

The Fear of the Lord

Pro 2:3-9 (NKJV) Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, [4] If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; [5] **Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.** [6] 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 uprightly**; [8] He **guards the paths of justice**, And **preserves the way of His saints**. [9] **Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.**

The Presence of God is in us and around us all the time...

*** Think about that for a minute

The Bible tells us that The Spirit of God sees and hears everything.

- **He can see the motivations of our heart, and all of the thoughts in our heads...**

He knows the intimate details of our LIFE

- **Our goals, our fears... What we love... what we hate...**

– AND YET- He still loves us..... unconditionally.

*** Just take a minute to think about that...

For those who **Cultivate an intimate KNOWLEDGE OF GOD** the Bible says that they will

- **KNOW THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN??

- **DOES A TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD PRODUCE FEAR?**

TESTIMONY

- **WHEN I WAS IN SEMINARY I READ A BOOK BY A.W. TOZER called “The Knowledge of God”**
 - **Changed my life**
 - **IT TAUGHT ME THE FEAR OF THE LORD**
 - **Listed and described His attributes**
 - **Holiness, Perfection of God**
 - **Justice of God**
 - **Sovereignty of God**
 - **Faithfulness, Goodness,**
 - **FOR THE FIRST TIME – I DISCOVERED THE FEAR OF THE LORD!**
 - **I saw His History with His people**
 - **How he insists on holiness,**
 - **How He allows pain to mature us**
 - **How He brings judgement on those who continually disobey Him**
 - **I knew this about God – but I had lost the FEAR OF THE LORD**
 - **I had transformed my picture of God into a loving father that was happy with me no matter what I did**

I believe that Most believers suffer with “fear” about all kinds of things because

THEY DON’T HAVE a sufficient “knowledge of God”

- **A true “Knowledge of God” will allow them to understand the “FEAR OF THE LORD”**

What is the Knowledge of God?

- **It’s not “knowing about God”**
- **It’s an awareness of God in your life – knowing God like you “know your roommate, wife or family”**
 - **Knowing that he is RIGHT HERE.... All the time...**
 - **Knowing about HIS IMMUTABLE NATURE AND - that he cares about you intimately**
 - **Knowing His Heart AS YOU LIVE....**

- Feeling his pleasure when you are faithful = Favor of the Lord
- Feeling his displeasure when you are disobedient = Conviction
 - Responding with repentance = Keeping a “short account”

What is living “WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE” OF GOD

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- The knowledge of God is living in interaction with God
 - Interaction with God – Creates True Character...
 - Hearing sound wisdom from Him
 - Getting Divine knowledge
 - Walking in righteousness – living and speaking out of right relationship
 - Understanding & guarding Justice
 - Experiencing His protection (preservation)
 - Walking in obedience (feeling divine affirmation)
 - Standing up for what is right (feeling divine affirmation)
 - Living in Discernment (transforming others by speaking and living like Jesus)
- Most traditional Christians live without the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD”
 - They know that God exists but they don’t interact with the Spirit (presence) of God in their lives
 - They say “I can’t hear god”
 - They say, “I don’t feel God in my life”
 - They say, “I am alone”

BECAUSE THEY DON’T FEAR GOD – THEY FEAR NEARLY EVERYTHING ELSE IN THEIR LIVES

1. FEAR IS A REAL.. IT IS A NATURAL MECHANISM FOR SELF PRESERVATION

- WHEN YOU STAND NEXT TO THE EDGE OF A CANYON – YOU FEEL IT!

FEAR HAS IT’S PLACE..

- IT keeps us from doing things that cause us PHYSICAL DAMAGE & DEATH
 - IT IS A NATURAL RESPONSE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH
 - That is what FEAR WAS DESIGNED TO DO..
 - FEAR WAS DESIGNED AS A NATURAL RESPONSE TO AVOID PAIN & DEATH
 - EACH OF US CAN CHOOSE WHAT TO FEAR.. WHAT KIND OF DEATH TO FEAR

Remember the “NO FEAR” FAD – During the 90’s “NO FEAR” stickers appeared on cars.

- It was a line of Aftermarket car parts... but it struck a cord in people
- WE ALL WANT TO LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT FEAR
 - We want to live powerfully – In the presence of God without anything to fear

THIS IS WHERE THE FEAR OF THE LORD COMES IN...

2. WHEN WE FEAR GOD – WE FEAR NOTHING ELSE...

(Psa 19:9-11 NIV) "**The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.** The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. {10} They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than

honey, than honey from the comb. {11} **By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**"

- The FEAR OF GOD is A GOOD FEAR... It's Pure.. Produces life
 - o It causes us to KNOW and DO what is right
 - o It causes us to live powerfully

Luk 12:4-5 (NLT) "Dear friends, **don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body**; they cannot do any more to you after that. [5] But I'll tell you whom to fear. **Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear.**

- GOD IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE FEAR OBJECT
 - o He is the One who has the ULTIMATE POWER in the heavens and on the earth
 - o IF WE HAVE A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD – HE FIGHTS FOR US... NOT AGAINST US

When We fear God...

- We fear no JUDGEMENT placed on us by men
 - o We are living under the judgement of God – who judges rightly
- We fear no CRITICISM placed on us by people
 - o We are living under the DIRECTION OF GOD
- We Don't fear the REJECTION of people
 - o Because we are living in the ACCEPTANCE of God

WE DON'T EVEN FEAR HELL...

HELL IS REAL...

- Hell is a place of unending torment - IT was created for the Devil and His angels
- THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT
 - o God will punish those who REJECT HIM
 - This is a hard statement
 - It produces much NATURAL FEAR
 - BUT THERE IS NO FEAR FOR THOSE WHO LIVE
 - o IN "THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD"

THE FINAL JUDGEMENT:

AS I READ THIS YOU WILL FEEL THE FEAR OF THE LORD

- o YOU WILL ALSO FEEL A COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO DON'T LIVE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD!!

Mat 25:31-46 (NLT) "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. [32] All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. [34] "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. [35] For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. [36] I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' [37] "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? [38] Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? [39] When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40] "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' [41] "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. [42] For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. [43] I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' [44] "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you

hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' [45] "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.' [46] "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life." "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' {41} "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

PEOPLE ARE NOT SENT TO HELL BECAUSE THEY WERE "BAD.."

BUT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT

- HONOR THE LIVING RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY GOD
- CHOOSE TO KNOW OR OBEY HIM
- THEY DID NOT CHOOSE TO KNOW THE ONE WHO CREATED THEM
 - THEY CHOSE DEATH = SEPERATION FROM GOD

WHEN WE DON'T FEAR GOD.. WE FEAR HELL.. BECAUSE HELL IS REAL!

WHEN WE FEAR GOD – WE FEAR NO ONE...

- WE FEAR NOTHING
- WE DON'T FEAR WHAT ANYONE CAN DO TO US
- WE DON'T FEAR DEATH OR HELL
- WE HAVE NO FEAR
 - We fear nothing on the earth..

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE...

3. LIVING WITH NO FEAR = DYING TO SELF

JESUS LIVED WITHOUT FEAR AND HE PROVIDED US WITH A WAY TO LIVE THIS WAY

Mat 10:38-39 (NIV) Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39] **Whoever finds their life will lose it**, and whoever **loses their life for my sake will find it.**

"Dead men are not afraid to die"

- If we LIVE in the knowledge of God = We DIE to self
 - We have no fear of what ANY ONE or ANYTHING can do to us!

DYING TO SELF IS HARD

"Anything I have ever done that ultimately was worthwhile... initially scared me to death."

-- Neil Armstrong

GODLY FEAR LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION

EXAMPLE OF "GOOD FEAR"

- CAROL GOING AWAY – VACUUMING THE CARPET

LOSING YOUR LIFE means NOT LIVING ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN PLAN..

- IT MEANS LIVING THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD...
- FEAR OF GOD – Moves you

DAVID DESCRIBED IT...

(Psa 27:1 NIV) "The LORD is my light and my salvation-- **whom shall I fear?** The **LORD is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?**"

- MY STRONGHOLD – the thing I trust IN – is not the world

- I TRUST AND RELY ON GOD = WHO WILL HARM ME?

GOD TAKES CARE OF THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

(Psa 33:18-20 NIV) "**But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,** on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, {19} **to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.** {20} We **wait in hope** for the LORD; he is our help and our shield."

- GOD WATCHES OVER US
 - Delivers us from Death and Keeps us alive in the midst of difficulties

THE LORD SURROUNDS AND PROTECTS THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM..

(Psa 34:7-8 NIV) "**The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.** {8} Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him."

- THE PRESENCE OF GOD SURROUNDS THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

THE LORD HAS COMPASSION ON THOSE WHO FEAR

(Psa 103:13-14 NIV) "As a father has compassion on his children, so the **LORD has compassion on those who fear him;** {14} for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust."

CAUSES US TO BE JOYFUL & BLESSED..

(Psa 40:3-4 NIV) "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. **Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.** {4} **Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust,** who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods."

- THE FEAR OF GOD – DRIVES US TO TRUST HIM
 - Because of HOW POWERFUL, BEAUTIFUL and MERCIFUL HE IS

THOSE WHO FEAR LACK NOTHING!!!!

(Psa 34:9 NIV)"Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing."

WHAT IS THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The fear of the Lord is living in openness and transparency in the presence of God.

- Knowing that He loves us unconditionally
- Welcoming the "Knowledge of God"
- Allowing the knowledge of God to DIRECT what WE DO and SAY
- Allowing the knowledge of God to BRING DISCERNMENT and DIRECTION
- Responding to the CONVICTION OF GOD
 - Feeling His pleasure with obedience
 - Sensing his displeasure with disobedience
 - Changing course = Living in abundant life

A FULL DESCRIPTION

Psa 34:11-19 (NKJV) Come, you children, listen to me; **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.** [12] Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that **he may see good?** [13] **Keep your tongue from evil,** And your **lips from speaking deceit.** [14] **Depart from evil** and **do good; Seek peace and pursue it.** [15] The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And **His ears are open to their cry.** [16] The face of the LORD is **against those who do evil,** To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. [17] The **righteous cry out, and the LORD hears,** And **delivers them out of all their troubles.** [18] The LORD is **near to those who have a broken heart,**

And saves such as have a contrite spirit. [19] **Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

- The FEAR OF THE LORD

- We will “See Good” – understand what is good, enjoy what is good
- Keeps us from speaking evil – God puts a governor on your tongue (tells us what NOT to say)
- Helps us to Flee from evil – Tells us when to GET AWAY from doing evil
- Teaches us to Do Good – shows us what is good for us
- We seek & pursue PEACE – understanding how to live with “nothing missing, nothing broken”
- WHEN WE DO EVIL
 - The Lord reveals his displeasure (is against)
 - He shows us the consequences of evil
- WHEN WE REPENT
 - Broken Heart – The presence of God is near
- A LIFE OF TROUBLE
 - Life is full of trouble no matter who you are
 - GOD DELIVERS THOSE WHO FEAR HIM **OUT OF ALL TROUBLE**

AWAKEN TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

1Co 15:34 (NKJV) **Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God.** I speak this to your shame.

We know that the Presence of God is in us and among us.

- We know that the Spirit of God (His person) is here with us all the time
- We know that we can interact with the Spirit of God
 - We don't need to have two modes: secular mode, religious mode
 - God is with us
 - We don't need to “pray Him in”
 - Some people feel that he “wanders off and tha

You have a choice: You can Fear God or Fear Man

- There is no choice to live “without fear”
- Pro 29:25 (NKJV) The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

WHEN WE FEAR GOD... WE FEAR NOTHING ELSE

- What would it look like if we had no fear of anything on the earth??

Rom 8:38-39 (NIV) For I am convinced that neither **death nor life**, neither **angels nor demons**, neither the **present nor the future**, nor **any powers**, [39] neither **height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When we fear God....

- We don't fear death
- We don't fear demons
- We don't fear the future
- We don't fear any “power” (exousia – influence of culture)
- We don't fear anything high, or anything deep
- NOTHING IN ALL CREATION