

# A Treatise on the Fear of God

John Bunyan

## I. Fear.

### A. The chief texts.

1. *[Psalm 128.1]- Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.*
2. *[Revelation 14.7]- Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

### B. The chief acceptations.

1. Then by this word fear we are to understand even God himself, who is the object of our fear.
2. By this word fear we are to understand the Word of God, the rule and director of our fear.

### C. The word fear as taken for God Himself.

1. God the object of our fear.
  - a. *[Genesis 31.42,53]- Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight. The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob sware by the fear of his father Isaac.*
  - b. *[Daniel 7.28]- Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.*
  - c. *[Daniel 10.17]- For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.*
  - d. *[Nehemiah 1.5]- And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:*
  - e. *[Nehemiah 4.14]- And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.*
  - f. *[Nehemiah 9.32]- Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.*
  - g. *[Job 37.22]- Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty.*
  - h. *[Nahum 1.5-6]- The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.*
  - i. *[Isaiah 8.13]- Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.*
2. What makes God to be the fear of his people?
  - a. His presence is dreadful, and that not only his presence in common, but his special, yea, his most comfortable and joyous presence.
    - 1.) When God comes to bring a soul news of mercy and salvation.
      - a.) *[Genesis 28.10-17]- And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his*

*pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.*

- b.) *[Genesis 32.30]- And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.*
  - c.) *[Judges 13.22]- And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.*
  - d.) *[Matthew 28.4]- And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*
  - e.) *[Mark 16.5-6]- And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.*
  - f.) *[Daniel 10.16-17]- And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.*
- 2.) Three things that in an eminent manner make his presence dreadful to us.
- a.) God's own greatness and majesty; the discovery of this, or of himself thus, even as no poor mortals are able to conceive of him, is altogether unsupportable.
    - 1.) *[Revelation 1.17]- And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:*
    - 2.) *[Job 13.21-22]- Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid. Then call thou, and I will answer: or let me speak, and answer thou me.*
  - b.) When God giveth his presence to his people, that his presence causeth them to appear to themselves more what they are, than at other times, by all other light, they can see.
    - 1.) *[Daniel 10.8,16]- Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.*
    - 2.) *[Isaiah 6.5]- Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

- c.) The revelation of God's goodness, and it must needs make his presence dreadful to us;
- 1.) *[Hosea 3.5]- Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.*
  - 2.) *[Jeremiah 5.22]- Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?*
  - 3.) *[Job 42.5-6]- I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*
  - 4.) *[Jeremiah 33.8-9]- And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.*
- 3.) Object. But would you not have us rejoice at the sight and sense of the forgiveness of our sins?
- a.) Answer Yes; but yet I would have you, and indeed you shall, when God shall tell you that your sins are pardoned indeed,
    - 1.) *[Psalm 2.11]- Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*
    - 2.) *[Ezekiel 16.63]- That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.*
  - b. As the presence, so the name of God is dreadful and fearful: wherefore his name doth rightly go under the same title.
    - 1.) *[Deuteronomy 28.58]- If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;*
    - 2.) *[Psalm 111.9]- He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.*
    - 3.) *[Exodus 34.6-7]- And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*
    - 4.) *[Psalm 86.11]- Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*
    - 5.) *[Psalm 102.15]- So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.*
    - 6.) *[Isaiah 59.19]- So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*
    - 7.) *[Malachi 2.5]- My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.*
    - 8.) *[Malachi 1.14]- But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.*

- 9.) *[Malachi 4.2]- But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*
  - 10.) *[Revelation 11.18]- And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*
  - 11.) *[2 Timothy 2.19]- Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*
  - 12.) *[Exodus 20.7]- Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*
  - 13.) *[Leviticus 20.3]- And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name.*
  - 14.) *[Jeremiah 14.14-15]- Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.*
  - 15.) *[Ezekiel 20.39]- As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.*
  - 16.) *[Exodus 20.7]- Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*
- c. As the presence and name of God are dreadful and fearful in the church, so is his worship and service.
- 1.) *[Psalm 5.7]- But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.*
  - 2.) *[Exodus 15.11]- Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*
  - 3.) *[Psalm 2.11]- Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*
  - 4.) *[2 Corinthians 7.1]- Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
  - 5.) That which makes the worship of God so fearful a thing, is, for that it is the worship of GOD: all manner of service carries more or less dread and fear along with it, according as the quality or condition of the person is to whom the worship and service is done.
  - 6.) This glorious Majesty is himself present to behold his worshippers in their worshipping him.
    - a.) *[Revelation 1.13]- And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*
  - 7.) God is jealous of his worship and service.
  - 8.) The judgments that sometimes God hath executed upon men for their want of godly fear, while they have been in his worship and service, put fear and dread upon his holy appointments.
    - a.) Nadab and Abihu were burned to death with fire from heaven, because they attempted to offer false fire upon God's altar, and the reason rendered why they were so served, was, because God will be sanctified in them that come nigh him
    - 1.) *[Leviticus 10.1-3]- And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered*

*strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.*

- b.) Eli's sons, for want of this fear, when they ministered in the holy worship of God, were both slain in one day by the sword of the uncircumcised Philistines.
  - 1.) *[1 Samuel 2.12]- Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.*
- c.) Uzzah was smitten, and died before the Lord, for but an unadvised touching of the ark, when the men forsook it.
  - 1.) *[1 Chronicles 13.9-10]- And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.*
  - 2.) *[1 Corinthians 11.27-32]- Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. or this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*
- d.) Ananias and Sapphira his wife, for telling a lie in the church, when they were before God, were both stricken dead upon the place before them all, because they wanted the fear and dread of God's majesty, name, and service, when they came before him.
- e.) Three sorts of people rebuked.
  - 1.) Such as regard not to worship God at all; be sure they have no reverence of his service, nor fear of his majesty before their eyes.
    - a.) *[Psalm 79.6]- Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.*
    - b.) *[Jeremiah 10.25]- Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.*
  - 2.) This rebukes such as count it enough to present their body in the place where God is worshipped, not minding with what heart, or with what spirit they come thither.
  - 3.) This also rebukes those that care not, so they worship, how they worship; how, where, or after what manner they worship God.
    - a.) *[Isaiah 29.13-14]- Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.*
    - b.) *[Matthew 15.7-9]- Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and*

*honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

c.) *[Mark 7.6-7]- He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

D. This word FEAR is sometimes to be taken for THE WORD, the written Word of God; for that also is, and ought to be, the rule and director of our fear.

1. *[Psalm 34.11]- Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*
2. *[Deuteronomy 6.4-7]- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*
3. *[Deuteronomy 6.1-3,24]- Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.*
4. *[Deuteronomy 10.12]- And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,*
5. *[Deuteronomy 17.19]- And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:*
6. *[2 Chronicles 34.26-27]- And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.*
7. *[Isaiah 66.5]- Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.*
8. *[Exodus 9.20-25]- He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses: And he that regarded not the word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.*
9. *[Ezra 9.4]- Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.*

10. *[Ezra 10.3]- Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.*
11. The dread and terror of the Word lieth in these things.
  - a. They are the words of God.
    - 1.) *[Ezekiel 2.4]- For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.*
    - 2.) *[Ezekiel 3.11]- And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.*
    - 3.) *[Habakkuk 3.16]- When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.*
  - b. It is a Word that is fearful, and may well be called the fear of the Lord, because of the subject matter of it; to wit, the state of sinners in another world; for that is it unto which the whole Bible bendeth itself, either more immediately or more mediately.
    - 1.) *[John 12:48]- He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*
  - c. Because of the truth and faithfulness of it.
    - 1.) *[Matthew 24.35]- Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*
    - 2.) *[Daniel 10.21]- But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.*
    - 3.) *[Revelation 19.9]- And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*
    - 4.) *[Matthew 24.35]- Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*
    - 5.) *[Psalm 119.89]- For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*
    - 6.) *[John 10.35]- If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;*
    - 7.) *[Proverbs 13.13]- Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.*
    - 8.) *[Psalm 17.4]- Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.*
    - 9.) *[Proverbs 4.20-22]- My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*
  - d. Conclusions.
    - 1.) Know that those that have no due regard to the Word of the Lord, and that make it not their dread and their fear, but the rule of their life is the lust of their flesh, the desire of their eyes, and the pride of life, are sorely rebuked by this doctrine, and are counted the fools of the world;
      - a.) *[Jeremiah 8.9]- The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?*
      - b.) *[Jeremiah 44.16]- As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee.*
      - c.) *[Ecclesiastes 1.9]- The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

- d.) *[1 Samuel 15.22-23]- And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*
- e.) *[Numbers 26.9-10]- And the sons of Eliab; Nemuel, and Dathan, and Abiram. This is that Dathan and Abiram, which were famous in the congregation, who strove against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they strove against the LORD: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign.*

2.) Are the words of God called by the name of the fear of the Lord? Are they so dreadful in their receipt and sentence? Then this rebukes them that esteem the words and things of men more than the words of God, as those do who are drawn from their respect of, and obedience to, the Word of God, by the pleasures or threats of men.

- a.) *[Mark 8.38]- Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

3.) What will become of those that mock at, and professedly contemn, the words of God, making them as a thing ridiculous, and not to be regarded? Shall they prosper that do such things? From the promises it is concluded that their judgment now of a long time slumbereth not, and when it comes, it will devour them without remedy.

- a.) *[2 Chronicles 36.15]- And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:*
- b.) *[1 Peter 2.8]- And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*
- c.) *[John 12.48]- He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

E. Several sorts of fear of God in the heart of the Children of men.

1. Types of fear of God as it is a grace of God in the hearts of the children of men.

a. There is a fear of God that flows even from the light of nature.

- 1.) *[Genesis 20.11]- And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake.*

b. There is a fear of God that flows from some of his dispensations to men, which yet is neither universal nor saving.

1.) There is a fear of God that causeth a continual grudging, discontent, and heart-risings against God under the hand of God; and that is, when the dread of God in his coming upon men, to deal with them for their sins, is apprehended by them, and yet by this dispensation they have no change of heart to submit to God thereunder.

- a.) *[Exodus 14.11-13]- And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.*



- b.) *[Numbers 14.1-9]- And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*
- c.) *[Exodus 23.27-28]- I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.*
- d.) *[Deuteronomy 2.25]- This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.*
- e.) *[Deuteronomy 11.25]- There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.*
- 2.) There is a fear of God that driveth a man away from God—I speak not now of the atheist, nor of the pleasurable sinner, nor yet of these, and that fear that I spoke of just now.
- a.) *[Genesis 3.10]- And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*
- b.) *[Hebrews 12.20]- (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:*
- c.) *[Exodus 20.18-21]- And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.*
- d.) *[Job 21.14]- Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.*
- e.) *[1 Samuel 12.20]- And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;*
- 3.) There is a fear of God, which, although it hath not in it that power as to make men flee from God's presence, yet it is ungodly, because, even while they are in the outward way of God's ordinances, their hearts are by it quite discouraged from attempting to exercise themselves in the power of religion.

- a.) *[Luke 19.20]- And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;*
  - b.) *[Matthew 25.24-25]- Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*
- 4.) This ungodly fear of God shows itself also in this. It will not suffer the soul that is governed thereby to trust only to Christ for justification of life, but will bend the powers of the soul to trust partly to the works of the law.
- a.) *[Revelation 21.8]- But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
- 5.) This ungodly fear of God is that which will put men upon adding to the revealed will of God their own inventions, and their own performances of them, as a means to pacify the anger of God. For the truth is, where this ungodly fear reigneth, there is no end of law and duty.
- a.) *[2 Kings 17.41]- So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.*
  - b.) *[Mark 7.13]- Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*
- c. There is a fear of God in the heart of some men that is good and godly, but doth not for ever abide so.
- 1.) This fear is an effect of sound awakenings by the word of wrath which begetteth in the soul a sense of its right to eternal damnation; for this fear is not in every sinner; he that is blinded by the devil, and that is not able to see that his state is damnable, he hath not this fear in his heart, but he that is under the powerful workings of the word of wrath, as God's elect are at first conversion, he hath this godly fear in his heart; that is, he fears that that damnation will come upon him, which by the justice of God is due unto him, because he hath broken his holy law.
- a.) *[Acts 2.37]- Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*
  - b.) *[Acts 16.30]- And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*
  - c.) *[Mark 16.16]- He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
  - d.) *[John 3.18,36]- He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
- 2.) It is wrought in the heart by the Spirit of God, working there at first as a spirit of bondage, on purpose to put us in fear.
- a.) *[Romans 8.15]- For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*
  - b.) *[John 16.8-9]- And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me;*
  - c.) *[Romans 3.20]- Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*
  - d.) He, in this his working, is properly called a spirit of bondage.

- 1.) Because by the law he shows us that indeed we are in bondage to the law, the devil, and death and damnation; for this is our proper state by nature, though we see it not until the Spirit of God shall come to reveal this our state of bondage unto our own senses by revealing to us our sins by the law.
- 2.) Because he here also holds us; to wit, in this sight and sense of our bondage-state, so long as is meet we should be so held, which to some of the saints is a longer, and to some a shorter time.
  - a.) ***[Lamentations 3.27]- It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.***
- 3.) Now, although this godly fear is not to last always with us, yet it greatly differs from that which is wholly ungodly of itself, both because of the author, and also of the effects of it.
  - a.) This fear makes a man judge himself for sin, and to fall down before God with a broken mind under this judgment; the which is pleasing to God, because the sinner by so doing justifies God in his saying, and clears him in his judgment.
    - 1.) ***[Psalm 51.1-4]- Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.***
  - b.) As this fear makes a man judge himself, and cast himself down at God's foot, so it makes him condole and bewail his misery before him, which is also well-pleasing in his sight.
    - 1.) ***[Jeremiah 31.18-19]- I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.***
  - c.) This fear makes a man lie at God's foot, and puts his mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.
    - 1.) ***[Lamentations 3.28-29]- He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.***
  - d.) This fear puts a man upon crying to God for mercy, and that in most humble manner; now he sensibly cries, now he dejectedly cries, now he feels and cries, now he smarts and criest out, "God be merciful to me a sinner".
    - 1.) ***[Luke 18.13]- And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.***
  - e.) This fear makes a man that he cannot accept of that for support and succour which others that are destitute thereof will take up, and be contented with.
    - 1.) ***[Psalm 51.2]- Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.***
  - f.) Therefore this fear goes not away until the Spirit of God doth change his ministration as to this particular, in leaving off to work now by the law, as afore,

and coming to the soul with the sweet word of promise of life and salvation by Jesus Christ.

- 4.) The ground for this fear is good, as is manifest by these particulars.
  - a.) The soul feareth damnation, and that rightly, because it is in its sins.
  - b.) The soul feareth damnation rightly, because it hath not faith in Christ, but is at present under the law.
  - c.) The soul feareth damnation rightly now, because by sin, the law, and for want of faith, the wrath of God abideth on it.
- d. Reasons why the Spirit of God cannot work this ungodly fear.
  - 1.) Because that the soul by closing through the promise, by the Spirit, with Jesus Christ, is removed off of that foundation upon which it stood when it justly feared damnation.
    - a.) *[Acts 26.18]- To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*
    - b.) *[Romans 6.14]- For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*
    - c.) *[Romans 8.1]- There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
  - 2.) He cannot, after he hath come to the soul as a spirit of adoption, come again as a spirit of bondage to put the soul into his first fear; to wit, a fear of eternal damnation, because he cannot say and unsay, do and undo.
    - a.) *[2 Corinthians 1.17-20]- When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*
  - 3.) The state therefore of the sinner being changed, and that, too, by the Spirit's changing his dispensation, leaving off to be now as a spirit of bondage to put us in fear, and coming to our heart as the spirit of adoption to make us cry, Father, Father, he cannot go back to his first work again; for if so, then he must gratify, yea, and also ratify, that profane and popish doctrine, forgiven to-day, unforgiven to-morrow—a child of God to-day, a child of hell to-morrow; but what saith the Scriptures?
    - a.) *[Ephesians 2.19-22]- Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*
  - 4.) Objection 1: Contrary to one's experience.
    - a.) Answer 1: Because as the Spirit cannot give himself the lie, so he cannot overthrow his own order of working, nor yet contradict that testimony that his servants, by his inspiration, hath given of his order of working with them.
    - b.) Answer 2: Because the covenant in which now the soul is interested abideth, and is everlasting, not upon the supposition of my obedience, but upon the unchangeable purpose of God, and the efficacy of the obedience of Christ, whose blood also hath confirmed it.

- 1.) *[2 Samuel 23.5]- Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.*
  - 2.) *[Hebrews 8.10-12]- For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*
- c.) Answer 3: The Spirit of God, after it has come to me as a spirit of adoption, can come to me no more as a spirit of bondage, to put me in fear, that is, with my first fears; because, by that faith that he, even he himself, hath wrought in me, to believe and call God "Father, Father,"
- 5.) Question 1: May it not come again as a spirit of bondage, to put me into my first fears for my good?
    - a.) Answer 1: The text saith the contrary; for we "have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear."
  - 6.) Question 2: But by what spirit is it then that I am brought again into fears, even into the fears of damnation, and so into bondage?
    - a.) Answer 1: By the spirit of the devil, who always labours to frustrate the faith, and hope, and comfort of the godly.
  - 7.) Question 3: How doth that appear?
    - a.) Answer 1: By the groundlessness of such fears.
    - b.) Answer 2: By the unseasonableness of them.
      - 1.) *[John 8.44]- Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*
    - c.) Answer 3: By the effects of them.
  - 8.) Question 1: Do not these fears make thee question whether there was ever a work of grace wrought in thy soul?
    - a.) Answer: Yes, verily, that they do.
  - 9.) Question 2: Do not these fears make thee question whether ever thy first fears were wrought by the Holy Spirit of God?
    - a.) Answer: Yes, verily, that they do.
  - 10.) Question 3: Do not these fears make thee question whether ever thou hast had, indeed, any true comfort from the Word and Spirit of God?
    - a.) Answer: Yes, verily, that they do.
  - 11.) Question 4: Dost thou not find intermixed with these fears plain assertions that thy first comforts were either from thy fancy, or from the devil, and a fruit of his delusions?
    - a.) Answer: Yes, verily, that I do.
  - 12.) Question 5: Do not these fears weaken thy heart in prayer?
    - a.) Answer: Yes, that they do.

- 13.) Question 6: Do not these fears keep thee back from laying hold of the promise of salvation by Jesus Christ?
- a.) Answer: Yes; for I think if I were deceived before, if I were comforted by a spirit of delusion before, why may it not be so again? so I am afraid to take hold of the promise.
- 14.) Question 7: Do not these fears tend to the hardening of thy heart, and to the making of thee desperate?
- a.) Answer: Yes, verily, that they do.
- 15.) Question 8: Do not these fears hinder thee from profiting in hearing or reading of the Word?
- a.) Answer: Yes, verily, for still whatever I hear or read, I think nothing that is good belongs to me.
- 16.) Question 9: Do not these fears tend to the stirring up of blasphemies in thy heart against God?
- a.) Answer: Yes, to the almost distracting of me.
- 17.) Question 10: Do not these fears make thee sometimes think, that it is in vain for thee to wait upon the Lord any longer?
- a.) Answer: Yes, verily; and I have many times almost come to this conclusion, that I will read, pray, hear, company with God's people, or the like, no longer.
- 18.) Objection 2: But I had also such wickedness as those in my heart at my first awakening, and therefore, by your argument, neither should that be but from the devil.
- a.) So far forth as such wickedness was in thy heart, so far did the devil and thine own heart seek to drive thee to despair, and drown thee there; but thou hast forgot the question; the question is not whether then thou wast troubled with such iniquities, but whether thy fears of damnation at that time were not just and good, because grounded upon thy present condition, which was, for that thou wast out of Christ, in thy sins, and under the curse of the law; and whether now, since the spirit of adoption is come unto thee, and hath thee, and hath done that for thee as hath been mentioned; I say, whether thou oughtest for anything whatsoever to give way to the same fear, from the same ground of damnation; it is evident thou oughtest not, because the ground, the cause, is removed.
- 19.) Objection 3: But since I was sealed to the day of redemption, I have grievously sinned against God, have not I, therefore, cause to fear, as before? may not, therefore, the spirit of bondage be sent again to put me in fear, as at first? Sin was the first cause, and I have sinned now.
- a.) Answer. No, by no means; for we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; that is, God hath not given it us.
- 1.) ***[2 Timothy 1.7]- For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***
- 2.) ***[1 Samuel 12.20]- And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;***
- 3.) ***[Psalm 89.30-33]- If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.***

- 4.) *[Isaiah 63.16-17]- Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting. O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.*
  - 5.) *[Galatians 4.4-7]- But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*
  - 6.) *[Deuteronomy 32.6]- Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?*
  - 7.) *[Jeremiah 3.4]- Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth?*
  - 8.) *[1 Samuel 12.20]- And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;*
- e. Considerations to prevent temptations.
- 1.) Though God cannot, will not, dissolve the relation which the spirit of adoption hath made betwixt the Father and the Son, for any sins that such do commit, yet he can, and often doth, take away from them the comfort of their adoption, not suffering children while sinning to have the sweet and comfortable sense thereof on their hearts.
    - a.) *[Job 22.10-11]- Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee; Or darkness, that thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee.*
  - 2.) God can tell how to hide his face from them, and so to afflict them with that dispensation, that it shall not be in the power of all the world to comfort them.
    - a.) *[Job 23.8-9]- Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:*
    - b.) *[Job 34.29]- When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:*
  - 3.) God can tell how to make thee again to possess the sins that he long since hath pardoned, and that in such wise that things shall be bitter to thy soul.
    - a.) *[Job 13.26]- For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.*
    - b.) *[Psalm 25.7]- Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.*
  - 4.) God can lay thee in the dungeon in chains, and roll a stone upon thee, he can make thy feet fast in the stocks, and make thee a gazing-stock to men and angels.
    - a.) *[Lamentations 3.7,53,55]- He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy. They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me. I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon.*
    - b.) *[Job 13.27]- Thou putttest my feet also in the stocks, and lookest narrowly unto all my paths; thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet.*
    - c.) *[Nahum 3.6]- And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock.*

- 5.) God can tell how to cause to cease the sweet operations and blessed influences of his grace in thy soul, and to make those gospel showers that formerly thou hast enjoyed to become now to thee nothing but powder and dust.
  - a.) *[Deuteronomy 28.24]- The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.*
- 6.) God can tell how to fight against thee "with the sword of his mouth," and to make thee a butt for his arrows; and this is a dispensation most dreadful.
  - a.) *[Revelation 2.16]- Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*
  - b.) *[Job 6.4]- For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.*
  - c.) *[Psalm 38.2-5]- For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness.*
- 7.) God can tell how so to bow thee down with guilt and distress that thou shalt in no wise be able to lift up thy head.
  - a.) *[Psalm 40.12]- For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.*
- 8.) God can tell how to break thy bones, and to make thee by reason of that to live in continual anguish of spirit: yea, he can send a fire into thy bones that shall burn, and none shall quench it.
  - a.) *[Psalm 51.8]- Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.*
  - b.) *[Lamentations 3.4]- My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones.*
  - c.) *[Lamentations 1.13]- From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day.*
  - d.) *[Psalm 102.3]- For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth.*
  - e.) *[Job 30.30]- My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat.*
- 9.) God can tell how to lay thee aside, and make no use of thee as to any work for him in thy generation. He can throw thee aside "as a broken vessel".
  - a.) *[Psalm 31.12]- I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.*
  - b.) *[Ezekiel 44.10-13]- And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity. Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them. Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity. And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed.*



- 10.) God can tell how to kill thee, and to take thee away from the earth for thy sins.  
 a.) *[1 Corinthians 11.29-32]- For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*
- 11.) God can tell how to plague thee in thy death, with great plagues, and of long continuance.  
 a.) *[Psalm 78.45]- He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.*
- 12.) What shall I say? God can tell how to let Satan loose upon thee; when thou liest a dying he can license him then to assault thee with great temptations, he can tell how to make thee possess the guilt of all thy unkindness towards him, and that when thou, as I said, art going out of the world, he can cause that thy life shall be in continual doubt before thee, and not suffer thee to take any comfort day nor night; yea, he can drive thee even to a madness with his chastisements for thy folly, and yet all shall be done by him to thee, as a father chastiseth his son.  
 a.) *[Deuteronomy 28.65-67]- And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.*
- 13.) God can tell how to tumble thee from off thy deathbed in a cloud, he can let thee die in the dark; when thou art dying thou shalt not know whither thou art going, to wit, whether to heaven or to hell.  
 a.) *[Hebrews 4.1]- Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*
- 14.) Object. But if God deals thus with a man, how can he otherwise think but that he is a reprobate, a graceless, Christless, and faithless one?  
 a.) Nay, but why dost thou tempt the Lord thy God? Why dost thou sin and provoke the eyes of his glory?  
 1.) *[Lamentations 3.39]- Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?*
- f. Carriages of some of the saints under heavy afflictions for sin.  
 1.) Job was in great affliction and that, as he confessed, for sin, insomuch that he said God had set him for his mark to shoot at, and that he ran upon him like a giant, that he took him by the neck and shook him to pieces, and counted him for his enemy; that he hid his face from him, and that he could not tell where to find him; yet he counted not all this as a sign of a damnable state, but as a trial, and chastisement, and said, when he was in the hottest of the battle, "when he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold."  
 a.) *[Job 7.20]- I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?*  
 b.) *[Job 13.15]- Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*

- c.) *[Job 14.12,16]- So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?*
- d.) *[Job 19.11]- He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.*
- e.) *[Job 23.8-10]- Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*
- 2.) David complained that God had broken his bones, that he had set his face against his sins, and had taken from him the joy of his salvation: yet even at this time he saith, "O God, thou God of my salvation"
- a.) *[Psalm 51.8,9,12,14]- Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.*
- 3.) Heman complained that his soul was full of troubles, that God had laid him in the lowest pit, that he had put his acquaintance far from him, and was casting off his soul, and had hid his face from him. That he was afflicted from his youth up, and ready to die with trouble: he saith, moreover, that the fierce wrath of God went over him, that his terrors had cut him off; yea, that by reason of them he was distracted; and yet, even before he maketh any of these complaints, he takes fast hold of God as his, saying, "O Lord God of my salvation".
- a.) *[Psalm 88.1]- O lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:*
- 4.) The church in the Lamentations complains that the Lord had afflicted her for her transgressions, and that in the day of his fierce anger; also that he had trodden under foot her mighty men, and that he had called the heathen against her; she says, that he had covered her with a cloud in his anger, that he was an enemy, and that he had hung a chain upon her; she adds, moreover, that he had shut out her prayer, broken her teeth with gravel stones, and covered her with ashes, and in conclusion, that he had utterly rejected her.
- a.) *[Lamentations 1.5]- Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.*
- b.) *[Lamentations 2:1,5]- How hath the LORD covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger! The LORD was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.*
- c.) *[Lamentations 3.7,8,16]- He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy. Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer. He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes.*
- d.) *[Lamentations 5.22]- But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.*
- e.) *[Lamentations 3.24,31,58]- The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. For the LORD will not cast off for ever: O LORD, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.*

- g. How the devil worketh these fears.
- 1.) Question 1: But since it is as you say, how doth the devil, after the spirit of adoption is come, work the child of God into those fears of being out of Christ, not forgiven, and so an heir of damnation again?
    - a.) Answer 1: By giving the lie, and by prevailing with us to give it too, to the work of grace wrought in our hearts, and to the testimony of the Holy Spirit of adoption.
    - b.) Answer 2: By abusing of our ignorance of the everlasting love of God to his in Christ, and the duration of the covenant of grace.
    - c.) Answer 3: By abusing some scripture that seems to look that way, but doth not.
    - d.) Answer 4: By abusing our senses and reason.
    - e.) Answer 5: By strengthening of our unbelief.
    - f.) Answer 6: By overshadowing of our judgment with horrid darkness.
    - g.) Answer 7: By giving of us counterfeit representations of God.
    - h.) Answer 8: By stirring up, and setting in a rage, our inward corruptions.
    - i.) Answer 9: By pouring into our hearts abundance of horrid blasphemies.
    - j.) Answer 10: By putting of wrong constructions on the rod, and chastising hand of God.
    - k.) Answer 11: By charging upon us, that our ill behaviors under the rod, and chastising hand of God, is a sign that we indeed have no grace, but are downright graceless reprobates.
- h. The people of God should fear his rod.
- 1.) Question 1: But would you not have the people of God stand in fear of his rod, and be afraid of his judgments?
    - a.) Answer 1: Yes, and the more they are rightly afraid of them, the less and the seldomer will they come under them; for it is want of fear that brings us into sin, and it is sin that brings us into these afflictions.
  - 2.) Question 2: How is that?
    - a.) Answer 1: Why, having before received the spirit of adoption; still to believe that he is our father, and so to fear with the fear of children, not as slaves fear a tyrant.
      - 1.) ***[Micah 7.9]- I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.***
      - 2.) ***[Lamentations 1.18]- The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.***
      - 3.) ***[Psalm 77.10-12]- And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.***
      - 4.) ***[Lamentations 3.31-34]-For the LORD will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men. To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth.***
      - 5.) ***[Lamentations 5.16]- The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!***
- i. Five considerations to move to child-like fear.
- 1.) Question 1: But have you yet any other considerations to move us to fear God with child-like fear?
    - a.) Answer 1: Consider that God thinks meet to have it so, and he is wiser in heart than thou; he knows best how to secure his people from sin, and to that end hath

given them law and commandments to read, that they may learn to fear him as a Father.

- 1.) *[Job 37.24]- Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any that are wise of heart.*
- 2.) *[Ecclesiastes 3.14]- I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.*
- 3.) *[Deuteronomy 17.18-19]- And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:*

b.) Answer 2: Consider he is mighty in power; if he touch but with a fatherly touch, man nor angel cannot bear it; yea, Christ makes use of that argument, he "hath power to cast into hell; Fear him".

- 1.) *[Luke 12.4-5]- And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*

c.) Answer 3: Consider that he is everywhere; thou canst not be out of his sight or presence; nor out of the reach of his hand.

- 1.) *"Fear ye not me? Saith the Lord." "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the Lord".*
- 2.) *[Jeremiah 5.22]- Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?*
- 3.) *[Jeremiah 23.24]- Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*

d.) Answer 4: Consider that he is holy, and cannot look with liking upon the sins of his own people.

e.) Answer 5: Consider that he is good, and has been good to thee, good in that he hath singled thee out from others, and saved thee from their death and hell, though thou perhaps wast worse in thy life than those that he left when he laid hold on thee.

- 1.) *[Hosea 3.5]- Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.*

j. Of the grace of fear more immediately intended in the text.

1.) How by the Scripture this fear is described,

a.) More generally.

- 1.) It is called a grace, that is, a sweet and blessed work of the Spirit of grace, as he is given to the elect by God.

a.) *[Hebrews 12.28]- Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

b.) *[Isaiah 11.2]- And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

- 2.) This fear is called also the fear of God, not as that which is ungodly is, nor yet as that may be which is wrought by the Spirit as a spirit of bondage, but by way of eminency; to wit, as a dispensation of the grace of the gospel, and as a fruit of eternal love.
    - a.) *[Jeremiah 32.38-41]- And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.*
  - 3.) This fear of God is called God's treasure, for it is one of his choice jewels, it is one of the rarities of heaven.
    - a.) *[Isaiah 33.6]- And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.*
  - 4.) This grace of fear is that which maketh men excel and go beyond all men, in the account of God; it is that which beautifies a man, and prefers him above all other.
    - a.) *[Job 1.8]- And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*
    - b.) *[Job 2.3]- And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.*
    - c.) *[Leviticus 2.13]- And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.*
  - 5.) I take this grace of fear to be that which softeneth and mollifieth the heart, and that makes it stand in awe both of the mercies and judgments of God.
    - a.) *[Psalm 4.4]- Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.*
    - b.) *[Psalm 119.161]- Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.*
    - c.) *[Psalm 33.8]- Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.*
- b.) More particularly.
- 1.) This grace is called "the beginning of knowledge," because by the first gracious discovery of God to the soul, this grace is begot: and again, because the first time that the soul doth apprehend God in Christ to be good unto it, this grace is animated, by which the soul is put into an holy awe of God, which causeth it with reverence and due attention to hearken to him, and tremble before him.
    - a.) *[Proverbs 1.7]- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

- 2.) This fear is called "the beginning of wisdom," because then, and not till then, a man begins to be truly spiritually wise; what wisdom is there where the fear of God is not?
  - a.) *[Job 28.28]- And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*
  - b.) *[Psalm 111.10]- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*
  - c.) *[Proverbs 1.29]- For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:*
  - d.) *[Proverbs 1.7]- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- 3.) This fear of the Lord is to hate evil.
  - a.) *[Proverbs 16.6]- By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*
- 4.) This fear is called a fountain of life.
  - a.) *[Proverbs 14.27]- The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*
  - b.) *[Proverbs 19.23]- The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*
- 5.) This fear of the Lord, it is called "the instruction of wisdom".
  - a.) *[Proverbs 15.33]- The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.*
  - b.) *[Job 6.14]- To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.*
- 2.) What this fear of God flows from.
  - a.) This fear, this grace of fear, this son-like fear of God, it flows from the distinguishing love of God to his elect.
    - 1.) *[Jeremiah 32.38-40]- And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*
  - b.) This fear flows from a new heart.
    - 1.) *[Jeremiah 32.39]- And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:*
    - 2.) *[Ezekiel 11.19]- And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:*
    - 3.) *[Ezekiel 36.26]- A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*
    - 4.) *[Matthew 9.17]- Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.*
    - 5.) *[Luke 6.43-45]- For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather*

*they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

- c.) This fear of God flows from an impression, a sound impression, that the Word of God maketh on our souls; for without an impress of the Word, there is no fear of God.
  - 1.) *[Deuteronomy 6.1-2]- Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.*
  - 2.) *[Deuteronomy 31.12]- Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:*
  - 3.) *[Romans 6.17]- But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*
- d.) This godly fear floweth from faith; for where the Word maketh a sound impression on the soul, by that impression is faith begotten, whence also this fear doth flow.
  - 1.) *[Galatians 3.2]- This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*
  - 2.) *[Hebrews 11.7]- By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*
- e.) This godly fear also floweth from sound repentance for and from sin; godly sorrow worketh repentance, and godly repentance produceth this fear.
  - 1.) *[2 Corinthians 7.10-11]- For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*
- f.) This godly fear also flows from a sense of the love and kindness of God to the soul.
  - 1.) *[Psalm 130.3-4]- If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.*
  - 2.) *[Jeremiah 33.8-9]- And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.*
- g.) This fear of God flows from a due consideration of the judgments of God that are to be executed in the world; yea, upon professors too.

- 1.) *[Psalm 119.120]- My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.*
  - 2.) *[1 Chronicles 13.12]- And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?*
  - 3.) *[Deuteronomy 13.11]- And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.*
  - 4.) *[Deuteronomy 21.21]- And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.*
  - 5.) *[Deuteronomy 17.13]- And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.*
  - 6.) *[Deuteronomy 19.20]- And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.*
- h.) This godly fear also flows from a godly remembrance of our former distresses, when we were distressed with our first fears.
- 1.) *[Deuteronomy 4.9-11]- Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.*
- i.) This godly fear flows from our receiving of an answer of prayer, when we supplicated for mercy at the hand of God. See the proof for this.
- 1.) *[1 Kings 8.37-40]- If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be; What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.*
- j.) This grace of fear also flows from a blessed conviction of the all-seeing eye of God; that is, from a belief that he certainly knoweth the heart, and seeth every one of the turnings and returnings thereof; this is intimated in the text last mentioned.
- 1.) *[Luke 16.15]- And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*
- k.) This grace of fear also flows from a sense of the impartial judgment of God upon men according to their works.
- 1.) *[1 Peter 1:17]- And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*



- 3.) What proceedeth or flows from this godly fear of God, where it is seated in the heart of man.
- a.) There flows from this godly fear a godly reverence of God.
- 1.) *[Psalm 123.2]- Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.*
  - 2.) *[Genesis 42.18]- And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:*
  - 3.) *[Psalm 119.116]- Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.*
  - 4.) *[Revelation 15.4]- Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*
  - 5.) *[Psalm 119.136]- Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.*
  - 6.) *[1 Samuel 17.26,32,45-46]- And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*
  - 7.) *[Psalm 42.10]- As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?*
  - 8.) *[Psalm 119.151]- Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.*
  - 9.) *[Psalm 89.50]- Remember, Lord, the reproach of thy servants; how I do bear in my bosom the reproach of all the mighty people;*
  - 10.) *[1 Sam 4.14-18]- And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli. Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see. And the man said unto Eli, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son? And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken. And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.*
  - 11.) *[Dan 6.10-16]- Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Then answered they and said*

*before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day. Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.*

*12.) [Dan 3.13,16,20]- Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

b.) There flows from this godly fear, watchfulness.

- 1.) [Proverbs 4.23]- Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*
- 2.) [Hebrews 12.15]- Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*
- 3.) [1 Peter 5.8]- Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
- 4.) [James 3.2-7]- For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:*
- 5.) [Psalm 39.1]- I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.*
- 6.) [Hebrews 12.13]- And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

c.) There flows from this fear a holy provocation to a reverential converse with saints in their religious and godly assemblies, for their further progress in the faith and way of holiness.

- 1.) [Malachi 3.16]- Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*
- 2.) [Psalm 89.7]- God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.*

- 3.) *[1 Chronicles 29.18]- O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:*
- d.) There flows from this fear of God great reverence of his majesty, in and under the use and enjoyment of God's holy ordinances.
- 1.) *[Acts 9.31]- Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.*
  - 2.) *[Leviticus 19.30]- Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.*
  - 3.) *[Leviticus 26.2]- Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.*
  - 4.) *[Psalm 5.7]- But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.*
  - 5.) *[Hebrews 12.22-25]- But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:*
- e.) There flows from this godly fear of God, self-denial. That is, a holy abstaining from those things that are either unlawful or inexpedient; according to that of Nehemiah.
- 1.) *[Nehemiah 5.15]- But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.*
  - 2.) *[1 Corinthians 8.13]- Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.*
  - 3.) *[Matthew 10.37-38]- He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*
  - 4.) *[Luke 14.26-27,33]- If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*
- f.) There flows from this godly fear of God "singleness of heart"
- 1.) *[Colossians 3.22]- Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;*
  - 2.) *[Zechariah 7.5-6]- Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me? And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves?*

- 3.) *[3 John 5]- Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;*
- 4.) *[John 1.47]- Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!*
- g.) There flows from this godly fear of God, compassion and bowels to those of the saints that are in necessity and distress.
  - 1.) *[1 Kings 18.3-4]- And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)*
- h.) There flows from this fear of God hearty, fervent, and constant prayer.
  - 1.) *[Acts 10.1-2]- There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.*
  - 2.) *[Hebrews 5.7]- Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;*
- i.) There floweth from this fear of God a readiness or willingness, at God's call, to give up our best enjoyments to his disposal.
  - 1.) *[Heb 11.17]- By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*
  - 2.) *[James 2.21]- Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*
  - 3.) *[Genesis 22.11-12]- And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.*
- j.) There floweth from this godly fear humility of mind.
  - 1.) *[Romans 11.20]- Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:*
- k.) There flows from this grace of fear, hope in the mercy of God.
  - 1.) *[Psalm 147.1]- Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.*
  - 2.) *[1 John 3:14]- We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*
- l.) There floweth from this godly fear of God an honest and conscientious use of all those means which God hath ordained, that we should be conversant in for our attaining salvation.
  - 1.) *[Romans 6.22]- But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*
  - 2.) *[Hebrews 12.14]- Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*
  - 3.) *[Philippians 2.11]- And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
  - 4.) *[Hebrews 6.3-8]- And this will we do, if God permit. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of*

*God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.*

- 5.) *[1 Timothy 6.11-12]- But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*
- 6.) *[2 Peter 1:5-11]- And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

m.) There flows from this fear, this godly fear, a great delight in the holy commands of God, that is, a delight to be conformable unto them.

- 1.) *[Psalm 112.1]- Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.*

n.) There floweth from this fear of God, enlargement of heart.

- 1.) *[Isaiah 60.5]- Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*
- 2.) *[Psalm 51.12]- Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*
- 3.) *[Isaiah 11.2]- And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

k. Of the privileges of them that thus do fear the Lord.

- 1.) That man that feareth the Lord, has a grant and a license "to trust in the Lord," with an affirmation that he is their help, and their shield.
  - a.) *[Psalm 115.11]- Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.*
- 2.) God hath also proclaimed concerning the man that feareth the Lord, that he will also be his teacher and guide in the way that he shall choose, and hath moreover promised concerning such, that their soul shall dwell at ease.
  - a.) *[Psalm 25.12]- What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.*
  - b.) *[Matthew 13.52]- Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.*
  - c.) *[Luke 24.32]- And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?*

- 3.) Dost thou fear the Lord? He will open his secret unto thee, even that which he hath hid and keeps close from all the world, to wit, the secret of his covenant and of thy concern therein.
  - a.) *[Psalm 25.14]- The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.*
  - b.) *[Matthew 11.27]- All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*
  - c.) *[Colossians 2.2-3]- That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
  
- 4.) Dost thou fear the Lord? His eye is always over thee for good, to keep thee from all evil.
  - a.) *[Psalm 33.18-19]- Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.*
  - b.) *[Psalm 32.8]- I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*
  - c.) *[2 Chronicles 7.15-16]- Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*
  - d.) *[Revelation 20.14]- And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*
  - e.) *[Amos 8.11-12]- Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.*
  
- 5.) Dost thou fear God? Fear him for this advantage more and more.
  - a.) *[Psalm 34.9-10]- O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.*
  
- 6.) Dost thou fear God? he hath given charge to the armies of heaven to look after, take charge of, to camp about, and to deliver thee.
  - 1.) *[Psalm 34.7]- The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*
  - 2.) *[2 Kings 6:17]- And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*
  - 3.) *[Isaiah 37.36]- Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.*
  - 4.) *[Jeremiah 26.19]- Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.*

- 5.) *[Acts 12.13-15]- And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.*
- 6.) *[Hebrews 1.14]- Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*
- 7.) Question 1: But how do they deliver them? For so says the text—*"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."*
  - a.) Answer 1: The way that they take to deliver them that fear the Lord, is sometimes by smiting of their enemies with blindness, that they may not find them; and so they served the enemies of Lot.
    - 1.) *[Genesis 19.10-11]- But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.*
  - b.) Answer 2: Sometimes by smiting of them with deadly fear; and so they served those that laid siege against Samaria.
    - 1.) *[2 Kings 7.6]- For the LORD had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.*
  - c.) Answer 3: Sometimes by smiting of them even with death itself; and thus they served Herod, after he had attempted to kill the apostle James, and also sought to vex certain others of the church.
    - 1.) *[Acts 12.1, 23]- Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.*
- 7.) Dost thou fear the Lord? Salvation is nigh unto thee.
  - a.) *[Psalm 85.9]- Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.*
- 8.) Dost thou fear the Lord? Hearken yet again.
  - a.) *[Psalm 103.17]- But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*
  - b.) *[Romans 8.1]- There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
  - c.) *[Psalm 90.2]- Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*
  - d.) *[Deuteronomy 33.27]-The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*
  - e.) *[Psalm 103.11]- For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*
- 9.) Dost thou fear God? Know God's pity towards you.
  - a.) *[Psalm 103.13]- Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

- b.) *[Isaiah 63.9]- In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.*
  - c.) *[Judges 10.16]- And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.*
  - d.) *[Hebrews 4.15]- For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*
  - e.) *[Hebrews 2.17-18]- Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*
  - f.) *[James 5.11]- Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*
  - g.) *[Genesis 41.43]- And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.*
  - h.) *[Jeremiah 31.18-20]- I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.*
- 10.) Dost thou fear God? Know that God will give you your desires and hear your cries.
- a.) *[Psalm 145.19]- He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.*
  - b.) *[1 Kings 1.6]- And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.*
  - c.) *[Psalm 20.5]- We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.*
  - d.) *[2 Sam 23.5]- Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.*
  - e.) *[Exodus 6.6]- Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:*
  - f.) *[2 Peter 2.9]- The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*
  - g.) *[Philippians 3.20-21]- For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*
  - h.) *[Luke 16.22]- And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;*
  - i.) *[Luke 20.35-36]- But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:*



*Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.*

- j.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:
- 11.) Dost thou fear God? Feel God's pleasure.
  - a.) *[Psalm 147.11]- The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*
  - b.) *[Psalm 35.27]- Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.*
  - c.) *[Psalm 36.8]- They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*
  - d.) *[Psalm 149.4]- For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*
  - e.) *[1 Thessalonians 4.1]- Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*
  - f.) *[Song of Solomon 4.9]- Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck.*
  - g.) *[Proverbs 15.8]- The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.*
  - h.) *[Proverbs 11.20]- They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.*
  - i.) *[Malachi 3.16-17]- Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*
  - j.) *[Mark 12.41-44]- And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.*
- 12.) Dost thou fear God? The least dram of that fear giveth the privilege to be blessed with the biggest saint.
  - a.) *[Psalm 115.13]- He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.*
  - b.) For those that are small in esteem, for those that are but little accounted of.
    - 1.) *[Judges 6.15]- And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*
    - 2.) *[1 Samuel 18.23]- And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?*
  - c.) By small, sometimes is meant those that are but small of stature, or young in years, little children, that are easily passed by and looked over:
    - 1.) *[Matthew 21.16]- And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?*

- d.) By small may sometimes be meant those that are small in grace or gifts; these are said to be the least in the church, that is, under this consideration, and so are by it least esteemed
- 1.) *[Matthew 25.45]- Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*
  - 2.) *[1 Corinthians 6.4]- If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.*
  - 3.) *[Matthew 10.42]- And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*
  - 4.) *[Revelation 11.18]- And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*
- 13.) Dost thou fear God? Why, the Holy Ghost hath on purpose indited for thee a whole psalm to sing concerning thyself.
- a.) *[Psalm 128.1-6]- Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.*
- 14.) Objection 1: But the Scripture says, "perfect love casteth out fear" ; and therefore it seems that saints, after that a spirit of adoption is come, should not fear, but do their duty, as another Scripture saith, without it
- a.) *[1 John 4.18]- There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*
  - b.) *[Luke 1.74-75]- That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*
  - c.) Answer 1: It may be taken for the fear of devils.
  - d.) Answer 2. It may be taken for the fear of reprobates.
  - e.) Answer 3. It may be taken for the fear that is wrought in the godly by the Spirit as a spirit of bondage.
  - f.) Answer 4. It may be taken for the fear that I have been but now discoursing of.
  - g.) *[Luke 23.40]- But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?*
  - h.) *[2 Chronicles 19.7]- Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.*

F. The uses of this doctrine.

1. Use 1: Examination.
  - a. In general. No man brings this grace into the world with him.
    - 1.) *[Psalm 55.19]- God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.*
    - 2.) *[Psalm 36.1]- The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*
    - 3.) *[Romans 3.18]- There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

- b. In particular.
- 1.) That man that is proud, and of a high and lofty mind, fears not God.
    - a.) *[Romans 11.20]- Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:*
    - b.) *[Psalm 138.6]- Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.*
    - c.) *[James 4.6]- But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*
    - d.) *[1 Peter 5.5]- Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*
    - e.) *[Malachi 4.1]- For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*
  - 2.) The covetous man feareth not God.
    - a.) *[Exodus 18.21]- Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:*
    - b.) *[Ezekiel 33.31]- And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.*
    - c.) *[Ephesians 5.5]- For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*
    - d.) *[Psalm 10.3]- For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.*
    - e.) *[James 4.4]- Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*
  - 3.) The riotous eaters of flesh have not the fear of God. For this is done "without fear".
    - a.) *[Jude 12]- These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*
    - b.) *[2 Peter 2.13]- And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;*
    - c.) *[Romans 13.13]- Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*
    - d.) *[1 Peter 4.4]- Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*
    - e.) *[Luke 21.34]- And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*
  - 4.) The liar is one that fears not God.
    - a.) *[Isaiah 57.11]- And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?*

- b.) *[Revelation 21.8,27]- But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*
  - c.) *[Revelation 22.15]- For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*
- 5.) They fear not God who cry unto him for help in the time of their calamity, and when they are delivered, they return to their former rebellion.
  - a.) *[Exodus 9.30]- But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God.*
  - b.) *[John 4.1-3]- When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.*
  - c.) *[Ezekiel 16.17]- Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them,*

..
- 6.) They fear not God that way-lay his people and seek to overthrow them, or to turn them besides the right path, as they are journeying from hence to their eternal rest.
  - a.) *[Deuteronomy 25.17-18]- Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*
- 7.) They fear not God who see his hand upon backsliders for their sins, and yet themselves will be backsliders also.
  - a.) *[Jeremiah 3.8]- And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.*
  - b.) *[Jeremiah 2.19]- Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.*
- 8.) They fear not God who can look upon a land as wallowing in sin, and yet are not humbled at the sight thereof.
  - a.) *[Jeremiah 44.9-10]- Have ye forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers.*
- 9.) They that take more heed to their own dreams than to the Word of God, fear not God.
  - a.) *[Ecclesiastes 5.7]- For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.*
  - b.) *[Isaiah 8.20]- To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*
  - c.) *[Isaiah 29.7]- And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.*

- d.) *[Jude 1.8]- Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*
  - e.) *[2 Peter 2.1-2]- But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*
- 10.) They fear not God, who are sorcerers, adulterers, false swearers, and that oppress the hireling of his wages.
- a.) *[James 5.4]- Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*
  - b.) *[Malachi 3.5]- And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- 11.) They fear not God, who instead of pitying of, rail at God's people in their affliction, temptations, and persecutions, and rather rejoice and skip for joy, than sympathize with them in their sorrow.
- a.) *[Luke 23.40]- But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?*
  - b.) *[Psalm 35.1,22-26]- Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me. Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord. Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me. Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up. Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.*
  - c.) *[Obadiah 10-15]- For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever. In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them. But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress. Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity; Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress. For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.*
  - d.) *[Jeremiah 48.2-6]- There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee. A voice of crying shall be from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction. Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard. For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the*

*enemies have heard a cry of destruction. Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness.*

- e.) *[2 Samuel 16.5-8]- And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.*
- f.) *[1 Kings 2.8-9]- And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword. Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.*

12.) They fear not God, who are strangers to the effects of fear.

- a.) *[Malachi 1.6-8]- A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*
  - b.) *[Psalm 66.3]- Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.*
  - c.) *[1 Chronicles 14.17]- And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.*
  - d.) *[2 Chronicles 20.29]- And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.*
  - e.) *[Jeremiah 5.23-24,29]- But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?*
- c. A few things that may provoke thee to fear the Lord
- 1.) The man that feareth not God, carrieth it worse towards him than the beast, the brute beast, doth carry it towards that man.
    - a.) *[Genesis 9.2]- And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*
  - 2.) Consider, he that will not fear God, God will make him fear him whether he will or no.
    - a.) *[Ecclesiastes 12.5]- Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:*

- b.) *[Isaiah 66.4]- I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.*
- 3.) He that fears not God now, the Lord shall laugh at his fears then.
  - a.) *[Proverbs 1.27-29]- When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:*
  - b.) *[Psalm 9.16]- The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah.*
  - c.) *[Proverbs 12.13]- The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.*
- 2. Use 2: An exhortation to fear God.
  - a. *[Job 1.8]- And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*
  - b. *[Nehemiah 7.2]- That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.*
  - c. Motives
    - 1.) Let God's distinguishing love to you be a motive to you to fear him greatly.
    - 2.) The privileges that it lays thee under.
    - 3.) The man that groweth in this grace of the fear of the Lord will escape those evils that others will fall into.
      - a.) *[Jeremiah 32.40]- And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*
- 4.) To grow in this grace of the fear of God, is the way to be kept always in a conscientious performance of Christian duties.
  - a.) *[Job 1.3]- His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.*
  - b.) *[Job 2.3]- And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.*
- 5.) This is the way to be wise indeed. A wise man feareth and departeth from evil.
- 6.) It is seemly for saints to fear, and increase in this fear of God. He is thy Creator; is it not seemly for creatures to fear and reverence their Creator?
- 7.) It is honourable to grow in this grace of fear.
  - a.) *[Hosea 13.1]- When Ephraim spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died.*
  - b.) *[Luke 12.4-5]- And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*
  - c.) *[Isaiah 8.12-13]- Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.*

- d.) *[Psalm 15.4]- In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*
- 8.) This fear, and the increase of it, qualifies a man to be put in trust with heavenly and spiritual things, yea, and with earthly things too.
- a.) This fear, and the increase of it, qualifies a man to be put in trust with heavenly and spiritual things.
- 1.) *[Malachi 2.5]- My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.*
  - 2.) *[Exodus 18.21]- Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:*
  - 3.) *[Nehemiah 7.2]- That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.*
- b.) This fear, and the increase of it, qualifies a man to be put in trust with earthly things.
- 1.) *[Genesis 42.18]- And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:*
  - 2.) *[Genesis 41.39]- And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:*
  - 3.) *[1 Kings 18.3]- And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:*
  - 4.) *[Esther 6.10]- Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.*
  - 5.) *[Daniel 2.48]- Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.*
  - 6.) *[Daniel 3.30]- Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.*
  - 7.) *[Daniel 5.29]- Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.*
  - 8.) *[Daniel 6.1-3]- It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*
- 9.) Where the fear of God in the heart of any is not growing, there no grace thrives, nor duty done as it should.
- a.) *[2 Corinthians 7.1]- Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
- b.) *[James 1.4]- But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*
- 10.) It is a grace, do but abound therein, that will give thee great boldness both with God and men.



- a.) *[Job 23.3-7]- Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat! I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me. Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me. There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.*
  - b.) *[Job 31.35-37]- Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book.*
  - c.) *[Job 13.3-9,18]- Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value. O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom. Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips. Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him? Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God? Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him? Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified.*
  - d.) *[Job 19.23-24]- Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!*
  - e.) *[Nehemiah 1.11]- O LORD, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*
  - f.) *[Psalm 115.13]- He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.*
- 11.)By it thou mayest have thy labours blessed, to the saving of the souls of others.
- a.) *[Malachi 2.6]- The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.*
  - b.) *[1 Peter 3.1-2]- Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*
  - c.) *[Leviticus 19.14]- Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.*
  - d.) *[1 Timothy 4.16]- Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*
- 12.)This is the way to engage God to deliver thee from many outward dangers, whoever falls therein.
- a.) *[Psalm 34.7]- The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*
  - b.) *[Exodus 1.17,20-21]- But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.*
- 13.)This is the way to be delivered from errors and damnable opinions.
- a.) *[Ecclesiastes 7.18]- It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.*
- 14.)Such as have leave, be they never so dark in their souls, to come boldly to Jesus Christ, and to trust in him for life.

- a.) *[Isaiah 50.10]- Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.*
- 15.) God will own and acknowledge such to be his, whoever he rejecteth.
- a.) *[Ezekiel 9.4]- And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*
- b.) *[Malachi 3.16-17]- Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*
- d. How to grow in this fear of God.
- 1.) Learn aright to distinguish of fear in general.
- a.) *[Genesis 3.15]- And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
- b.) *[Genesis 26.24]- And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.*
- c.) *[Genesis 46.3]- And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:*
- d.) *[Exodus 14.13]- And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.*
- e.) *[Exodus 20.20]- And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.*
- f.) *[Numbers 14.9]- Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*
- g.) *[Numbers 21.34]- And the LORD said unto Moses, Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon.*
- h.) *[Isaiah 41.10,14]- Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.*
- i.) *[Isaiah 43.1]- But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*
- j.) *[Isaiah 44.2,8]- Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.*
- k.) *[Isaiah 54.4]- Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.*
- l.) *[Jeremiah 30.10]- Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.*

- m.) *[Daniel 10.12,19]- Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.*
- n.) *[Joel 2.21]- Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.*
- o.) *[Haggai 2.5]- According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.*
- p.) *[Zechariah 8.13]- And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.*
- 2.) Learn rightly to distinguish it from that fear, in particular, that is godly but for a time; even from that fear that is wrought by the Spirit, as a spirit of bondage.
- a.) *[Romans 8.15]- For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*
- b.) *[2 Timothy 1.7]- For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*
- c.) *[Hebrews 2.14-15]- Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*
- 3.) As thou shouldest learn to distinguish of fears, so thou shouldest make conscience of which to entertain and cherish.
- a.) *[Exodus 20.20]- And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.*
- b.) *[Jeremiah 32.40]- And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*
- c.) *[Psalm 49.5]- Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?*
- 4.) Grow in the knowledge of the new covenant, for that is indeed the girdle of our reins, and the strength of our souls.
- a.) *[Luke 1.69-74]- And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,*
- 5.) Labour even always to keep thine evidences for heaven and of thy salvation alive upon thy heart; for he that loseth his evidences for heaven, will hardly keep slavish fear out of heart; but he that hath the wisdom and grace to keep them alive, and apparent to himself, he will grow in this godly fear.
- a.) *[Psalm 61.2-5]- From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah. For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.*

- 6.) Set before thine eyes the being and majesty of God; for that both begetteth, maintaineth, and increaseth this fear.
  - a.) *[Deuteronomy 28.58]- If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;*
  
- 7.) Keep always close to thy conscience the authority of the Word; fear the commandment as the commandment of a God both mighty and glorious, and as the commandment of a father, both loving and pitiful; let this commandment, I say, be always with thine eye, with thine ear, and with thine heart; for then thou wilt be taught, not only to fear, but to abound in the fear of the Lord.
  - a.) *[Proverbs 13.13]- Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.*
  - b.) *[Proverbs 4.20-22]- My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*
  - c.) *[Deuteronomy 6.1-2]- Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.*
  
- 8.) Be much in the faith of the promise, of the promise that maketh over to thy soul an interest in God by Christ, and of all good things.
  - a.) *[2 Corinthians 7.1]- Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
  
- 9.) Remember the judgments of God that have, or shall certainly overtake, those professors, that have either been downright hypocrites, or else unwatchful Christians.
  - a.) Blindness of heart in this world.
  - b.) The death of their hope at the day of their death.
  - c.) And the damnation of their souls at the day of judgment.
    - 1.) *[Matthew 23.15-19]- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?*
    - 2.) *[Job 8.13]- So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:*
    - 3.) *[Job 11.20]- But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.*
    - 4.) *[Job 18.14]- His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.*
    - 5.) *[Job 20.4-7]- Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head*

*reach unto the clouds; Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?*

- 6.) *[Matthew 23.33]- Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*
- 7.) *[Matthew 24.51]- And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- 8.) *[Luke 20.47]- Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.*

10.) Study the excellencies of the grace of fear, and what profit it yieldeth to them that have it, and labour to get thy heart into the love, both of the exercise of the grace itself, and also of the fruit it yieldeth; for a man hardly grows in the increase of any grace, until his heart is united to it, and until it is made lovely in his eyes.

- a.) *[Psalm 119.119-120]- Thou putttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.*

11.) Remember what a world of privileges do belong to them that fear the Lord, as also I have hinted; namely, that such shall not be hurt, shall want no good thing, shall be guarded by angels, and have a special license, though in never so dreadful a plight, to trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon their God.

12.) Be much in prayer to God for abundance of the increase thereof.

13.) Devote thyself to it.

- a.) *[Psalm 119.38]- Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.*

e. Caution of those things that will, if way be given to them, hinder thy growth in this fear of God, the which, because they are very hurtful to the people of God.

1.) A hard heart.

- a.) *[Isaiah 63.17]- O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.*

b.) Take heed of the beginnings of sin.

c.) Lie not down without repentance.

- 1.) *[Jeremiah 3.3]- Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.*

d.) Be much with Christ upon the cross in thy meditations.

- 1.) *[Zechariah 12.10]- And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

2.) A prayer less heart.

- a.) *[Job 15.4]- Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God.*

3.) A light and wanton heart.

- a.) *[Jeremiah 3.8]- And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.*

4.) A covetous heart.

- a.) *[Exodus 18.21]- Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:*
  - b.) *[Ezekiel 33.30-32]- Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.*
  - c.) *[1 John 2.15]- Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- 5.) An unbelieving heart.
- a.) *[Hebrews 3.12]- Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*
  - b.) *[Hebrews 11.7]- By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*
- 6.) A forgetful heart.
- a.) *[Job 21.6]- Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.*
  - b.) *[Job 23.15]- Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.*
- 7.) A murmuring and repining heart.
- a.) *[Job 23.15-16]- Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him. For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:*
- 8.) A high and captious spirit.
- a.) *[1 Peter 3.15]- But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
- 9.) An envious heart.
- a.) *[Proverbs 23.17]- Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.*
- 10.) Hardening your heart at any time against convictions to particular duties, as to prayer, alms, self-denial, or the like.
- a.) *[Proverbs 28.14]- Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.*
3. Use 3: For encouragement.
- a. *[Ecclesiastes 8.12]- Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:*
  - b. Had God given thee all the world, yet cursed hadst thou been, if he had not given thee the fear of the Lord; for the fashion of this world is a fading thing, but he that feareth the Lord shall abide for ever and ever.

- 1.) *[Jeremiah 32.40]- And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*
- 2.) There are five things in this grace of fear that have a direct tendency in them to keep thee from final apostasy.
  - a.) It is seated in the heart, and the heart is, as I may call it, the main fort in the mystical world, man.
  - b.) As the heart in general, so the will in special.
    - 1.) *[1 Samuel 12.14]- If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:*
    - 2.) *[Psalm 110.3]- Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.*
  - c.) This fear is God's well-wisher; and hence it is called, as I also have showed you, his fear.
    - 1.) *[2 Sam 15.37]- So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.*
    - 2.) *[2 Samuel 16.16]- And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.*
  - d.) This grace of fear is the softest and most tender of God's honour of any other grace.
    - 1.) *[Song of Solomon 3.7-8]- Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel. They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night.*
  - e.) This grace of fear is that which first affects the hearts of saints with judgments, after we have sinned, and so is as a beginning grace to bring again that to rights that by sin is put out of frame.
- c. This fear fails not to do this work for the soul, if there in truth, be it never so small in measure.
  - 1.) Question 1: But you may say, How shall I know that I fear God?
    - a.) Answer 1: If I should say that desires, true sincere desires to fear him, is fear itself. I should not say amiss. For although a desire to be, or do so and so, makes not a man to be in temporal or natural things what he desires to be.
      - 1.) *[Nehemiah 1.11]- O LORD, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*
      - 2.) *[Proverbs 19.22]- The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.*
  - d. That in many other things is not capable of serving of God, serve him better than those that have all without it.
    - 1.) *[Jonah 1.8-9]- Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.*

4. A word to hypocrites.
  - a. Hypocrite, thou mayest by thy cunning shifts be veiled and hid from men, but thou art naked before the eyes of God, and he knoweth that his fear is not in thy heart.
    - 1.) *[Luke 16.15]- And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*
  - b. Hypocrite, be admonished that there is not obedience accepted of God, where the heart is destitute of this grace of fear.
    - 1.) *[Philippians 3.2,18-19]- Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*
    - 2.) *[Ecclesiastes 12.13]- Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*
  - c. Hypocrite, thou must fear God first, even before thou dost offer to meddle with the commandments, that is, as to the keeping of them.
  - d. Hypocrite, this word, *FEAR GOD*, is that which the hypocrite quite forgets, although it is that which sanctifies the whole duty of man.
  - e. Hypocrite, be admonished that none of the privileges that are spoken of in the former part of the book belongs to thee, because thou art a hypocrite; and if thou hope, thy hope shall be cut off, and if thou lean upon thy house, both thou and it shall fall into hell-fire.
    - 1.) *[Job 8.13,15]- So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish: He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.*
    - 2.) *[Job 20.4-6]- Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;*
    - 3.) *[Job 27.8]- For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?*
    - 4.) *[Proverbs 1.27]- When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.*
  - f. Hypocrite, read this text and tremble—"The sinners in Zion are afraid, fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"
    - 1.) *[Isaiah 33.13-14]- Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?*
  - g. Hypocrite, thou art not under the fatherly protection of God, because thou art a hypocrite, and wantest his fear in thine heart.
  - h. Hypocrite, thou art like to have no other reward of God for thy labour than that which the goats shall have; the hypocrite, because he is a hypocrite, shall not stand in God's sight.
  - i. Hypocrite, God hath not entrusted thee with the least dram of his saving grace, nor will he, because thou art a hypocrite: and as for what thou hast, thou hast stolen it, even every man of you from his neighbour; still pilfering out of their profession, even as Judas did out of the bag.
    - 1.) *[Psalm 60.4]- Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.*