

A Fearless Future

Deuteronomy 6:4-13

In today's world of politically correct language, speaking about fear of the Lord is offensive to many.

Only familiar language about God seems acceptable.

“The big guy upstairs.”

“Our loving Father.”

“Jesus, our brother.”

“The fear of the lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”

—Proverbs 1:7

“But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

—1 John 4:18

1. Fear works in combination with love.

“The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”

—Psalm 147:11

Summary of Fear and Love: (Fearless)

F - Fear the Lord and Love Him is God's command. (Deuteronomy 10:12)

E - The eyes of God are upon those who fear him and hope in his love. (Psalm 33:18)

A - God's love is sky-high **above** us for those who love and fear him. (Psalm 103:11)

R - God's love remains forever with those who fear him. (Psalm 103:17)

L - Let's tell everyone, “His love endures forever.” (Psalm 118:4)

E - God enjoys those who fear him and hope in his unfailing love. (Psalm 147:11)

S - Sin is atoned for through God's faithful love. (Proverbs 16:6)

S - Sin is avoided through fear of God. (Proverbs 16:6)

2. Fear is holy reverence and worship.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

—Proverbs 9:10

Knowledge of the Holy One:

- Recognizing the **Lord** as creator, provider, holy judge, and savior.
- Recognizing ourselves as created, needy, sinners, and **condemned**.
- Recognizing God's **provisions** of life, sustenance, forgiveness, and joy.

3. When we fear God, we fear **nothing** else.

Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name

—Deuteronomy 6:13

Only in fearing God, we find ourselves free from other fears:

Fear of **death**, **failure**, and **rejection**.

4. When we fear God, we are **free** to pursue Kingdom adventures.

*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD –
3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.*

—Isaiah 11:2-3a

How to enjoy a fearless future in 2008:

- Seek to please the Lord **only** in 2008.
- **Hear** God's voice.
- Tune out the **wants** and **lusts** of this world.
- Step out in **faith**.
- **Depend** upon the mighty hand of God to catch you.

Memory Verse:

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—Proverbs 9:10