

The Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 1:1-7;9:10, and more

July 6, 2025

Independence Day Weekend

INTRODUCTION: *The word “fear” has many contexts, reasons and levels of intensity. Fear can be Good or Bad; Smart or Foolish; Holy or Sinful (Godward or Satan ward); Real or Imagined.*

“The loss of the fear of God is what ushered in our modern age of anxiety, but the fear of God is the very antidote to our fretfulness.” Michael Reeves, “Rejoice and Tremble”, page 24

PRAYER: Lord, this morning I am here for you to move fears out of my

life that need to be moved out and to move in the one thing that needs to be moved in, the fear of you. There are fears, anxieties, superstitions, that have sat on me for years, and I’ve turned a blind eye to them and allowed them to become a stronghold in my heart. In so doing, I’ve allowed the enemy to make areas in my heart off limits to you. I want that to end today. I want to know the fear of you, live the fear of you, desire above all else the fear of you for that is what you promised for me is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. Today is going to be a liberation day, a day when my bondage to ungodly fears begins to melt away. I pray my chains of fear hit the floor as I now walk in, as never before, this great truth, that you spoke to your disciples, and speak to me your disciple, “Whom the son sets free, is free indeed.” I not only pray this for myself, but for everyone in this room and watching. In the all-powerful name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

The ungodly fear(s) the Lord is convicting me of : _____

The superstition(s) God is convicting me of: _____

The Fear of God = Godly Wisdom and Understanding

If we FOMO on the pleasure of God in our fearful/joyful obedience of him, we won’t FOMO on missing out on the temporary, destructive, God dishonoring pleasures of sin.

Proverbs 1:1-7 *The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:² To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.⁷ **The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

Psalms 111:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!*

Proverbs 4:7 *The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.*

Knowledge vs Wisdom: Knowledge is what is gathered over time through study of the Scriptures. It can be said that wisdom, in turn, acts properly upon that knowledge. Wisdom is the fitting application of knowledge. Knowledge understands the light has turned red; wisdom applies the brakes. Knowledge sees the quicksand; wisdom walks around it. Knowledge memorizes the Ten Commandments; wisdom obeys them. Knowledge learns of God; wisdom loves Him. (Got Questions.org, “What is the Difference Between Wisdom and Knowledge?”)

- **Fear** (Heb. Yirah) *The fulness of the word is AWE. Respect, reverence and worship; trembling; exceeding fear.*
- **Wisdom** (Heb. khok-maw) *skillful, wisdom, to be wise, prudent.*

Mark 4:35-41 *On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*

For the believer, this Yirah (fear) is to know even though God CAN obliterate us and throw the dust of our remains into another galaxy, we know he won't.

- **Beginning** (Heb. ray-sheeth). *the first, order or rank; chief or principal thing*

Matt. 6:33 *Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

We Must Get What By Grace We've Got: Godly Fear

Supernatural wisdom can only come from a supernatural source. Our "getting wisdom", though, is what we must actively GET! God has given himself to us, but he calls on us to actively pursue and continuously embrace what we've got (actually, WHO we've got!)

Proverbs 2:6-10 *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,⁸ guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.*

Psalms 86:11 *Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

Jeremiah 32:38-40 *And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.*

To Fear God is to Know God and to Know God is to Fear God

God's wisdom imparted to us through his Word and by the Spirit works in us to know him, trust him, love him, serve him, and with ever increasing awe, fear him more!

John 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

Ephesians 1:16-19 *I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give **(brings forth, powers)** you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places...*

Proverbs 9:10 *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding".*

Two Worlds of Wisdom

As different as Noon and a moonless midnight, sweet and bitter, dead and alive, on and off, God and Satan, so divergent are the wisdoms of this fallen world, its demonic curators and the Kingdom of Heaven.

James 3:13-18 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Fighting Our Way To Fear (*Fearing God, that is!*)

He earnestly desires that us to desire Him. He couldn't desire us any more than He does. He proved it. He is for us. He has fully accepted us into the Beloved so we can fear him.

Galatians 5:16-17 ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments, and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

The Fear of God is Grown in the Soil of Humility

1 Peter 5:6-9 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith...

Isaiah 66:1-2 Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? ² All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Jeremiah 9:23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

If it's MY wisdom, MY strength, and MY riches, MY stuff, MY life, I'm fearing the loss of what's mine. If I possess nothing BUT GOD who possesses all things (including me), then I have but one thing to fear; not working out my salvation in fear and trembling of the One who has promised to hold me and love me until the day HE destroys all sin and all death...and all fear.

Now, until then, will we fight the good fight of faith against the world, the flesh and the devil, and cry out for the fear of the Lord?