

## The Blessings of Fearing God

July 31, 2022

We are talking about fearing God, one of the most important subjects there is.

- That's because fearing God is necessary for our salvation in Christ, our spiritual growth, and it brings glory to God. It's what each person in the world needs to do - and that people are not fearing God is the main reason we have so many problems.

- Ecclesiastes 12:13 says, "*The conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep His commandments.*" The conclusion, when all is said and done, is that you need to fear God.

- Samuel, in his final message to the Israelites, said, "*Be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart.*" 1 Samuel 12:24

- Solomon, in his introduction to Proverbs said, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*" (Prov. 1:7). The beginning, the foundation of your relationship with God, and of your entire Christian life, is fearing the Lord.

In Deut. 10:12, Moses, in summarizing the purpose of the Jews, says to them:

*"Now O Israel what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...."* What is the first thing God wants the Israelites to do?

They are to fear God - and that's because it is foundational, it leads to all these other things they are to do - walking in His ways, loving Him, and serving Him.

- Here is how Peter sums things up for Christians. He says, "*Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.*" 1 Peter 2:17

- And so fearing God is essential, foundational, fundamental, absolutely necessary for each and every Christian, and really, for every person in the world. Psalm 33:8

Rom. 1:18-3:20 establishes the fact that man's primary and root problem is his sin, is that he has rebelled against God, disobeyed God, and in essence, has not feared God.

- Rom. 3:10-18. Sinners are not seeking God, and their lives are unrighteous, seen in both their actions and their words. We also know they are miserable, have no peace, and have all kinds of problems, and it's all because of their sin. And the root cause, the real reason for their sin is that they are not fearing God.

Prov. 1:7. And so in this one verse, we sum up and contrast the life of the saved and the life of the lost. The saved person, by God's grace, fears God, and he has wisdom, he knows God. The lost, the unsaved person, by his own choice, has sinned against God, has rejected God, has rebelled against God, and has despised wisdom.

- Rom. 1:18-32, which we've looked at so many times, describes in more detail what sinners do, and why they're sinners, and why they're fools. Rom. 1:21-23

- The main reason we see problems in people's lives, in our young people and in our families and country is because people aren't fearing God. And therefore, they have no respect for human authority, whether it's parents, teachers, policeman, and pastors too.

And people that don't fear God disregard and disobey the laws. We see all this crime on the streets, but it's not just the criminals. We look at many in the justice dept., and more and there is no justice, and criminals are just being let go, and then they're back on the streets.

- Proverbs 29 – All these vss. I've read relate to this one thing, that the person has rejected God, that he does not honor and fear God, and therefore, he is a fool.

That more and more people aren't fearing God is also seen in the increasing sexual sin in this country. The perversion in people's lives is really shocking. Rom. 1:24-27

- The people who reject God, who don't honor God are fools, and God gives them over to their sin. And now we see that gross sexual sin is much more prevalent in our country, and is being promoted in our schools, media, corporations, and even in churches.

I want to do a quick review of what it means to fear God. It means you know who God is, and you know what He does, and then you respond to Him in a right way. Fearing God means rightly responding to God because you rightly know God. You respect God, you revere Him, you humble yourself before God, because of who He is and because of what He does - you bow down to Him, you look up to Him, you honor Him.

Rom. 1 talks about knowing God is your creator, as One who's all powerful, as One who made you and the world, and so you fear Him. Ps. 33:6-9. Ps. 139:13-15. *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."* You understand that your human body is incredible, amazing, and wonderfully made, and that God is the One who made you, and so you fear Him. You've all been outside when, all of a sudden, you hear this thunder, and it's super loud, and you know God caused the thunder, and that should cause you to fear Him, to be in awe of Him. There's thunder - *"OK God", I will go inside now."* Job 37:16

Psalm 130:1-4. The true Christian knows he should be judged and punished for his sins, but he also knows that because of God's love, because of Christ's death, he's forgiven of all his sins. And therefore, he fears God, he has this great respect and honor for who God is, and a great love for Him too. Heb. 12:28-29

- The true Christian fears God, reveres God because He's holy, but also because He's merciful. And knowing and seeing both these aspects of God's character should affect the heart of the Christian, and cause him to fear God. Ps. 33:18

Now a Christians fears God, and he should know that growing in the fear of the Lord is essential for his Christian life, for his spiritual growth and spiritual success. Acts 9:31

- Deut. 10:12 - What is the first thing in this list? It is fearing God, which means that fearing God is foundational to all these other things listed here, to keeping God's commandments, to listening to Him, to serving Him, to clinging to Him.

- I cannot stress enough the importance of fearing God, that it must be first in your life, it must be central and foundational to the entirety of your Christian life.

Now fearing God is what you are to do, but it is what God needs to enable you to do. Anything good we do for God is because God enables and empowers us to do it, and that includes fearing Him.

- Psalm 34:9, 11. We're commanded to fear God, but it's God who must teach us to fear Him, and enable us to fear Him. Psalm 86:11 says, "*Unite my heart to fear Your name.*"
- Jer. 32:40 - "*I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so they will not turn away from Me.*"

Phil. 2:12-13. This says you're to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. And when it says, "*work out your salvation*", it's talking about your entire Christian life, today, tomorrow, and up until that time when you go to heaven. And again, we see that fearing God is the key, is foundational, is essential to working out your salvation.

- But what does vs. 13 say? That God is the One working in you, that God enables you to fear Him, and enabling you to work out your salvation. Ps. 86:11

Prov. 2 tells us another key to being able to fear God. Let's see what it says.

Prov. 2:1-16. The first four vss. tell us that knowing and having God's word in your heart is the key to fearing God. That is, knowing and believing the truths, the commands, the promises of God's word are foundational to fearing God.

But you must have this desire and desperation to know His word, you must be seeking the truth, be searching in God's word, be studying God's word.

- We're not just talking about casually reading God's word, or just coming to church on Sunday. We're talking about getting into God's word, and crying out to Him for understanding, and searching for the truth like its hidden treasure. Back yard

Then it says you'll discern the fear the Lord, that is, you'll fear the Lord. The result of God's word being in your mind and heart is that you'll fear the Lord. And that results in knowledge and wisdom, which is what Prov. 1:7 says.

- Fearing God also results in God guarding your life, God shielding you and delivering you from evil, God helping you know what is right and wrong, God leading you, God protecting you from bad relationships and giving you good relationships. Prov. 2:20-21

I can't stress enough the importance of loving, studying, and learning God's word, for then you'll fear the Lord, and then God will give you all these spiritual blessings, and then you'll be able to live the Christian life in the way God wants you to.

Well, let's look at some other vss. that talk about the results of fearing God.

- Psalm 115:11 - "*You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord, He is your help and shield.*"

Fearing God relates to and results in having faith, in trusting God, and that results in God helping you do what is right, and protecting you from evil.

- Rev. 15:4 - "*Who will not fear You O Lord and bring glory to Your name?*"
- For you alone are holy.*" Fearing God leads to and results in God getting glory.

If you want God to be honored and glorified, then you need to fear Him.

Psalm 103:13 - *"The Lord has compassion on those who fear Him."* When you look to God and fear Him, when you respect God for who He is, then God will have compassion on you – He will feel for you and show you mercy.

- Prov. 8:13 says, *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil."* 2 Cor. 7:1 says, *"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

- Fearing God helps you be holy, helps you stay away from sin. When you fear God, you realize that God is holy and hates sin, that there are consequences for your sin.

And so fearing God is essential to living a holy life for God. Prov. 3:7

- Psalm 34:7 - *"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them."* This is very encouraging, for God has His angels, and He sends them to help His children who fear Him, who look to Him, who are humble.

Mal. 3:16 - *"Those who feared the Lord talked to each other and the Lord listened and heard."*

One key to having a good relationship with another believer is fearing the Lord. Two people who fear God will be united and have a special bond and friendship. Ps. 119:63, 74

- Psalm 34:9 - *"Fear the Lord you His saints, there is no want for those who fear Him."*

God meets the needs of people who fear Him. Again, fearing the Lord means we are looking to God and trusting Him, and God takes care of people who do that.

- Prov. 15:16 - *"Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil."*

People who fear God aren't seeking wealth, property, and possessions. They are satisfied by the Lord, and are therefore satisfied with a little, with their basic needs being met.

Psalm 128:1 - *"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways."* All people who fear God and who are obedient will be blessed by God. Ps. 115 - *"He will bless those who fear the Lord - small and great alike."* Here it just says God will bless those who fear Him.

The truth is that those who fear God will obey God, and therefore be blessed by God.

- We also see that it does not make any difference what your rank or status in life is – whether you are small or great - for God will bless whoever fears Him.

- Prov. 2:4-5, 3:7-8, 8:13, 9:10, 10:26-27, 14:12, 14:27, 15:16, 15:23, 19:23, 22:4

- Isaiah 33:6 - *"He'll be a sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure."* This is a great promise about how God wants to bless us, and fearing God is the key to this blessing, this treasure.

- In conclusion, I strongly, strongly encourage you to fear the Lord.