

1. Welcome
2. News/Update
3. Pray In

### **Fearing God.**

In your own words share what it means to fear the Lord?

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The Fear of the Lord:

1. awe of the Lord psalm 33:8
2. is the hatred of evil Proverbs 8:13
3. is the beginning of wisdom proverbs 1:7
4. is the whole duty of man Eccl 12:13
5. is strong confidence and a place of refuge proverbs 14:26
6. is the fountain of life proverbs 14:27
7. leads to good understanding psalm 111:10
8. leads to friendship with God psalm 25:14
9. Leads to life and rest ....is untouched by trouble Proverbs 19:23
10. The Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. Psalm 34:7

The Bible is full of scriptures that tell us the importance of the Fear of the Lord. Our relationship and salvation in Christ should start with the Fear of the Lord. The bible says that the fear of the Lord, is the **beginning** of wisdom, it is the beginning of knowing Him, it is the beginning of life with Him, the beginning of being in right standing (righteousness) with Him, the beginning of a fruitful relationship with God.

Why do you think “fearing God” is often marked as a scary or confusing thing? Why do you think God would call us to fear Him?

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In Isaiah 44:6 the Lord says, “I am the first and the last and besides me there is no other God. Who is like me? Who can do and proclaim the things that I can? If you think you are like me than declare the future.”

The truth is, there is NO one like God, there is NO one who can declare the future and there is no other creator of the heavens and the earth. We serve the only all-knowing, all powerful, all loving, God. A lot of us would like God to be manageable, we’d like to challenge His word, or we would like to be able to explain ourselves to Him. But that is not the God we serve. So for any real understanding of God we must first start with a healthy understanding of fear.

How do you stand firm in your faith in a world that does not fear God?

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Our world wants us to walk in our own individual “truth”, they want us to walk in the truth of our emotions but Psalm 86:11 says, “teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your Truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. The fear of the Lord will bring “our truth” into submission to HIS truth.

What changed about your life when your heart was united to His truth?

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In Isaiah 44:8 right after God explains that He is the First and the Last, that there is no other God besides Him, He says, “Fear not, nor be afraid.” God tells us to fear Him, and once we get to this point of fear He tells us, “fear not nor be afraid?”

Why do you think God says this?

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The Bible says, “If God be for us who can be against us?” And to walk in this truth we have to get to the point where we understand that this life isn’t about us, it’s about a God who is way more powerful than us and rather than challenge Him we can find security in Him. God calls us His children. The God of the universe calls us His friend. He refers to the church as His bride. What an indescribable life giving love, what security. But well never be able to get there if we are not willing to get to the point of fear.

Have you ever walked through a season or circumstance afraid? What was like?

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When we fear God not only do we not want to disobey His commands anymore and take Him seriously, but it changes our whole mindset. Because now that we have experienced the Lord, the greatest thing in the universe, there is nothing else to fear. We can walk confidently in purpose. We can love fearlessly. We can give fearlessly. We can live selflessly. Proverbs 14:26-27 (MSG) says, “The Fear-of-God builds up confidence, and makes a world safe for your children. The Fear-of-God is a spring of living water so you won’t go off drinking from poisoned wells.”

What is God calling you to do? Who is He calling you to? What are the barriers that you think are keeping you from getting there?

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Without the proper understanding of the Fear of the Lord we wouldn’t understand the power that is made available to us through the Holy Spirit. God wants us to fear Him because it is going to lead us to a life that we have never had and it’s a better life, a secure life, a life that we were created for.

Action Item:

Write out the areas that you fear, pray over them, release them to the Lord and throw those fears in the trash! Then, guard your hearts and be intentional about your freedom through Christ.