

Fear The Lord

Fear the Lord your God

Day 1

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

12 And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

This is what God wanted from each of us. 'Fear the Lord your God' is number one in the list and when we follow that, there is an assurance we can follow the rest. When we don't follow that there is great possibility that we are not following the rest of it.

Why we need to fear?

- v14 To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.
- v17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.
- v18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Application

Do you think you fear the Lord? What are some changes you can notice when you fear the Lord?

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever

Day 2

Psalm 19:9

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

The fear of the Lord is a brief description for true religion. It is an inward condition, betokening hearty submission to our heavenly Father. It consists very much in a holy reverence of God, and a sacred awe of him. This is accompanied by a child-like trust in him, which leads to loving obedience, tender submission, and lowly adoration - Charles Spurgeon

Matthew 18:3 - And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Are we child-like or childish?”

Application

What qualities of little children God might be talking about? List down and pray through it.

The Lord delights in those who fear him

Day 3

Psalm 147:10-11

10 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

11 the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Do we want to make our God happy? Then we need to fear him, we need to put our hope in his unfailing love. His pleasure is not in our abilities, talents, achievements, strength....

Also, God does not delight in our sacrifice. The sacrifice he wanted from us is in Psalm 51.

v16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

v17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

v19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Application

What are some areas we struggle to put our hope in his unfailing love? Pray through those. Determine to have a broken and contrite heart.

The fear of the Lord is beginning of knowledge

Day 4

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

This is one of the most famous statement. The first step to be wise is to fear the Lord. Everything has a beginning; knowledge begins with fear of the Lord.

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

We have only two choices either to fear Him or not to fear Him. What happens if we choose not to fear Him. Proverbs 1:29-31 29 since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord. Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

Application

Think about times when we despised wisdom and instruction and the consequences because of that. Thank God for keeping us safe.

Understanding the fear of the Lord

Day 5

Proverbs 2:1-5

*1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,
2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—
3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,
4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,
5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.*

“When” we will understand the fear of the Lord? The passage clearly defines and ends with saying “then” you will understand the fear of the Lord.

How do we look into God’s words and His commands? How often we do? How much time we take? How frequently we get insights from it? When is the last time we look for it as for silver or gold?

Application

Write down few things you searched and found from word of God. Think about the experience you got in that process and praise God for it.

Proverbs 8:13

To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior, and perverse speech.

The question we need to ask ourselves is whether we hate evil or love evil? To fear the Lord is to hate evil. Just for more understanding, the dictionary meaning is given below. Do we hate them?

- Pride: the belief that you are better or more important than other people
- Arrogance: having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities.
- Evil behavior: behaviors that are harmful or tending to harm.
- Perverse speech: showing a deliberate and obstinate desire to speak in a way that is unreasonable or unacceptable.

Job 28:28 And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”

Application

Is there anything evil in us? Let us confess and pray for God’s grace.

Psalm 34:9-10

9 Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Those who fear the Lord need fear nothing else, for this is the fear that drives out all fear. When we fear the Lord, He provides all that we need when we need it. “No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly” (Psalm 84:11).

God promises to give us what is good for us and to cause all things to work together for good. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”. (Rom. 8:28).

If we don't receive what we think we need, it means it isn't good for us and we don't need it at this time.

Application

What do you feel you are lacking today? Pray to God for wisdom to understand His will.

Eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him

Day 8

Psalm 33:17-19

17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.

18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

When you are in a challenging situation, for deliverance, who or what you are looking for? Do we believe that God can deliver us from death and take care of us in famine, flood, pandemic.... ? Do we fear God and put our hope in His unfailing love?

Eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him and He will strengthen us. II Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Application

What are some fears you have in your life – natural calamities, sickness... ? Pray to show your hope in God's unfailing love.

Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him

Day 9

Psalm 34:6-7

6 This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

Many times, in our thanksgiving prayer, we give thanks to things that are known to us. That itself is a big list. But if we take a list from God, it will be much bigger. Like this one, where God making sure angel encamps around you.

We are not aware sometimes God has stopped deadly pestilence, venomous insects coming near us. He has stopped those robbers to enter our house or take our wallets and ornaments. He has stopped those vehicles which could have hit us. He has stopped many conspiracies against us.

Application

Thank God for all the things which crosses your mind that God could have delivered you, without your awareness.

The Lord has compassion on those who fear Him

Day 10

Psalm 103:13-14

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Compassion literally means “to suffer together.” Among emotion researchers, it is defined as the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering.

Our God is full of compassion. He has compassion on all he has made. Isaiah 49:15 “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!”

Application

Remember your father, mother and others who showed compassion when you suffered. Thank God for them in your life. Thank them if you can by sending a text or calling them.

Those who fear the Lord will have no fear of bad news

Day 11

Psalm 112:1,7-8

1. Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.

7 They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

8 Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

Proverbs chapter 1 lists four kinds of people : 1: 22 “How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?”

- a. Simple
- b. Mockers
- c. Fools
- d. Those who listen to God or fear Him. V33 but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

At different points in our life, we could be one or the other kind. But whenever we fear God, we will have no fear of harm or bad news. Our hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord and will live in safety and be at ease.

Application

Remember the times when we were simple, mockers or fools and thank God for protecting us from that phase of life.

Let those who fear the Lord say: “His love endures forever”

Day 12

Psalm 118:4-6

4 Let those who fear the Lord say: “His love endures forever.”

5 When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place.

6 The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

There are more than 40 times this phrase “His love endures forever” appears in the Bible. Those who have tasted the Lord cannot forget talking about God’s love which endures forever.

When is the last time you used this phrase to others? Do we believe His love endures forever? How frequently we think this phrase for our lives and use for others’ lives when they are in challenging situation.

When we are hard pressed, God will bring us into a spacious place when we cry to Him. What can man do when the Lord is with us?

Application

Set a goal of saying this phrase “God’s love endures forever” to few people today and do it.

Proverbs 3:7-8

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

From this verse there is a possibility that we can become sick when we are wise in our own eyes and continue to do evil. But when we fear the Lord, the scripture promises us that, it will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Obviously, when we fear God, we hate evil and being arrogant.

James 5:14-16 : 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

Application

Visit and/or pray with one person who is sick.

Proverbs 10:27

The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short

When we fear the Lord, we will avoid many things which will not help us to live longer. We will avoid many sins that can harm us.

Psalm 34:12-16 and 1 Peter 3:10-12 says, “Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”.

Application

According to above scriptures, what you need to do to live longer? What changes you need to make in your life?

Proverbs 14:2

Whoever fears the LORD walks uprightly, but those who despise him are devious in their ways.

This is one of the signs that we don't fear the Lord, being devious in our ways. The meaning of the word 'devious' is showing a skillful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals.

Proverbs 21:8 says that the way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.

2 Samuel 22:26-27 and Psalm 18:35-36 says, "To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the devious you show yourself shrewd".

Application

When we are devious in our ways how will God treat us? Let us seek help and repent if we are not righteous.

Proverbs 14:26

In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.

One might think that fear always leads to a loss of confidence. But that isn't how it works with the fear of the Lord. Our honor, reverence, and sense of awe towards Him moves us from self-confidence and towards strong confidence in God's love and greatness.

Christians today are scared that their children will stray from God. Here is encouragement: God intends for our children to take refuge in Him. That's His plan. The Lord's promises are to us and to our children.

Application

Write down your fears about your children and pray to God or write down fears about your future and pray.

Proverbs 14:27

The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

Let us look into the phrase ‘fountain of life’ in the Bible.

- Psalm 36:9 - For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.
- Proverbs 10:11 - The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
- Proverbs 13:14 - The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.
- Proverbs 16:22 - Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent, but folly brings punishment to fools.

Application

Meditate on the above scriptures.

Proverbs 22:4

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.

These two qualities, humility and the fear of the Lord, are connected. Humility is a proper view of self; fear of the Lord is a proper view of God. The person who has these two qualities is well on their way on the path of wisdom.

Blessing will come to the wise man or woman who has humility and the fear of the Lord. They can certainly expect spiritual riches and honor and life, and often those same things materially in this world.

Application

The most humble is the most triumphant Christian. How do people see us? What changes we need to make to become humble?

Ecclesiastes 3:11-14

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

How can life be meaningless and monotonous for you when God has made you a part of His eternal plan? You are not an insignificant insect, crawling from one sad annihilation to another.

The proper attitude for us is the fear of the Lord, which is not the cringing of a slave before a cruel master, but the submission of an obedient child to a loving parent. If we fear God, we need not fear anything else, for He is in control.

Application

How can you make your life more meaningful and interesting? Pray through it.

2 Corinthians 5:11

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

In another version, “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences”.

- The message is not, “Watch out for the terror of the Lord,” though there is a place for that message.
- The message is not, “If I don’t persuade men I might face the terror of the Lord, so I better get to work!”
- Instead, the message is, “I have been delivered from the terror of the Lord, and you can be delivered too. Come to Jesus!”
- In a way, the terror of the Lord was targeted on Jesus, so it would not be directed at all those who trust in who Jesus is and what He has done for them.

This should be the heart of everyone who presents the gospel, whether it is in a pulpit or anywhere else. We intend to persuade men. We are not simply casting out ideas without caring how men respond to them.

Application

What difference can this scripture makes in sharing your faith?

An example of one who fears God and shuns evil

Day 21

Job 2:3

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

Job is one of the examples, about whom we can read "a man who fears God and shuns evil". It also says, "There is no one on earth like him".

- Who said it? God himself.
- To whom He said it, "To Satan".

Satan does not give up easily, for he returned to God's throne to accuse Job again. As in the first meeting, it is God who brings up the subject of His servant Job; and Satan accepts the challenge. We get the impression that God is confident His servant will not fail the test.

Application

How about us? Will God be confident about us? What areas from our life, Satan may take permission from God to afflict us? Pray for strength from God.

Always be zealous for the fear of the Lord

Day 22

Proverbs 23:17-18

17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.

18 There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

This, envying sinners, is an easy trap to fall into. On this side of eternity and the ultimate judgments of God it may seem that sin is unpunished, and righteousness is unrewarded. Our hearts, instead of envying sinners, should be full of compassion for them, for they have nothing to look forward to but death.

Instead of being jealous of the wicked, determine to have an eternal perspective rooted in the fear of the Lord, an active recognition of the greatness and righteousness of God. Not just part of the day, all the day or always be zealous.

Application

How do we measure ourselves – jealous of the wicked or zealous for the fear of the Lord? Ask God to give us a heart of compassion more and more.

Fear of man will prove to be a snare

Day 23

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Many people of good heart but not enough courage live in bondage to the fear of man. They worry far too much about what people think, instead of first being concerned about what God and wisdom say, and what integrity would lead them to do. This is a snare that traps many people.

How we need to treat people? 1 Peter 2:17 says, “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor”. Which can mean,

- Respect – everyone
- Respect and love – the family of believers
- Respect, love and honor – emperor, leaders, parents, husband..
- Respect, love, honor and fear - God

Application

From childhood days, remember if you have feared anyone – teachers, uncles, aunts, police, rowdies... What changed your perspective or what can help you to change from not fearing them? Pray through that.

Those who fear the Lord is to be praised

Day 24

Psalms 31:30-31

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31 Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate..

Who do you think is praised in our culture today? The one who is beautiful, achieved a lot, in big influential position, celebrities.... All these are deceptive and fleeting. The one who fears the Lord is to be praised more than others.

Can we start a culture where those who fear the Lord are praised in our families, ministries, societies...? Those who are, for Lord's sake, are hardworking, honest, responsible...

Application

List down few names of people you think that they fear God and plan to appreciate or praise them through some means.

Some people of the world fear the Lord

Day 25

Exodus 9:20-21

20 Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside.

21 But those who ignored the word of the Lord left their slaves and livestock in the field.

Some of us think, only those who have accepted the Lord, fear the Lord. There are many instances where we can see people who don't know much about the Lord also fear Him.

Let us look into the response of officials of Pharaoh when they heard about the plague of hailstorm. An order was given to their livestock and everything to be moved to a place of shelter. These officials hurried to do that. The other response is ignored. Sometimes delayed obedience is disobedience.

Application

What is the response when we hear the word of the Lord? Hurry or ignore? What are some things we have ignored in our life in the past? What changed us? Let us thank God for his compassion.

Fear the Lord when you are in better position

Day 26

Colossians 4:1

Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Ephesians 6:9

And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

How are we treating people who are under us in the roles? Do we keep in mind that we too have a master in heaven? God doesn't like people taking advantage of each other. Leviticus 25:17 - Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:13-14

- Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.
- Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.
- Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind,
- but fear your God. I am the Lord.

Application

Have we taken advantage of anyone in the recent past? Let us do our best to reconcile.

Teach next generation to fear the Lord

Day 27

Deuteronomy 31:12-13

12 Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.

13 Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

What is our next generation hearing from us? In the journey from Egypt to Canaan, first the law was introduced to the first generation. But because of their grumbling heart, God decided not to take anyone above certain age to promise land except for Joshua and Caleb.

But God made sure that their children, the next generation heard the same law, which is recorded in the book of Deuteronomy. The law is read so that the next generation must hear it and learn to fear the Lord.

Let us not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2)

Application

What are some practices in the world today which are against the word of God? Discuss this with next generation.

Blessings for the man who fear the Lord

Day 28

Psalm 128:1-6

1 Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.

2 You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

4 Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.

5 May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

6 May you live to see your children's children— peace be on Israel.

There are many scriptures which has blessings for those who fear the Lord. Psalm 128 has put most of the blessings together and reconfirms it in v4, "Yes, this will be the blessing..."

What are you blessed with :

- Your job/studies/career... (v2) – eat the fruit of your labor
- Your marriage (v3) – fruitful vine within your house
- Your children (v3) – olive shoots around your table
- Your country / nation (v5) – nation will see your family being blessed.
- Your grand children (v6) – Your long life will allow your grandchildren to see a man who fears the Lord.

Application

Write down few areas where you feel blessed and thank God through that list.

Living in the fear of the Lord

Day 29

Acts 9:31

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

When we live in the fear of the Lord and led by the Holy Spirit, the number of those who believe in the Lord will increase. Here we see the church enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened.

How about our life as a disciple, do we enjoy a time of peace and feeling strengthened being led by the Spirit? What is leading us today, Spirit or something/someone else? How about our fellowship / ministry / church? As partners in the gospel, what can we do to make the group enjoy a time of peace?

Proverbs 19:23 - The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Application

List few areas which disturbs the peace and pray specifically through it. What do you want God to do about those areas?

“Should you not fear me?” declares the Lord

Day 30

Jeremiah 5:22-24

22 “Should you not fear me?” declares the Lord. “Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.

23 But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away.

24 They do not say to themselves, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.’

Everyone has two choices, either tremble in the presence of God or have stubborn and rebellious hearts. What would God think about us?

If we do not say to one another, “Let us fear the Lord our God”, then there is a possibility that we are drifting away from God.

Psalm 2:11 Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

Application

Remember the day of your baptism and think about all decisions made. Pray that we will commit ourselves to continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Conclusion: Fear God and keep His commandments

Day 31

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

We don't own our lives because life is the gift of God. We are stewards of our lives, and one day we must give an account to God of what we have done with His gift. Some people are only spending their lives; others are wasting their lives; a few are investing their lives.

The "fear of the Lord" is that attitude of reverence and awe that His people show to Him because they love Him and respect His power and His greatness. The person who fears the Lord will pay attention to His Word and obey it. He or she will not tempt the Lord by deliberately disobeying or by "playing with sin."

Psalm 33:8 - Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.

Application

What are few things that you remember from reading this series? List it down and pray through it. Fear God and keep His commandments.