

## When God's Word Says Fear is Good

April 21, 2024

*Main Scripture: Proverbs 1:7, NIV – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

### What does it mean to “fear the Lord”?

To \_\_\_\_\_ ; to “value,” “treasure,” “prize,” “cherish,” “hold in high regard,” or \_\_\_\_\_.

### Fearing the Lord means...

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*Exodus 34:6-7a, NLT – The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty.”*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*2 Corinthians 5:9a,10, NIV – So we make it our goal to please him... For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

*Romans 8:1, NLT – So there is now no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*

### What happens if I don't choose to “fear the Lord”?

*Proverbs 1:7b, NIV – ...Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

A fool is someone who \_\_\_\_\_, whether morally or practically.

*James 3:14a,15-16, NIV – But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts... Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

*Proverbs 1:28-32, NLT – When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me. For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord. They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes. For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.*

### Three Consequences for Not Honoring God

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 1:29, NIV – They hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 1:31, NIV – eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes.*

*Galatians 6:7, GW – Make no mistake about this: You can never make a fool out of God. Whatever you plant is what you'll harvest.*

*Proverbs 1:32, NLT – For simpletons turn from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.*

**3. \_\_\_\_\_**

*Proverbs 1:28, NLT – When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.*

*Matthew 10:28b (NLT – [Jesus said,] “Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

*Isaiah 55:6-7, NLT – Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.*

*Galatians 6:8, CEV – If you follow your selfish desires, you will harvest destruction, but if you follow the Spirit, you will harvest eternal life.*

**When I choose the “fear of the Lord” (to honor God), God promises...**

**To fill me with \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of not having all the answers**

*Proverbs 9:10, NIV – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

*Psalms 111:10, NLT – Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.*

**To lengthen \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of an untimely death**

*Proverbs 10:27, NIV – The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.*

**To provide me \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of impending doom**

*Proverbs 19:23, NLT – Fear of the Lord leads to life, bringing security and protection from harm.*

**To help me \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of making mistakes**

*Proverbs 16:6b, NLT – By fearing the Lord, people avoid evil.*

**To show me \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of unforgiveness**

*Luke 1:50, NLT – He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.*

**A \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with himself – Combats: fear of being alone**

*Psalms 25:14, NIV – The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.*

**To fill me with \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of being unhappy in life**

*Psalms 128:1-2, NLT – How joyful are those who fear the Lord—all who follow his ways! You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How joyful and prosperous you will be!*

**To provide national \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of national disaster**

*Isaiah 33:6, GNT – [God gives] stability to the nation. He always protects his people and gives them wisdom and knowledge. Their greatest treasure is their reverence for the Lord.*

**To use me to \_\_\_\_\_ others - Combats: fear of not being helpful to others**

*2 Samuel 23:3-4, NIV – The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: “When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth.”*

**To give me a \_\_\_\_\_ - Combats: fear of a hopeless future**

*Proverbs 23:17-18, GW – Don’t be envious of sinful people; let reverence for the Lord be the concern of your life. If it is, you have a bright future.*

*James 1:12, NLT – God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*