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The Fear of God

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Fear of God.

Topics.

- The eternal aspect of fear.
- Fear in the present moment.
- What the fear of the LORD means.
- False fear and real fear.
- The fear of God and Christians and love.
- Fear trust and faith and overcoming fear.

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:

1. **An eternal aspect:** wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
2. **An aspect for the present moment:** the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, crime and wars in most countries.

1

The fear of the LORD is to have a spirit that is afraid to:

- Harm another human physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally, or spiritually.
- Deliberately destroy the planet God created that we live on (i.e., arsonists who set forests on fire, companies who pour toxic poisonous waste into rivers and such like things).
- Treat animals with brutality and cruelty.

Having a fear of the LORD is having a fear of doing any of these things, because they are all destructive and bring pain, hurt and harm to others. Having a fear of the LORD means respecting the lives of others, respecting creation and doing what is right before God. Causing others hurt is totally against God's will and violates Jesus command, "love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-40) which means do-good to others and not harm. James the brother of Jesus refers to this law as the royal law (James 2:8). Jesus said all the laws of God can be summed up in the words, "love your neighbour as yourself and love God with all your heart, mind and strength" (Mark 12:28-31).

For further information concerning Jesus command, see the title:

- Love your Neighbour as Yourself," in Articles (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The apostle John wrote:

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but if we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and his word is not in us (1 John 1:1-10).

Fear is about recognising that though we might be a good person in this world we are nevertheless sinners before the Holiness of God and will give an account of our actions and behaviour and be judged accordingly. It is, knowing that there will be a day when we will stand before God and be judged to eternal life or eternal death and allowing this truth to motivate us to seek God and his forgiveness. Peter said:

- In every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. (Acts 10:35).

Those desiring eternal life (if they are wise) should be motivated by the knowledge of judgment to seek God and treat others with decency and respect and do the right thing. This is why the Bible says:

- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. (Psalm 111:10) (Proverbs 1:7).

The fear of the LORD should motivate a person to seek after God and eternal life.

False fear: is generated by the mind imagining and believing something terrible is about to happen in the future or imagining something is real and true that is not true. These kinds of fears produce real fearful feelings in the emotions even though the fears are fantasies of the mind. This is because our nervous system cannot tell the difference between a real event and a false event that is played out on the screen of our imagination and therefore our emotions respond according to the mental movies, we play in our minds whether they are real or false.

Real fear: is fear that is generated by something real such as a family who loses their house in a bush fire and fear having absolutely nothing and no-where to live, or fear of jumping off a cliff and being hurt and such like things. These are very real and justifiable fears.

THE FEAR OF GOD AND CHRISTIANS AND LOVE

- Jesus said: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16).

Those in Christ understand this great love of God and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with those who belong to the Lord's global family. Once a person is saved in Christ and experiences God's forgiveness and His love and grace their heart is transformed and the mind and passions are changed in such a way that they now desire from the heart to live in a manner that brings honour God and a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Their motivation to follow God is not from fear anymore, but from love because they now know, understand and experience the love God's has for them.

Fear trust and faith: this is about our will being fully surrendered to God's will and trusting that regardless of the circumstance (good or bad) God has our life in his hand and believing that through all our confusion, disappointments and lack of understanding our lives are in his control. Without this kind of faith fear and its allied partner doubt have an open door to attack.

Fear and overcoming it: to shut the door on fear we need to have the same great faith that Job and Habakkuk expressed in the following words:

- Though he slay me, I will hope in him. (Job 13:15).
- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

FOOTNOTE

After observing mankind the author of Ecclesiastes gave the following advice to those who have no fear of God and choose to deny Him and live for themselves:

- Eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which they toil under the sun the few days of their life that God has given them, for this is their lot. (Eccles. 5:18).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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