

The Fear of God Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid

SOMETHING TO FEAR

Jeremiah 1:1-19

UNDERSTANDING THE TERMS

Jeremiah 1:6 &17, Proverbs 1:7

- ▶ Sovereignty = To have **absolute rule**, without **question** or **limitations**.

God **Lord** **Heavenly Father**

- ▶ Fear = To be **terrified** - **trembling** - to take **flight**.

NOT merely **respect** or **awe**.

UNDERSTANDING THE FEAR OF GOD

Luke 12:1-10, Romans 14:11, Hebrews 10:23-39, Deuteronomy 5:28-29, 10:12-17, Psalm 36:1, Psalm 27, 73, 112, Proverbs 2:1-5, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Jeremiah 5:22-24, Isaiah 8:12-13, Job 23:13-16, Acts 5:1-11, 9:31, 2 Corinthians 5:11, Philippians 2:12-15, Revelation 4

We fear God's:

- **Position**
- **Power**

UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE

Hebrews 12:7-11, 18-24, 28-29, Romans 8:38-39, Hebrews 13:5, 1 John 4:17-18

- ▶ The fear of God is for our **protection**.
- ▶ The fear of God is for our **provision**.
- ▶ The fear of God should drive us **to God**, not **away from God**.

Food for Thought

For the week of March 29, 2009

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week we heard about the importance of a healthy “fear of God.” How does the fear of God impact the people’s actions in the following verses?

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, [2] so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. [3] Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, promised you. [NIV]

Nehemiah 5:15

But the earlier governors--those preceding me--placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. [NIV]

Exodus 20:18-20

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance [19] and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

[20] Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." [NIV]

Psalms 22:23

You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! [NIV]

Psalms 103:11-14

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
[12] as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
[13] 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. [NIV]

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise. [NIV]

Proverbs 8:13

To fear the Lord is to hate evil;
I hate pride and arrogance,

evil behavior and perverse speech. [NIV]

Look back at what you wrote above after each verse and list any examples from your own life of how your fear of God resulted in similar outcomes or responses? How did you do? Anything you need to address?

2. Balancing a healthy fear of God while still being confident to come before Him can be a bit difficult to understand and know how to put into practice. Looking at how another person handles it often helps. As you read David's prayer in Psalm 86, jot down how he describes God and what he requests of God.

Psalm 86:1-17

A prayer of David.

Hear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

[2] Guard my life, for I am devoted to you.
You are my God; save your servant
who trusts in you.

[3] Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I call to you all day long.

[4] Bring joy to your servant,
for to you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

[5] You are forgiving and good, O Lord,
abounding in love to all who call to you.

[6] Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.

[7] In the day of my trouble I will call to you,
for you will answer me.

[8] Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.

[9] All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, O Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

[10] For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.

[11] Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

[12] I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.

[13] For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.

[14] The arrogant are attacking me, O God;
a band of ruthless men seeks my life--
men without regard for you.

[15] But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

[16] Turn to me and have mercy on me;
grant your strength to your servant
and save the son of your maidservant.

[17] Give me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,
for you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me. [NIV]

Descriptions of God	Requests of God

How might David's perspective and response to God in this Psalm help balance a healthy fear of God and the confidence to come before Him?

3. Satan would love to use fear to keep us from moving toward God. How does Romans 5:1-5 help us remain confident and experience God's love?

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2] through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; [4] perseverance, character; and character, hope. [5] And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. [NIV]