

## THE FEAR OF THE LORD

21/10/12

*A genuine and healthy fear of God, coupled with the anointing of the Spirit, is essential for salvation. It is also vital for overcoming the various temptations of this life. While many focus on 'love', they overlook the fact that a good relationship with God, is impossible without understanding the value of fear. A healthy respect for the Lord develops the true and effective love, which God describes. Fear is the attitudinal foundation upon which salvation can be built; this is the solid basis upon which true Godly love functions. We are reminded that the battle of life is only resolved, when death is defeated... this should be the primary commitment of all humans... anything less, is to be greatly feared.*

**Both Solomon and Jesus Christ had the same advice to offer, on this matter... both feared God.**

**PRO 9:10** The fear (overwhelming awe) of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding. *The starting point begins with a true and lasting sense of fearful respect for God.*

**MAT 10:28** And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. *First the fear, then comes the loving balance.* **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. **30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

**The Old and New Testaments are both bound by the need to fear God as a foundation principle.**

**HEB 12:18** For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, *Through Jesus we can now come before God and not be struck dead.*

**&22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **&24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. **25** See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: **&28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: **29** For our God is a consuming fire.

**A New Testament example of Godly fear is revealed when Ananias And Saphira cheat the church of money.**

**ACT 5:5** And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. **11** And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

**Respect for authority begins at childhood (likewise... right at the beginning of our walk in the Lord).**

**EPH 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. **2 Honour** (respect) thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) **3** That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

*Respect builds commitment and allows for correction and growth... this also gives God time with us.*

**PRO 19:18** Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. *We need to take the advantage while it is here.*

**PRO 22:15** Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child (novice); but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. *Mistakes and weaknesses need to be addressed while there is time and opportunity.*

**PRO 23:13** Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. **14** Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell. *Discipline needs to be effective... God reveals how to train children as well as how to direct adults. Give your child the best possible options that God offers.*

**Respect for God has been a biblical necessity for centuries.... Since Adam and Eve, even till now.**

**PRO 1:23** Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. **24** Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

**25** But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: **26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; **27** When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. **28** Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: **29** For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: **30** They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. **31** Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. *This is the fate of those who won't take direction and who won't show due respect for the Lord and his people. We have a wonderful opportunity because we still have time and we can learn from each other. Amen.*