
The Fear of the Lord

Selected Scriptures

In Luke 2:52, we read that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. Wisdom (Greek- “sophia”) means learning to fear God. Proverbs 9:10 says that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” To say that Jesus grew in wisdom is simply another way of saying that He lived in the fear of God.

As God’s children, we are commanded to fear the Lord (1 Peter 2:17, Eph. 5:21). God reminds Moses in Deut. 5:29 of His longing for His people to fear Him (cf. Psalm 86:11).

1. What is the _____?

The Bible describes two kinds of fear. The negative fear (the kind of fear which a slave would feel towards a harsh master) and the positive fear, often called the “filial” fear (the loving kind of fear a child would have feel towards his father). The fear of the Lord is a mixture of feelings of reverence and pleasure, joy and awe which fills our hearts when we realize who God is and what He has done for us. In Psalm 130:4 says “But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.” This means that the *fear of the Lord is produced by _____ for us.*

2. Why _____ the Lord?

a. The fear of the Lord _____ *all other fears*

If we have the fear of the Lord, we do not need to fear the people or the things that seek to harm us (1 Peter 3:13-14).

b. The fear of the Lord _____ *us from continuing in sin*

In Exodus 20:18-20, after Moses received the Ten Commandments of God, God manifested Himself to the people through thunderings, lightning flashes, sound of the trumpet and the smoking mountain. Then Moses said in verse 20 “Do not fear for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”

c. The fear of the Lord _____ *in our character*

Christians who fear the Lord endeavors to cleanse himself from all filthiness of sin that he may become holy unto the Lord (2 Corinthians 7:1).

d. The fear of the Lord _____ *in our lives*

We do not only avoid what is wrong, but we begin to desire to do what is right and pleasing to God (ex. Noah Heb. 11:7).

3. What are the _____ of fearing the Lord?

a. Fearing the Lord brings pleasure and glory to God (Psa. 147:11).

b. Fearing the Lord brings confidence (Prov. 14:26)

c. Fearing the Lord brings assurance to our prayers (Psalm 145:19)

d. Fearing the Lord brings blessings and prolongs life (Psalm 112:1; Prov. 10:27)

Since my Lord Jesus set an example for me to follow, I need to grow in the fear of God by **knowing** Him, loving Him and serving Him. I must develop a desire to know God, and to live more closely to Him. I must come to a deeper understanding of Christ and what He has done for me and I must be willing to make sacrifices for my spiritual growth.