



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 21

True Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

As I break this verse down over and over to myself, it reveals more weakness in me that I see. First, I have to admit that I looked at the fear of the Lord all wrong. I always thought and understood it as being afraid of the Lord and that He was always lying in wait to punish me for every mistake.

This is definitely a false understanding. God is not waiting for you to mess up and then wack you. In fact, when He does correct us, He is challenging us to grow as would any loving father. The fact that you are hearing His voice is a good sign, so be thankful because you are still sensitive to His voice and correction.

Remember, the Lord won't leave us or forsake us, it is we who often leave and forsake Him. John 14:18 (ESV),

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Right here it shows that God is ever moving toward us.

Although the Lord does punish evil and rebellion, He is first compassionate and merciful and does not will for any of His creation to perish. 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV),

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

However, it is clear that we are given the ability to choose our own will over His. If you rebel, you essentially turn away from the Father. Picture a parent with their child. The parent would never encourage a child to rebel. In fact, they would set up scenarios of what might happen if they do rebel. For example, my parents

would never have encouraged me to do drugs. But they did tell me what might happen if I chose to do them anyways. In the same way, we have been given great detail of instruction about rebellion. Isaiah 1:28 (ESV),

“But rebels and sinners shall be broken together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed.”

Now, in sharing this passage, it is absolutely true that this is the outcome of those who rebel against the Lord. But we are discussing the true fear of the Lord and its implications for us today. While we recognize the warnings of the Lord and ought to be afraid of falling under judgment, we should also understand that those who fear the Lord and want to remain in His Presence and in close fellowship with Him want to do so out of love. In fact, Jesus said this in John 14:15 (ESV),

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

How can we know if we are rebelling or forsaking the Lord in any way? Great news, we have been given the Holy Spirit, who according to John 16:18 (ESV)

“when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”

The Lord will tug on our hearts to illuminate any ways that we have forsaken Him or strayed from Him. If you choose to ignore Him and His warnings and push Him away, your heart will harden and your ears will become deaf to His voice and His Word. To be in this place is a fearful thing. It is here that we are subject to those warnings we often read about. In other words, rebellion will not go unpunished. And as Proverbs 1:7 said,

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

And in regard to this, I am reminded of Psalm 84:10 (ESV),

“I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

Is your heart sensitive to the Lord? Are you hearing His voice?

When I think of the fear of the Lord and keeping His commands because of a deep and sincere love for Him, I think on a song I once heard by Ray Boltz (1994) called “Does He still feel the nails.” Specifically, this part,

Am I causing Him pain? Then I know I've got to change I just can't bear the

thought Of hurting Him. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord; holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

And I wonder when His children turn from Him how bad it must hurt Him for us to not see, hear, or feel this. Do you fear the Lord? Listen for His voice and commands and follow suit. Ask yourself, do people see you as a child of the Father who walks in the true fear of the Lord or a child of this world?

We just love you and pray that the Lord would magnify Himself in you and then through you, to make Himself know in this earth. He is God and we are not. So, Lord, we do humbly ask that You would do that which is pleasing in Your sight in our hearts again. We want desperately to walk in a manner worthy of Your calling and to revere and fear You as the only True and Living God. In Jesus name. Amen

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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