

## Fear of God

The fear of God actually deepens our relationship with Him. The phrase “the fear of God” or similar expressions are mentioned frequently, depending on the Bible translation, hundreds of times throughout the Bible. We regularly talk about God’s love and how we worship, pray, trust, and obey Him, but do we correctly understand what it means to fear Him? The Bible tells us that God makes numerous promises to those who fear Him. Fear first appears in Genesis, when Adam hid from God, **Genesis 3:10:** *He [Adam] said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”* Why? God had warned Adam that if he were to eat of the forbidden tree, he would die. Adam's action introduced death, corruption, and a natural tendency toward sin into the world, a condition inherited by all his descendants.

Throughout the Bible, it is evident that in the presence of God, there is fear. **Isaiah 8:13:** *“It is the Lord of armies whom you are to regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread.”* Awe and dread are natural reactions when in the presence of Almighty God because the imperfect clash with the perfect and the contaminated with the pure. Today, Christians often believe that receiving salvation from Lord Jesus Christ means we no longer need to fear God. However, this is not true; fearing and serving God come from our deep devotion and worship. **Philippians 2:12-13:** *“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you...”* and **1 Peter 1:17:** *“...conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth.”* This is a concept that is important in our daily lives. We fear God by honoring, reverencing, and cherishing Him. We fear Him because of His greatness and majesty, which leaves us with an overwhelming sense that nothing we could ever face in this world compares to the God we serve. We reach the height of worship when we are brought into God’s presence and become aware of His majesty and wonder. We’re caught up in it because, for a moment, we’re reminded that this God of the universe is also the God we know and the God who knows us. The Bible says if we fear God, He provides for us. **Psalms 34:9-10:** *“Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.”* He gives us the promise of protection: **Psalms 33:18-19:** *“Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who wait for His faithfulness, To rescue their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine.”* He gives us the promise of purity. **Psalms 103:12-13:** *“As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.”* **2 Corinthians 7:1:** *“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let’s cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”* These verses teach us that godly fear is not only necessary to complement our knowledge of God but also essential for our wisdom. Without a healthy awe and fear of God, we cannot spiritually grow and mature. Understanding who He is inspires us to know Him better,

love Him more deeply, and cultivate our relationship with Him. Therefore, we can both fear and love Him, and by loving Him, we learn to fear Him. The Bible shows that love and fear can coexist, and if we understand this fear correctly, it will begin to eliminate all the other fears from our lives. Because if we know Him and He knows us, we have no reason to fear Him. We hold His promise that nothing can separate us from His love.