

The Fear of the Lord:

“Christ...who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear...” Hebrews 4:7 NKJV

**“The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.”
Psalm 25:14 NKJV**

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the holy ones, and to be held in awe and reverence by all those around Him.” Psalm 89:7 NKJV & YLT

**“...serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”
Hebrews 12:28-29 NKJV**

“We [some] have elevated the love of God because it allows us to get away with things. We better get a grip on the jealousy of God. You are completely unbalanced if you have only love for and do not have fear of the Lord. It’s His kindness and severity we have to see, both. It’s who He is.” Terry Bennett, 5/30/14

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom and is to hate evil. Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 8:13. Obviously, spiritual knowledge and wisdom and a hatred for evil are all critical to being an effective, overcoming spiritual warrior and surviving combat. I believe that one of the most damaging and misguided deceptions within “the church” today is the failure to teach on and the grossly unbiblical false teaching about the fear of God. Make no mistake about it is has always been and remains of paramount importance to God and of paramount impact to a Christian’s faith and Kingdom service. How the fear of God is falsely covered, or not covered at all, in the overwhelming majority of churches today is an utter affront to God and Scripture. (Reverential) Fear of the Lord, called for in His people, is mentioned hundreds of times through the Bible. It was God Himself who said: “Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.” Deuteronomy 8:6 NKJV; And victory in battle (and other favor and blessing) for God’s people was often predicated on it: “But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.” 2 Kings 17:39 NKJV; “So I continued, ‘What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of the nations, our enemies?’” “In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.” Proverbs 14:26-27; Nehemiah 5:9 NKJV & NIV; “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15 NKJV; “Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!” Revelation 19:5 NKJV; The most compelling evidence of the importance of this issue is that fear of God is not just an attribute of a true believer but that it is actually one of the Seven Spirits of God. Isaiah 11:2; Revelation 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; That fact alone should completely make the case of the importance of the fear of God in a believer.

The word “fear” used in this context does not mean we are to be afraid that God may condemn us. We have been forgiven and born again and spared condemnation for sin. However, we are not at all beyond humbling, correction and discipline for irreverence, maturation or otherwise. Hebrews 12. The transliterated Hebrew word, “*yir'ah*,” means reverential fear, that we should utmostly revere, honor, respect and be in awe of and for God. In short, while of course God is our loving and caring Father, He is also awesome in power, a consuming holy fire and pure light in which no darkness exists. Quite simply, what is not of Him will not survive His presence. 1 Corinthians 3:12-17. Veteran and much respected world-wide minister and prophet Bobby Conner puts it a great way: “We have become way too comfortable with a God we barely know.” In short, never forget who the Bible says He is or fail to believe and conduct yourself accordingly. Two great examples of biblical reverential fear of God by His people are Isaiah’s throne room experience described in Isaiah 11:2, where when in God’s presence Isaiah exclaimed: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips...”; and the Apostle John’s heavenly experience seeing the resurrected Lord described in Revelation 1:17: “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man.” The primary point to take from this as it relates to spiritual warfare is to always keep in you and before you in everything you say and do the utmost humility, respect and deference for the Lord, realize that there are Kingdom requirements, standards and protocols for entering into His inner court, and don’t ever forget His elevation, holiness, power, majesty, fiery nature and other-than-ness. “For His thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are our ways His ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than our ways, and His thoughts than our thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV. And always remember that the God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament. The same Holy Spirit inspired both parts of the Bible and God never changes. Lastly, the fear of the Lord will be rewarded:

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. “They will be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. Malachi 3:16-18 NKJV

The flipside of this issue is also very important to understand. If you fear or otherwise bow down to satan or any other dark power you are elevating that being, which is a sin and a very serious offense to God. 2 Kings 17:7, 35, 37-38.

Lastly, I read the following quote in an advertisement on Biblegateway.com for a book on the reverential fear of the Lord: “**You can fear God...or everything else.**” Succinct truth, I believe.