

## **The Fear of the Lord**

I used to think the fear of the Lord was that I needed to have ‘fear’ of the Lord. And when I thought ‘fear’, I thought of the thing I was most terrified of, and I linked the Fear of the Lord to be the same but a bit more than that, as ‘the fear’ needed to be something most feared. However, I struggled to fear the Lord in that way, and I would often read scripture and each time I read promises and verses regarding the fear of the Lord, I would just say to the Lord, it is not a promise I will receive as I really don’t feel this fear of the Lord. I eventually gave up trying to accomplish getting this fear for the Lord. I just didn’t have this fear for the Lord. I thought something was wrong with me and I got sad because I felt I let down the Lord in this area of my life.

Over time, I got so discouraged because I could not fear the Lord as I thought he wanted me to fear him. However, slowly but surely, he started to show me and give me understanding of this “Fear of the Lord”.

Firstly, he had to set me free from trying to make myself fear him by giving revelation to this one scripture:

***2 Tim 1: 7 – For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.***

He showed me that fear is a spirit – a demon spirit! It is not for the believer. This needs to be cast out of a believer’s life. And this is not the kind of fear God wants us to experience. Jesus came to set us free from this kind of fear. This is an evil fear, which keeps us in bondage, and it is very tormenting. It is not godly fear. It is not the fear he wants us to have.

Then he showed me that the Fear of the Lord is a Spirit too – the Holy Spirit!

***Isa 11:2 – And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.***

Here we see the sevenfold Spirit of God. This tells us that the Holy Spirit is also known as the Fear of the Lord. It is one of the attributes of the Holy Spirit.

Now, when we think of the fear of the Lord, we need to remind ourselves that it is all about the Lord. The Holy Spirit is the one who will reveal himself in all his fullness as we walk in union and fellowship with him. The more we yield to him and allow him to lead, teach and guide us, the more he will reveal himself to us.

***Rev 5:6 -And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.***

This really gripped me and got my attention.

***Isa 11:3 – And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:***

It is in him – ‘The Holy Spirit’ and through him, that we develop and learn the correct way to fear the Lord. It is reverence for the Lord. He started to remind me of how my relationship with my earthly Dad was. He showed me how I feared my dad. This is a different fear. Not a terrified fear, but one of reverence. It is a deep respect for someone!!!

***Psa 9:19 – Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true, each one is fair.***

When we revere someone, we want to please and honour that person. We conduct ourselves in a manner that this person would approve of, and we would not just say, speak or do things that we know the person disapproved of. We would watch how we conduct ourselves and where we go and what we do.

***2 Chr 19:7 – Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.***

Do we have deep respect for our God? How do we show him respect? Do we revere him? Today, I want to encourage believers to hold fast to this truth. Maybe many like me did not understand how we should fear the Lord and therefore struggle in our journey with the Lord. Sometimes we are so terrified to even pray or talk to the Lord about the way we feel. Are we completely honest with the Lord or are we afraid to share certain things with him? If we are afraid to share everything with him, this can cause a hinderance in our relationship with our Lord and it causes us not to get close to him due to being exposed by him.

***Psa 34:11 – Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the Lord.***

***Job 28:28 kjv – And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.***

***Psa 2:11,12 – Serve the Lord with reverent fear, and rejoice with trembling. Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities – for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him!***

***Prov 9:10 – Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgement.***

***Prov 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

***Prov 3:7 – Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.***

***Psa 111:10 – Fear of the Lord, is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Praise him forever!***

***Prov 2:2-5 – Tune your ears to wisdom and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasure. Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God.***

***Prov 15:16 – Better to have little, with fear for the Lord, than to have great treasure and inner turmoil.***

***Isa 33:6 – In that day he will be your sure foundation, providing a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the Lord will be your treasure.***

***Ps 31:19 – How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.***

***Ps 34:9 – Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need.***

***Psa 147: 11 – No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love.***

***Prov 16:6 – Unfailing love and faithfulness make atonement for sin. By fearing the Lord, people avoid evil.***

***Psa 33: 18,19 – But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them in times of famine.***

***Prov 23:17 – Don't envy sinners, but always continue to fear the Lord.***

***Prov 1:29 – For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord.***

***Prov 8:13 – All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption, and perverse speech.***

***Prov 10:27 – Fear the Lord lengthens one's life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.***

***Prov 19:23 – Fear the Lord leads to life, bringing security and protection from harm.***

***Prov 14:26,27 – Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children. Fear the Lord is a life-giving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death.***

***Prov 22:4 – True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor and long life.***

***Acts 9:31 – The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.***

***Psa 25:14 – The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.***