov 1:29)
 - B. Fearing Yahweh yields an abundant life of fellowship with Him (14:26-27; 19:23; 10:27)
 - C. The fear of Yahweh is enough to satisfy us (15:16)

The fear of Christ is a sense of joyful wonder and sobering awe at His majesty

Proverbs 1:7

HOW CAN GOD BE ENOUGH? (PROV 15:16)

“Seen clearly, the dazzling beauty and splendor of God must cause our hearts to quake” (Michael Reeves, *Rejoice and Tremble*, p. 53).

The fear of the Lord is “a heartfelt quaking at the goodness and greatness and glory of the Redeemer” (p. 132). “

Awe” doesn’t “quite capture the physical intensity, the happy thrill, or the exquisite delight” (p. 58)

The Fear of Yahweh

- I. Seek to understand the fear of Yahweh
- II. Be refreshed by its benefits
- III. Respond with a steady zeal for it

“Do not let your heart be zealous for sinners, but let your heart be zealous always for the fear of Yahweh” (Prov 23:17, my translation)

Proverbs 1:7

FEAR OF GOD – THE BEGINNING...

Beginning refers to “the first and controlling principle”
(Derek Kidner, *Proverbs*, p. 59)

“What the alphabet is to reading, notes to reading music,
and numerals to mathematics, the fear of the LORD is to
attaining the revealed knowledge of this book”
(Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, vol. 1, p. 181)