

Godly Fear

A crucial part of our saving grace is the gift of godly fear. Recognizing that our fear of the Lord is a childlike awe of Him and a desire to please Him, rooted in love for Him and awareness of His Holy glory. We might think that fearing the Lord is harmful to our emotional health, but God says in His Word that fearing Him is necessary for holiness and happiness. **Psalm 112:1,7-8:** *“Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in His commands. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.”* Our fear of God moves us to practice self-discipline in following Christ and to be mindful of His majesty, keeping our lives in constant awareness of His return. The Lord says of His Children, **Jeremiah 32:40:** *“I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear Me, so that they will never turn away from Me.”* Jesus Christ was anointed by the Spirit “of the fear of the Lord” to pour out that Spirit on His children. **Isaiah 11:2-3:** *“The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD, and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears.”* Saving grace also encourages us to pray and to have hope in God. Nothing better defines the child of God than prayer, and our prayers should be as natural as breathing is to our physical body. Prayer is offering our desires to God, with the help of the Holy Spirit, for things that align with His will, in the name of Jesus, with faith, confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His grace and mercies. **1 John 5:14-15:** *“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”* Following Godly fear, prayer is hope. Our hope is an expectant desire for eternal life with God, expressed through our faith in His promises and in our love that delights in Him. **2 Thessalonians 2:16:** *“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace.”* By it we are purified, sanctified, and saved. **Psalm 62:7-8:** *“My salvation and my glory rest on God; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your hearts before Him; God is a refuge for us.”* We wait on Him for present strength to endure to the end. What amazing blessings come to us through the grace of Godly fear, prayer, and hope.