

**Introduction:**

I was questioned recently about the fear of the Lord. As I dug through my previous notes on the subject, Holy Spirit encouraged me to dig deeper. I'd like to share some of that revelation tonight in the hope that it will challenge you as much as it has me.

**I. When I hear "the fear of the Lord" mentioned, the first thing that comes to my mind is that's the beginning of wisdom/true knowledge.**

1. *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever."* (Psalms 111:10 NKJV)
2. King Solomon wrote: *"Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."* (Proverbs 1:7 NLT)
  - a. We know how God was pleased with King Solomon's request for wisdom and what blessings followed him as a result of it. I've heard wisdom described as "seeing things from God's perspective – His point of view." We read throughout the Book of Proverbs that getting wisdom is something we should all seek after. So, at the very least, fearing God is just the start of our journey to gain wisdom; that's living with a righteous perspective governing our actions.
  - b. There is a direct correlation between obeying God's commands and fearing Him. It is a "love and respect" relationship, the same as is demonstrated between Christ and the Church or in a solid marriage.
3. *"As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."* (Ephesians 5:31-33 NLT)

**II. God delights in those that fear Him.**

1. *"No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love."* (Psalms 147:11 NLT)
  - a. The Lord lavishes His love on us and in return we fear (respect, honor) Him as demonstrated by our obeying His commands.
2. *"But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands."* (Deuteronomy 5:10 NLT)

**III. The fear of the Lord is a holy awe that comes over our hearts.**

1. There is but a single response when a man directly encounters the glory of God: that's falling prostrate on their face before Him, e.g., John (Rev 1:17), Saul/Paul (Acts 9:4), followed by obedience, e.g., Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8).

- a. We comply with God's commandments out of respect as an act of love.
2. Jesus said, *"If you love me, obey my commandments."* (John 14:15 NLT)
  - a. Our obedience is love in action. Our disobedience hurts God's heart, causes separation in our relationship with the Lord, and demonstrates a lack of respect for Him. Disobedience = sin.
3. Jesus taught us to pray *"...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..."* (Matt 6:13 KJVA)
  - a. Holy Spirit is definitely in that business! If we will listen to His "still small voice," He will guide us in the pathway of righteousness. He will prompt us to be instant in season, giving us words of knowledge, words of wisdom, and making us bold and courageous to not be ashamed of the Gospel.
4. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."* (Romans 1:16 NKJV)
5. We can also pray as King David prayed for his son: *"Give my son Solomon the wholehearted desire to obey all your commands, laws, and decrees, and to do everything necessary to build this Temple, for which I have made these preparations."* (1 Chronicles 29:19 NLT)
  - a. We are all very familiar with the "shall not's" such as in the Garden of Eden or the 10 Commandments, but we may put less emphasis on the shall's. For instance, giving that cup of water to the thirsty, feeding the hungry, entertaining strangers in your home, caring for the sick, visiting prisoners, taking care of the widows and orphans, or paying attention to the "least of these" to name a few. (Spend some time reading over the end of Matthew 25 where King Jesus at the end of days is separating His sheep from the goats; it's quite sobering.) What about the great commission?
6. *"And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."* (Mark 16:15 NLT)
  - a. The fear of the Lord should be governing our every action as we go out with joy and are led forth with peace. They will know that we are Christians by our love. Love God, love people!

**Conclusion:** We are now under a new covenant. The blood of Jesus was shed to seal it. Grace and faith put it into place (Eph 2:8-9). However, the fear of the Lord is still at the center of the new covenant just as it was under the old. God's commands and promises remain the same under both the old and new covenant for He is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

*"Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands."* (Psalms 112:1 NLT)