

POD Teaching Session 2 Module C

How to Gain the Holy Fear of the Lord?

Learning Objectives:

- To learn the conditions that must be met in order to receive the Fear of the Lord
 - To be transformed by experiencing the Holy Fear of the Lord
 - To gain a delightful and rejoicing Fear of the Lord
-

The Fear of the Lord is given by grace:



Jeremiah 32:39-40 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, 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. KJV

There are four "I will" statements in these verses, what will the Lord Do? _____

*See Jer. 31:31-34 to understand this everlasting/ "new" covenant/ the 8th and last covenant. See also Heb 8:8-12, Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put my Spirit in you." Also Ezekiel 11:19 "I will give them an undivided/one heart..."

If the fear of God is given by grace, then what attitude of the heart if any is necessary?

Your thoughts: _____

Humility is the key: CHILD LIKE DEPENDENCE AND TRUST

James 4:6-7 But He gives a **greater** grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE **HUMBLE**." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. NASB95



Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate." NASB95

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose **heart is completely** His. NASB95

To fear God is a command! And thus a choice:

1 Peter 1:16-17 because it is written, “YOU SHALL **BE HOLY***, FOR I AM HOLY.” If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*; NASB95 *** middle voice, imperative (command)**

See also Revelation 14:7, Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:5



Consider this; we must be humble in order to receive the gift of the fear of the Lord. We cannot manufacture humility on our own accord. Obtaining the fear of the Lord is conditional; it requires our submission or choice to receive His grace. This is a great example of how operating in the “middle voice” produces the desired result i.e. the will of God and the will of man in union working together.

Discuss: _____

“I want to impress upon you that you must choose the fear of the Lord in your life. If you do not, there will come a time when you pray and God will not answer: when you seek Him, but you will not find Him”. Derek Prince

Choosing the fear of the Lord is about being willing to receive God for who He is, the great and awesome God that inspires fear. Make no mistake and think that the fear of the Lord has its source in us. The source of the fear of the Lord is God Himself (*who lives only inside those who are born again of the Spirit, twu*) we do not create it or initiate it or in any way produce it. Rather, it re-creates in us a prepared heart to meet the Lord. Hammerstein Chapter 5

Listen to the music clip [“We choose the fear of the Lord”](#) by Maranatha singers

The Fear of the Lord must be taught:

Who are the teachers in these following verses?



Psalm 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. NASB95

Deuteronomy 31:12 Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. NASB95 (See also Deuteronomy 4:10, Dt. 17:18-19)

2 Kings 17:28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away into exile from Samaria came and lived at Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. NASB95



Psalm 86:11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.

What does David mean by “unite my heart”? _____

Note: to be discussed in detail in SIS 3 (grace) and SIS 4 (mind renewal)

The Lord utilizes many ways to teach us. List a few: pastor, evangelist, radio, TV, internet, wise elderly Christian, Bible, word of knowledge, through prophecy, visions, dreams, angels, through a born-again friend, parents, by speaking straight to our hearts. Note: all prompted by the Holy Spirit.

So, what can you do to cultivate the fear of the Lord?

Proverbs 2:1-5 (Look for the IF/ THEN in the passage)



Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. NASB95

The IFs:

- **Receive** my words as very valuable (treasure)
- **Treasure** my commandments within you
- **Be teachable:** (How?)
 - Listen to **wisdom**
 - Incline your heart for **understanding**
- **Pray:** Cry out impassionate prayer for discernment and understanding
- **Seek and search** as for a treasure

Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” NASB95

THEN: you will know the fear of the Lord and know* God

* H1847 Daath (intimately)



You cannot separate the knowledge of God from the fear of the Lord. You do not have more knowledge of the Lord in your life than you have fear of the Lord – a fear only the Holy Spirit can teach.

Derek Prince

Discuss: _____

Psalm 34: 12-13 describes the type of person who receives the fear of the Lord



Psalm 34:11-14 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life and loves length of days that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. NASB95

- Keep your tongue from evil (complaining, no gossip, no negatives, no cutting down others, no manipulation, no sarcasm, no selfish boasting)
- Do not lie.
- Depart from evil and do good (no lust, jealousy, competition, criticalness, gossip or complaining. We need God's help to see the evil in our lives)
- Seek peace, pursue it (not just to desire it, "blessed are the peacemakers", receive and offer forgiveness).

Therefore in review we must:

- Listen carefully to what God is saying
- Accept His counsel (Prov 1:28-30)
- Open our heart to be teachable (humble yourself)
- Pray
- Seek and search for it as you would for hidden treasure (Mt 13:44, Isaiah 33:6)
- Depart from evil (Proverbs 8:13)
 - Be open for correction, rebuke or reproof
 - Confess
 - Repent
- We must choose it (Prov 1:28-29)
- We must be taught by the Holy Spirit (Ps 34 ;11-12)
- Do not trust in your own wisdom (Prov 3:7)



Commit to pray once a day for the next seven days that God would reveal areas in your heart and life that are wandering after the things of the world (symptoms of a divided heart). As He does so, repent and humbly ask for the grace to unite your heart once again with God's purposes for your life. Keep a journal to record the changes in your life that result from choosing to humble yourself and allowing the Holy Spirit to work within you.

Mountain top experiences:

Mount Sinai (Horeb):

Hebrews 12:21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, “I exceedingly fear* and quake” KJV * (G1630 = Ekphobos = stricken with fear or terror, exceedingly, frightened, terrified)

Mount of transfiguration:

Luke 9:34 While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid* as they entered the cloud. NASB95 * Phobeo G5399

As you read your Bible see and remember this: Every man who met God face to face quaked and trembled and was exceedingly fearful (literally meaning = frightened out of one’s wits).

See Moses, Daniel, Peter, James, John and Paul.

VIEW : MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH CLIP (Taken from “The Prince of Egypt”)

John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. NASB95

2 Corinthians 5.11 Knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men.

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..... and I will be with you until the end of the age (always).”

HAVE YOUR OWN MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE; READ, REFLECT, RESPOND and REMEMBER HEBREWS 12:18-29: _____

We fear Him because of who He is:

See handout chart titled “Holy Fear of the Lord”

Discuss God’s attributes: _____



It is His holiness that makes us afraid. God first must restore a healthy appreciation of his supreme holiness, this can only be done through the fear of God, He cannot become intimate with us until this is restored. Hammerstein pg 107

Delighting and Rejoicing in the Fear of the Lord:

Isaiah 11:2-3 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will [delight](#) in the fear of the LORD, NASB95

**The Westminster Shorter Catechism taught the chief end of man is
“to glorify God and enjoy Him forever”**

How about glorifying God “by” enjoying Him forever? (John Piper’s version)

Discuss: _____

Ponder in your quiet time the following statements:



The truth iswe cannot glorify God ___ either by our lives or by worship ___ unless we are enjoying Him. How could you praise someone whom you don’t enjoy? How could you genuinely seek to honor someone by your conduct merely out of a sense of obligation? As we probe these questions, we can see that glorifying God and enjoying Him are really two sides of the same coin.

To render heartfelt worship to God, we must be gripped in the depth of our being by His majesty, holiness, and love: otherwise our praise and adoration may be no more than empty words.



Let me now give you an underlying principle: You grow in the fear of the Lord by gazing upon the beauty of His attributes and by seeking an ever-deepening relationship with Him. All the practical steps I’ve suggested are simply the working out of that principle..... We cannot long for God’s glory to be manifested unless we also long for Him. We cannot glorify God unless we enjoy Him.

The fear of God, the glorifying of God and the enjoyment of God are so closely intertwined that we cannot separate them. That’s why we can speak of the joy of fearing God and be both [theologically](#) and [experientially](#) correct.

Jerry Bridges in The Joy of Fearing God

In summary:

1. We can immerse ourselves in God's [Word](#) (see Psalm 119). The fear of the Lord grows with revelation of how magnificent He is. As we see His character and authority through the events and teaching of Scripture, our hearts will be drawn to have a proper fear toward God.



2. We can [ask](#) the Lord regularly to unite our hearts to fear His name (see Psalm 86:11). God desires to reveal Himself to us and to align our heads and hearts to His character. This is a prayer He longs to answer.

3. We can [live moment by moment](#) in the reality of God's presence (see Psalm 139:7-12). When we forget about God in our daily schedule, we are not living in reality. We must cultivate a mindset that is ever aware of God's presence.

Would you be willing to live with a paradox, in which two apparently mutually exclusive statements are still true? Mike Yaconelli, the late founder of the Christian ministry, Youth Specialties, seemed to understand something about this paradox when he wrote the following about the two sides of fear:

"The tragedy of modern faith is that we no longer are capable of being terrified. We aren't afraid of God, we aren't afraid of Jesus, we aren't afraid of the Holy Spirit. As a result, we have ended up with a need-centered gospel that attracts thousands. . . but transforms no one. . . I would like to suggest that the church become a place of terror again; a place where God continually has to tell us, 'Fear not;' a place where our relationship with God is not a simple belief or a doctrine or theology, but it is God's burning presence in our lives. I am suggesting that the tame God of relevance be replaced by the God whose very presence shatters our egos into dust, burns our sin into ashes, and strips us naked to reveal the real person within. . . .The church needs to become a gloriously dangerous place where nothing is safe in God's presence except us. Nothing – including our plans, our agendas, our priorities, our politics, our money, our security, our comfort, our possessions, our needs. . . . Our world is longing to see people whose God is big and holy and frightening and gentle and tender as ours; a God whose love frightens us into His strong and powerful arms where He longs to whisper those terrifying words, 'I love you.'"

The fear of God is an integral part of the grace of God. John Newton, author of the song "Amazing Grace," captured the reality of this when he wrote, ***"It was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved."***

In Conclusion:



The fear of the Lord is the product of God’s revelation. This knowledge leads to an attitude of humility and exhibits itself in obedience. When we truly fear the Lord, we have union between mind (what we think), heart (what we value and treasure), and body (what we do)

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. NASB95



Oh, God my Father, I come to you through Jesus Christ, my Savior. You have put in my heart a desire for the fear of the Lord. I’m asking You from now on to lead me, to teach me and to impart to me this wonderful treasure of Yours __ the fear of the Lord. In the name of Jesus, Amen.”
