

## Fear before Fire: Getting back to the basics

Matt 10:28 CSB- Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

### Segway to Intro

Fear is a word that we've become more acquainted with in past 2 years. There's been an increase in fear of sickness, fear of losing jobs, fear of death, fear of war, etc. When we hear the word "fear", we often tend to think of this unpleasant feeling that we need to get rid and lock away so we live our lives. But when we get the true revelation of fear, I believe that it

### Intro

Proverbs 29:18 says "without vision, people perish." The amplified version says without revelation of God and his Word the people are unrestrained or without boundaries. So it's safe to say that when we get revelation of God, we also get clarity on who we are. This is necessary because it keeps us from being lifted up in pride. The prophet Isaiah had a powerful revelation of God and it totally wrecked him. He saw the majesty of the Almighty and instead of doing like Peter on the mountain, trying to make a memorial of the moment, Isaiah responded with fear. In Acts 5, after hearing about the death of Ananias and Sapphira, great fear came upon all the believers and everyone they told about it (v.11). In Exodus 20:20, Moses tells the people don't be afraid, the Lord has come to test you, so that you would fear him and not sin.

### What is the fear of the Lord?

The best answer to this question is found in the scriptures. According to the Bible, the fear of the Lord is:

1. It is wisdom and the foundation of all knowledge and wisdom.

- Proverbs 1:7 CSB- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.
  - Psalms 111:10 CSB- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his instructions[a] have good insight. His praise endures forever.
  - Proverbs 9:10 AMP- The [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of wisdom [its starting point and its essence], And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding and spiritual insight.
- \*The word preeminent used here means having paramount rank, dignity, or importance. James 1:5 lets us know that God is the source of wisdom and if we need it, we should ask Him for it. The answer to the request for wisdom is found in the fear of the Lord. Why? Because before anything can be built properly, there must be a solid foundation laid.
- Job 28:28- He said to mankind, "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom. And to turn from evil is understanding."

2. It must be taught/learned.

- Deut 17:19 CSB- It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to observe all the words of this instruction, and to do these statutes.
- Deut 31:12 CSB- Gather the people—men, women, dependents, and the resident aliens within

your city gates—so that they may listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and be careful to follow all the words of this law.

3. A treasure.

- Isaiah 33:6 CSB- There will be times of security for you—a storehouse of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure.

4. Life giving and life sustaining.

- Proverbs 14:27- The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning people away from the snares of death.

- Proverbs 10:27- The fear of the Lord prolongs life,[a] but the years of the wicked are cut short.

- Proverbs 19:23- The fear of the Lord leads to life; one will sleep at night[a] without danger.

5. It is one of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

- Isaiah 11:2 NASB- The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

6. God's will for his people.

- Deut 10:12 AMP- "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear [and worship] the Lord your God [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], to walk [that is, to live each and every day] in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul [your choices, your thoughts, your whole being],

\*the article on Hebrew education\*

Questions to consider:

Does my life reflect the fear of the Lord?

Do I stand in awe of the God of the Universe?

What is my posture before the Almighty One?

Am I working out my salvation with fear and trembling?

What is the answer to the spirit of fear?...the Fear of the Lord!