

## The fear of God by John Bunyan

### Chapter 1 To the Reader He is our Savior or Judge

1. We are to understand that **the word fear means God. What does fear mean?**
2. We are to understand that **the word fear means the Word of God, the guide and director of our fear.**

Revelation 14:7; Psalm 128:1; Eccl 12:13; 1 Pet 1:17; Heb 12:28

### Chapter 2 When the Word Fear Means God Himself. Gen 31:42, 53; Deut 10:17; Nah 1:5-6; Isa 8:13 The fear of Isaac Dan 10:8,16-17

1. Things that Make God the Fear of His People Gen 28:10-17, 32:30;  
\*His greatness—his majesty Rev 1:17; Job 13:21-22;  
\*His revealing himself causes his people to see themselves more as the sinners they really are—God presence turns even our best qualities into polluted garments.; Isa 6:5;  
\*Gods goodness makes his presence dreadful to us. Hos 3:5; Jer 5:22; Job 42:5-6; Jer 33:8-9

**What are we to rightly fear about god? How does this play out in your life?**

Objection: Would you not want us to rejoice at the sight and sense of the forgiveness of our sins?

Answer: yes, but I **would also have you trembling** when God tells you that your sins are pardoned. Rejoice and tremble Psalm 2:11, Ezekiel 16:63

2. The Name of God and His Presence are Equally Frightening Deut 28:58; Psa 111:9; Exo 34:5-6; Psa 86:11, 102:15; Mal 1:14, 6, 4:2; Rev 11:18; 2 Tim 2:19  
We should always have a reverent awe of God on our hearts anytime we think about him, or hear his name, but most of all, when we speak his name.
3. Why is Worshipping God So Frightening to Us? Ps 5:7, 2:11; Exo 15:11; 2 Cor 7:1  
One: It is fearsome because it is worship of GOD  
Two: When being worshipped, God's glorious majesty is among his worshippers. Rev 1:15-17  
Three: God is jealous about his worship and service Exo 20:3-5  
Four: The judgments that God has sometimes carried out on those who have lacked godly fear, while they were worshipping and serving God, should put fear and dread on those participating in His holy ordinances. Lev 10:1-3; 1 Sam 2; 1 Chron 13:9-10; Acts 5:1-11
4. Worshipping God Done with Great Respect 1 Cor 11:27-33  
He rebukes 3 types of people  
One: Those who **do not worship God at all** are rebuked  
Two: Those who count it enough to attend the place where God is worshiped, but **do not care what condition their heart or spirit** is in when they come.  
Three: Those how **do not care how they worship.** Isa 29:13; Matt 15:7-9; Mark7:6-7; Isa 29:14

*Conclusion of Chapter 2: This concludes our first Point; that **God is called our dread and Fear.***

## Chapter 3

### The Word Fear is Equated with the Word of God

1. Why Should the Word of God be Feared? Psa 19:7-9, 34:11; Deut 5:7; Isa 11:3-4; Deut 10:12; 2 Chr 34:14, 19; Isa 66:5, 20, 57:15; Exo 9:20-25; Ezra 9:4, 10:3

First: They are the very words of God Himself. Eze 2:4, 3:11; Hab 3:16

Second: The word of God is fearful John 12:48

Third: **The word of God is terrifying because it is truthful and faithful.** John 10:35; Dan 10:21; Psa 119: 89; Matt 24:35; Prov 13:13, 4:20-22

#### A. Observations:

One: Those who do not **respect the Word of the Lord**, Those who do not dread and fear it, but allow the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes and the pride in possessions to rule their lives, are sharply rebuked by this teaching. Jer 8:9, 44:16-17; Eccl 1:9; Matt 15:18; 1 Sam 15:22-23; Num 25:9-10; Luke 13:3

Two: The words of God are equated with the name of God and the fear of the Lord. Are they not dreadful in their details and condemnation? **This rebukes Those who admire the words and things of men more than the words of God.** Mark 8:38

Three: What about the mockers? The wrath of God will rise up against those who despise his words and call them ridiculous, and say they do not need to pay attention to them. 2 Chr 36:16; 2 Pet 2:8; John 12:48

## Chapter 4

### What are Different Kinds of the Ungodly Fear of the God

1. First example of Ungodly Fear-The fear that flows from the light of nature. Gen 20:11. Reasonableness of humankind.

2. Another Category of Ungodly Fear

First: It causes a continual resentment against God. Refuse to submit. Exo 14:11-13; Num 14:1-9; Exo 23:27, 28; Deut 2:25, 11:25

Second: It drives a person away from God. Flee because of God's justice & their sin. Gen 3:10; Exo 20:18, 20; Heb 12:20; Job 21:14; 1 Sam 12:19-25

Third: It discourages them, the power has gone out of their faith. Luke 19:11-17; Matt 25:14-30

Fourth: It will not permit the soul to be governed by trusting only in Christ for justification. Mark 5:36, Rev 21:8

Fifth: It adds it's own inventions to the revealed will of God. 2 Kings 17; Mark 7

## Chapter 5

### Momentary Godly Fear-Part 1 Explained

1. What is Momentary Godly Fear? The fear that leads to salvation. Acts 2:37, 16:31, 9; Mark 16:16; John :18, 36

2. How is This Godly Fear Created in the Heart? Rom 8:15; John 16:8-9; Rom 3:20

One: The **HS uses the law to show** us we are in slavery to the law, the devil, and death and damnation

Two: The HS holds us in this spirit of slavery as long as He deems necessary.

3. What Does This Godly Fear Do in the Soul?

Judge his own sin

Bow before God

Express misery and sorrow before Him Jer 31:18-19; Lam 3:28-29; Luke 18:13; Psa 51

**\*Prepares the heart to hear the good news**

**\*correct fear of damnation(I'm sinful)**

**\*Right on Fearing damnation (no faith in Christ-under the law)**

**\*The fear is accurate (wrath remains on him)**

#### 4. **When Does This Fear Cease to be Godly?**

**If it remains (after salvation) it becomes ungodly fear**, because the Spirit of God will never again give us this kind of fear. Acts 26:18; Rom 6:14, 8:1-28; 2 Cor 1:17-20

Chapter 6

#### Momentary Godly Fear-Part 2 Objections & Questions

Objection 1: but this is contrary to my experience(I'm as afraid as I've ever been)

Answer: Fears May remain, but the spirit of slavery no longer comes from God

Question 2: Can you give me more reasons to convince me that what you are saying is true?

Answer: The Spirit of God cannot lie. Giving us the spirit of damnation again would overthrow His work in the Spirit of adoption and contradict the testimony of his servants (scripture authors). It DOES NOT depend on the assumption that I will obey, but on the unchangeable purpose of God and the power of Christ's obedience, whose blood made the promise effective. Psa 27:1; 2 Sam 23:5; Heb 8:10-12

Question 3: But May this Spirit of slavery not come again like my first fears for my good?

Answer: The text refutes that. God cannot be accused of lacking wisdom, for saying one thing and then undoing it.

Question 4: Then what Spirit is it that brings my fear of damnation and that spirit of slavery back to me?

Answer: The spirit of the devil. He always works to block the faith, and hope, and comfort of the godly.

Question 5: How can I recognize that this is the work of the devil?

Answer:

- a. Unreasonable
- b. Inappropriate
- c. Wrong effect on us

(Satan is always coming too late or too soon). John 8:12-59

Chapter 7

#### **Momentary Godly Fear-Part 3 Where Wrong Fears Lead**

Question 1: Do these fears make you question whether there ever was a work of grace started in your soul?

Answer: Yes they certainly do.

Question 2: Do these fears make you question whether your first fears were really from the Holy Spirit of God?

Answer: Yes, they certainly do.

Question 3: Do these fears ever make you question whether you have ever had true comfort from the Word of God and the Spirit of God?

Answer: Yes, they certainly do.

Question 4: Do these fears ever cause you to doubt whether the comforts you first received were real? Do they make you wonder whether your first comforts were actually from the devil or the result of a wild imagination?

Answer: Yes, they certainly do.

Question 5: Do these fears weaken your heart in prayer?

Answer: Yes, they do.

Question 6: Do these fears keep you from believing that you have truly accepted the promise of salvation by Jesus Christ?

Answer: Yes, they make me think I'm deceived and I am afraid to take hold of the promise of salvation.

Question 7: Do these fears tend to harden your heart and make you hopeless?

Answer: Yes, they certainly do.

Question 8: Do these fears interfere with your profiting by the hearing and reading of scripture?

Answer: Yes...it cannot possibly be for me.

Question 9: Do these fears tend to stir up blasphemies against God in your heart?

Answer: Yes, they are sometimes so distracting that I get almost nothing done?

Question 10: Do these fears sometimes make you think that it is hopeless for you to seek the Lord any longer?

Answer: Yes, most certainly. No use to pray, read or hear the word, Fellowship with God's people or do anything else like that.

\*Sad, discouraged Christian, how much of God do you think is in these things? None!

You are in the law of the Devil, can you not feel a touch of wickedness in these effects of fear?

Objection 1: But I had the same wickedness in my heart when I first received the spirit of slavery. Therefore, by your argument, that first fear was also from the devil.

Answer: This not about being troubled over sin, but about no longer having a reason to fall back into the fear of damnation.

Objection 2: But since the Holy Spirit of God has sealed me for the day of redemption, I have sinned against God very terribly. Does that not cause the same fear as before? May the Spirit of slavery not be sent again to put me in fear, as it once did? Sin was the cause then and I have sinned now.

Answer: No, not at all. 2 Tim 1:7. Reject those fears. Your sin cannot break the covenant that God has entered into with His people, by His grace. Psa 89:30-33; Isa 63:16; Gal 4:4-7

A child who sins against a father is not put out of the family.

Your sin after adoption is that of a child, not a slave.

Discipline is grace and love, not wrath and damnation. Heb 12:5-7

Deut 32:6; Jer 4:4; 1 Sam 12:20-24

## Chapter 8

### Momentary Godly Fear-Part 4 Things to Consider-When Tempted

First: God cannot and will not dissolve the relation that the spirit of adoption has made between the father and the son, because of sins his children may commit. However, He can and often does take away the comfort of their adoption. Job 22:10-11

Second: God can hide His face from them. He can afflict... Job 34:29, 23:8-9

Third: God knows how to make you to be again tangled in your former sins, sins that He has pardoned, in such a way that will bring bitterness to your soul. Job 13:26; Psa 25:7

Fourth: God can place you in chains in a dungeon, stocks, spectacle, contempt..Lam 3:7, 53, 55; Job 13:27; Nah 3:6

Fifth: God knows how to stop the sweet activities and blessed influences of His grace in your soul. Showers to dust. Psa 51; Deut 28:24

Sixth: God knows how to war against you. Rev 2:16; Job 6:4; Psa 38:2-5

Seventh: God knows how to cause your iniquities to overtake you in such a way that

your guilt and distress torments your heart. Psa 40:12

Eighth: God can break your bones and cause you to live in continual agony. Fire to bones. Psa 51:8; Lam 3:4; Psa 102:3; Job 30:30

Ninth: God knows how to lay you aside and make you of no use to your generation. Psa 31:12; Eze 44:10-13

Tenth: God knows how to judge and kill you. 1 Cor 11:29-32

Eleventh: The Lord can send cures and plagues that result in a long, lingering, painful death. Psa 78:45; Deut 28

Twelfth: God can let Satan loose on you. Chastisement for your foolishness as a father to a son. Deut 28:65-67.

Thirteenth: God can cause you to tumble off your deathbed in a fog, die in the dark, cause you to not know your assurance—even your friends have no assurance. Heb 4:1

\*\*\*Quote Page 49!!!

Objection 1: But I have sinned and am under the mighty hand of God.

Answer: do not listen to these temptations. —these fears ignore the devils work, dishonor your father, defeat good doctrine, and bring you into a double temptation.

Objection 2: But if God deals like this with someone, how can that person think anything except that he is without Christ, without grace, without faith, and damned?

Answer: why do YOU put god to the test? Lam 3:39, 33.

He will make you to know sin is sin. Jesus was innocent, you are not.

God is not unjust to discipline you. Be on guard not to return to you first fears.

Doing so may add to your affliction.

#### 1. How Saints Have Reacted to the Lords Discipline

Job 23:10, 13:15

David Psa 51

Heman Psa 88

Church of Lamentations 3:24, 58

Question 1: How does the devil work the child of God Into those fears? How does he convince the believer he is out of Christ, not forgiven, and therefore an heir of damnation again?

Answer:

1. By lying to us
2. By attacking our ignorance
3. By abusing some scripture that seems to teach this, but really does not
4. By abusing our sense and reason
5. By informing our unbelief
6. By casting a terrible shadow of darkness over our judgment
7. By substituting a counterfeit likeness of God in our minds
8. By stirring up our inner depravity into uncontrollable anger
9. By pouring overwhelming blasphemies into our hearts
10. By misrepresenting the reasons why God is disciplining us with the rod
11. By convincing us that our bad responses to the chastening hand of god with the rod prove that we have no grace, but are downright graceless scoundrels.

Question 2: But would you not want the people of God to be afraid of His rod and fear His judgments?

Answer: Yes, the more they correctly fear God's rod and judgments the less often they

will come and gentler they will be. It is the lack of fear that brings us into sin—not fear of slaves, but respectful fear of children.

Question 3: Can you explain that more?

Answer: Those under the spirit of adoption fear as children, not as slaves. His rod is that of a father and believing this helps to keep the child's heart submissive to the rod, to come and claim and lay hold of his former mercies, to expect more mercies and have hope of good results in all god's actions. Mic 7:9; Lam 1:18; Psa 77:10-12; Lam 3:31-34

Question 4: Do you have any more reasons why we should fear God with childlike faith?

Answer: 1. Consider that God thinks it is right to have it this way and He is wiser than you. Job 37:24; Ecc 3:14; Deut 17:18-19

2. Consider God's might and power. Luke 12:4-5

3. Consider that God is everywhere. Jer 5:22; 23:24

4. Consider that God is holy. 1 Pet 1:14-17

5. Consider that God is good and has been good to you. Hos 3:5

## Chapter 9 Lasting Godly Fear-Part 1 Lasting Godly Fear Explained

### 1. A General Description of Godly Fear

\*A *grace*, a sweet and blessed work of the Spirit of Grace Heb 12:28; 2 Cor 3:17; Isa 11:2

The HS is the creator, motivator, and keeper of our fear, respectful fear from a child which causes us to depend on God, His Word, and his ways, as they would a Father.

\*Called *the fear of God* Superior to the spirit of slavery. A grace of the gospel, a gift of eternal love, Jer 32:38-41

\*God's treasure Isa 33:6 a precious jewel Rom 3:18

\*Makes one delightful and preferred above all others Job 1:8, 2:3. Sincere complying

\*This grace of the fear of God MUST accompany all service to God to be accepted by Him Lev 2:13

\*That which softens and calms the heart and makes it stand in awe of both the mercies and judgments of God. Psa 4:4, 119:161, 33:8

### 2. A More Specific Description is Godly Fear

\*The beginning of **knowledge** — cause one to tremble before him Prov 1:7. Opposite of rebellious stubborn and unwilling to know more about God. Job 21:14

\*The beginning of **wisdom** — spiritual wisdom starts here Job 28:28; Psa 111:10; Prov 1:29. Wisdom for the soul for this life and the next.

\*Hates evil and self-love-sweet morsels the world runs after. Prov 6:6; 1 Kings 16; Prov 26:20; Prov 3:7. Turn away from evil in decisions, actions, thoughts and in desires.

Sin still lurks in the soul like caananites in the land but it is hated, detested, despised, and fought against. Sins are prayed against, guarded against, struggled against and ashamed of by the soul Rom 7

\*The **fountain** of life. Prov 14:27, 19:23. The fear of the Lord tends towards life.

\***Instruction** in wisdom. Prov 15:33 improves and takes advantage of helps. For your own salvation and to give you concern for your neighbors salvation. Prov 3:19-20; Job 6:14

This fear keeps a person well balanced in his words and decisions -steers the right course regarding things that concern both God and man.

## Chapter 10 Lasting Godly Fear-Part 2 Where It Comes From

First: The special love of God to the elect Jer 32:38-40

Second: A new heart Eze 11:19, 36:26; Matt 9:17; An Honest and good heart, from a new one Luke 6:43-45; Jer 17:9

Third: The impact the Word of God makes on our souls. Deut 31:12, Rom 6:17

Fourth: From faith. Word=impact on soul, produces faith, produces proper fear Gal 3:2; Heb 11:7. No faith=no fear of God. Devils faith=Devils fear. Saints faith=Saints fear

Fifth: True repentance for sin and proper repentance from sins. 2 Cor 7:11.

**Fear flows from repentance**

Sixth: A sense of God's love and kindness to the soul. Psa 103:3-4; Jer 33:8-9. A tender heart for God, a softened spirit and love for the Lord. This tenderness, softness and endearment is the very essence of this fear of the Lord

Seventh: Giving serious thought about God's judgments against the world. Psa 119:120; 1 Chr 13:12. God suggests this as a way to make us fear Him. Hear and fear. Deut 13:11, 21:21, 19:20, 17:13. A gracious or godly fear to not fear judgement.

Eighth: Remembering our former miseries, when we were distressed with our first fears. Deut 4:9-11. Remembering when we trembled, and what we saw, felt and feared under the sense of those first fears will produce this childlike fear in our hearts.

Ninth: Receiving and answer to prayer when we are pleading for mercy at the hand of God. 1 Kings 8:37-40

Tenth: A cheerful knowledge that God sees everything. Luke 16:15. God knows our hearts. The lack of this conviction is why people go on in their secret sins, they do not fear either God or His judgments.

Eleventh: A sense of the fairness of God's judgments on people according to their works. 1 Pet 1:17. This fear of god prepares the heart for good works; this trembling guides these works according to the will of God.

\*All these graces of the Holy Spirit work together to help, strengthen, and nourish this godly fear. It flows from all of them, working in the heart of the person who has this fear.\*

**Chapter 11    Lasting Godly Fear-Part 3    The Effect of this Fear**

First: A deep respect for God. Psa 89:7, 123:2; Gen 42:18. I do all things with and trembling before Him. Psa 119:161. A concern for God's glory results from this godly fear. Jer 10:7; Rev 15:4; Psa 29:2, 119:136. God's children grieve and are deeply distressed whenever they see His glory belittled by the children of men. 1 Sam 17:22-29, 45-46; Psa 42:10; Isa 37; Psa 89:50; 1 Sam 4:14-18; Dan 6:10-16; Dan 3:8-30. A reverence for His name and a Tender concern for his glory.

Second: Watchfulness, a vigilance, an alertness. It makes them guard their hearts, avoid risking a root of bitterness Song 3:8; Prov 4:23; Heb 12:15, sober minded 1 Pet 5:8, guard mouths Jas 3:2-7; Psa 39:1. Guard against devil, the world, temptations, keep to straight paths to not ruin, bring shame, offend saints, cause enemy to speak badly of Christianity.

Third: A holy motivation for the saints to speak to one another in ways that will further their progress in the faith and in holiness. Mal 3:16. All fear, whether good or bad, has a natural tendency to make a person focus on the object of his fear. Speak of and think on the name of god with great respect. Holy thoughts of god. Prepares heart to come before god. 1 Chr 29:18

Fourth: Self-denial flows from this godly fear of God. Avoiding that which goes against God's laws or serves only to promote self interest. Neh 5:15; 1 Cor 8:13. Those who will not renounce everything cannot be Christ's disciples.

Fifth: Self-denial flows from this godly fear of God. Neh 5:15 "fear of his word" and "grace of

fear". 1 Cor 8:13. Those who do not have this fear of God in them, will not and cannot deny themselves. Those who do not renounce everything cannot be Christ's disciples. Where this grace of fear is, self-denial follows. Matt 10:37-38; Luke 14:26-27, 33

Sixth: A sincerity of heart flows from this godly fear of God. Not motivated by pride or praise of man. 2 Cor 1:12; Col 3:22; Zech 7:5-6; 1 Cor 10:31; Jer 32:39; 3 John 5. Sincerity of heart in the service of God is so absolutely necessary that without it nothing can be accepted. Where this sincerity is lacking, love to God is also lacking, as well as true holiness. John 1:47

Seventh: Compassion for the saints flows from this godly fear of God. Tender affection, especially for Christians in distress. 1 Kings 18:3-4. Showing acts of mercy even though they may place you in great danger. Acts 10:2. A fruitful grace.

Eighth: Produces genuine, heartfelt, and continual prayer. Acts 10:2. Heard because of reverence Heb 5:7. The person who does not pray does not fear God.

Ninth: Brings a readiness or willingness to give up what we enjoy most, if God calls us to. Heb 11:17; Jas 2:23; Gen 22:11-12. Many good things may be done without the fear of God. But when a man will not complain or withhold that which is dearest to him when called by God to offer it up, then that declares, yes and convinces angels, that he now fears God.

Tenth: Humility of mind flows from this godly fear. Rom 11:20; 1 Tim 3:6; 1 Pet 5:5; Use this godly fear to keep yourself from forgetting what you are by nature. Otherwise you may forget your continual need of pardon. Psa 25:9. The fear of God will make you little in your own eyes.

Eleventh: This fear brings hope in God's mercy. Psa 147:11. Submits his soul to God's way of salvation. This hope, this trust, not only makes the soul secure in Christ, it also delights God. He is happy, because he is controlled by happy grace. 1 John 3:14. It pleases Him to see you hope in his mercy.

Twelfth: Faith and hope flow from this godly fear of God. Rom 6:22; Heb 12:14; Phil 2:12. When this godly fear is in the heart, it not only moves the soul to have faith and hope in God's mercy, but it convicts the soul to live a holy and obedient life before God and men, in order to obtain eternal salvation. Not that work deserves reward or praise or that it can earn eternal life. EL is obtained by hope in God's mercy. Dedicated desire to live a holy life, strengthen our hope, purifies the heart, make one a vessel of mercy prepared for honored use. 1 Tim 6:1-16; 2 Pet 1:5-11. None of these things can be done from the heart except by and with the help of his blessed grace of fear.

Thirteenth: A great delight in the holy commands of God flows from this godly fear. Psa 112:1; Matt 6:24. Sin and the commands of God are enemies. This holy fear of God takes the heart and affections away from sin and attaches them to the holy commandments. It keeps the sinner from those falls and dangers to which other professing Christians so often yield.

Fourteenth: A thrill and rejoicing that flows from this fear of God. Isa 60:5, 11:2. Without this fear of the Lord obedience is forced, legalistic, or done with a desire for praise for one's achievements.

## Chapter 12 **Privileges for Those Who Fear the Lord**

Described as graces that flow naturally from this fear of God rather than as promises given to those who have this fear of God. The fruit and effects of this fear.

First Privilege: Given authority to trust the Lord. Psa 115:11. Support, help, deliverer, comfort.

Second Privilege: God has declared that he will be the teacher and guide of the person who

fears the Lord. Psa 25:12. The lord who you fear will not leave you to your lack of understanding. He will be your teacher and your guide. You who fear the lord, behold your privilege! God will not only sow you the way, but will walk in the way with you. The heart and mind of God show. To him. Luke 24:32

Third Privilege: He will make his secret counsel known to you. Psa 25:14; Matt 11:27; Col 2:3, 9; Exo 33:20

Fourth Privilege: His eye is always watching over you for good, to keep you from all evil. Psa 33:18-19, 121:4-5, 32:8; 2 Chr 7:15-16; Amos 8:11. The person who fears the Lord will not die in spiritually or eternally. God will keep him with his eye from all those things that would kill him in that way. If there should be a famine of the Word, a lack of both the word and those that preach it where you live, spiritual bread and water will still be provided. You will not die, because you fear God.

Fifth Privilege: It is to your advantage to fear him more and more. Psa 34:9-10. All things do not work together for their good, because they do not fear him. The worst things that God puts in the path of the person who fears him is better than the best that the world has.

Sixth Privilege: He has ordered the armies of heaven to look after you, to be responsible for you, to camp around you, and to deliver you. Psa 34:7; 2 Kings 19:35, 6:15-19; Acts 12:15; Matt 18:10; Heb 2:14

Question: The verse says the angel of the lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. How is that done?

Answer: Striking enemies Gen 19:10-11; 2 Kings 7:6; Acts 12:23. This is the privilege of the person who fears God. He has the Lords Angel to serve him.

Seventh Privilege: Salvation is near you. Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land Psa 85:9. Satan, sin, death are always waiting to devour but God's salvation is always near. You are the children of the highest.

Eighth Privilege: Listen again, "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and His righteousness to children's children." Psa 103:17 (ON them). Covers completely. Rom 8:34; Psa 90:2; Deut 33:27. This mercy is longer than your sin, longer than your temptations, longer than your sorrows. Psa 103:11

Ninth Privilege: God grieves with, is affected by, feels for, and sympathizes with them in all of their afflictions. It is a great thing for a lowly person to have the compassion of the great and mighty, but for a lowly sinner to be in the heart and affections of God, this is astonishing to consider! Psa 103:13; Isa 63:9; Jud 10:16; Heb 4:15, 2:17-18; Isa 49:15; Jas 4:11; Gen 41:42-44; Jer 31:18-20

Tenth Privilege: He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. Psa 145:19. Fearers under affliction. The lord fulfills your desires! 1Kings 1:6; Ps 20:4-5; 2 Sam 23:5; Exo 6:6; 2 Pet 2:9; Phil 3:20-21; Luke 16:22, 20:35-36; Hab 2:3

Eleventh Privilege: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him. Psa 147:11, 36:27, 36:8, 149:4, 1 Thess 4:1; Song 4:9; Prov 15:8, 11:20; Mal 3:16-17. We know how pleasing the actions of our children are in our eyes, when we know they are acting with a reverent fear and fear and awe of us. Mark 12:41-44

Twelfth Privilege: The smallest drop of fear gives you the privilege to be blessed with the greatest saint. Psa 115:13; Jud 6:15; 1 Sam 18:23; Matt 21:16; Matt 25:45. Are you small or little in this way. Yet if you fear God, if you truly fear God, you are certainly blessed with the best of the saints. Matt 10:42; Rev 11:18

Thirteenth Privilege: The Holy Spirit has composed an entire psalm for you to sing about yourself.

Psalm 128

## As It Is Sung

**Objection:** "Perfect love casts out fear." Therefore it seems that saints should not fear after they have received the Spirit of adoption, but, as another scripture says, they should "serve Him without fear." 1 John 4:18; Luke 1:74-75

**Answer:** The fear that perfect love casts out cannot be that childlike, respectful fear of God about which I have been writing. The fear that perfect love casts out brings misery and distress-devils, unbelievers, spirit of slavery, etc. cast out by spirit of adoption. Also called spirit of faith and love. Serve God without these first fears. Luke 23:40; Prov 28:14; Eccl 8:12; 2 Chr 19:7

### Chapter 13 How to Use This Doctrine-Part 1 Examine Yourself

First, In General: no one has that fear of God naturally Psa 55:19

Second, In Particular: **What kind of person does not fear God?**

1. Proud, arrogant, self-important. Rom 11:20 Matt 23:12; Psa 138:6; Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5; Mal 4:1
2. Greedy Eze 33:31; Eph 5:5; Psa 10:3; Jas 4:4
3. Gluttonous eaters of meat. Jude 12; Prov 23:20; 2 Pet 2:13; Rom 13:13; 1 Pet 4:4; Luke 21:34
4. Liars. The sin of lying is a common sin and walks in the world in several shapes and forms. Foul mouthed liar, scheming liar, hypocritical religious liar. Rev 21:8; Rev 21:15
5. Those who cry for help in times of trouble and, when they are rescued, return to their former rebellion. Eze 16:17  
Have you cried for health when sick, for wealth when poor, for strength when weak, for liberty when in prison, and then spent all that you received by your prayer in the service of Satan and to satisfy your passions? You do not fear God!
6. Attackers of God's people and attempt to defeat them or turn them from the right path. Deut 25:17-18
7. People who saw God's hand on backsliders for their sins and yet backslide themselves. Jer 3:8 No sin is too wrong to not commit.
8. Those who look on a land wallowing in sin and not grieve over it. Jer 44:9-10;
9. Those who pay attention to their own dreams than to the Word of God Eccl 5:7; Jude 8. Dreams tend to encourage people to hope for good in a way that disagrees with the word of God. 2 Peter 2 esp 14
10. Sorcerers, adulterers, swear falsely, oppress hired workers Jas 5:4; Mal 3:5
11. Don't pity God's people in their affliction, temptations, and persecutions, rejoice, skip for joy, and rage against them. Luke 23:40; Psa 34:1, 22-26; Oba 10-15; Jer 48:2-16; Luke 15:18; 2 Sam 16:5-8; 1 Kings 2:8-9
12. Those who are strangers to what happens in the lives of those who fear God. Mal 1:6-8 God calls for proof of your fear. Only what is salted with his fear of God is acceptable. 2 Cor 13:5; Jas 2:18; Psa 66:3; 1 Chr 14:17; 2 Chr 20:29;

It is to your own benefit to examine yourself, examine yourself again, and look carefully into your heart and in your examination. Do not allow anything to distract you from this self examination, knowing if your fear of God is the right fear of God should concern you greatly. Beware of putting off Fearing the Lord. Jer 5:23-24; Jer 5:29. By crying have prevented judgment.

### Chapter 14-How to Use This Doctrine-Part 2 Words to the Saved and Unsaved

### A Few Words to Unbelievers

1. The person who does not fear God behaves worse than the beasts that roam the earth. Gen 9:2. Sinner are you not ashamed that a silly cow and pig observe the law of their creator better than you comply with the law of your God?
2. Consider this, the day is coming when god will make those who do not fear him now fear him, whether they want to or not. Eccl 12:5; Isa 66:4
3. The day is coming when the Lord will laugh at those who do not fear him now. Prov 1:26-29. You may be confident you will escape, but what will you do when you are snared? Psa 9:16; Prov 12:13

### A Few Words to Christians

Ps 34:9; 1 Thess 4:9. I urge you to fear him more and more. Every saint fears the Lord, but not every saint fears him greatly. Doubtless there were others in the world who feared God but there were none in Jobs day who feared God like Job did. 1 Kings 18:3-4; Phil 2:20; Job 1:8; Neh 7:2; Rom 12:10. Let us all be awakened to the need to grow in this grace as well as others. 2 Cor 8:7

### Chapter 15- How To Use This Doctrine-Part 3 Fifteen Reasons to Grow in the Fear of God

First: Let God's distinguishing love to you be a motive for you to fear him greatly. Therefore love it, nourish it, exercise it, use everything to cause it to increase and grow in your heart that it may be evident that it has been given to a poor sinner like you.

Second: The privileges that come with it should encourage you to grow in this grace.

Third: Those who grow in it will escape those evils into which others will fall. Jer 32:40. Carelessness is a great disadvantage therefore they reap damage where if they were growing in this sphere would keep them safer, deliver them more often, and protect them from the snares of death.

Fourth: It is the way to always have a diligent and careful attentiveness about performing Christian duties. ...You are a gracious person and the fear of god is in you but yet for all that, one cannot easily tell, by your life, what time of day it is. You do not give a true and consistent indication that you are indeed a Christian. Why? Because you do not look after this grace of the fear of God, you do not grow and increase in it, but you allow you heart to grow careless and hard, and so your life is careless and worldly. Job turned away from evil, because he was great in Fearing God. Job 1:1, 2:3

Fifth: The way to true wisdom. Prov 14:16.

Sixth: It is right for saints to fear and increase in this fear of God.

Seventh: Another motive May be that growing in this grace of fear brings honor. Hos 13:1. When I fear God greatly I rise above Fearing anyone or anything else. Nothing can be so terrible and dreadful as to cause me to be afraid. Luke 12:4-5 ; Isa 8:12-13; Psa 15:4; Prov 31:30; 1 Sam 2:30. They will be honored in heaven, in the churches, and among the angels.

Eighth: Growing in this fear qualifies a person to be trusted with heavenly and spiritual things and earthly things. Mal 2:5. A proper value placed on every gift god gives us. Any spiritual gift entrusted to us should be exercised with godly wisdom. Deut 33:10; Exo 18:21; Neh 7:2. Earthly things arranged for the good of his people. Gen 42:18, 41:39; 1 Kings 18:3; Est 6:10; Dan 2:48, 3:30, 5:29, 6:1-3

Ninth: Where the fear of god is not growing in the heart grace does not thrive and duty is not done as it should be. 1 Cor 7:1; Jas 1:4. All graces grow with use. Blameless in holiness, every grace god has put into your souls to grow and flourish into perfection soak them in this grace of fear. Do all you can to exercise in this grace of fear. Prov 10:3. It doesn't

matter how much you bring to god, if it is not seasoned with godly fear it will not be acceptable to him but sickening and abominable. It must come from the spirit of the fear of the lord.

Tenth: Gives you great boldness with both god and men. Job 23:3-7, 31:35-37; 13:3-9, 18, 19:23-24. This fear if God keeps the conscience clean and tender and free from much that would tarnish or even destroy an otherwise good person who lacks this fear. Neh 1:11, Psa 115:13

Eleventh: Bless your labors to the saving of the souls of others. Mal 2:6. See others saved through your labors? Be very much in the fear of God. 1 Pet 3:1-2; Lev 19:4; 1 Tim 4:16

Twelfth: It is the way to attract God's attention to recuse you from the many dangers you encounter. Psa 34:7; Exo 1:17, 20-21

Thirteenth: Having and growing in this fear of god motivates you in a way that delivers you from errors and damnable beliefs. Eccl 7:15-18

Fourteenth: Those who fear God and grow in this fear have special permission to come boldly to Jesus Christ and to trust him for eternal life. Isa 50:10

Fifteenth: God will a knowledge and accept those who are His no matter who he rejects. Eze 9:3-4; Mal 3:16-17

#### Chapter 16-How to Use This Doctrine-Part 4 **How to Grow in the Fear of the Lord**

First: You must learn to distinguish between the fear that is godly and the fear that is ungodly. Fear Not!! Gen 26:24, 46:3; Exo 14:13, 20:20; Num 14:9, 21:24; Isa 41:10, 14, 43:1, 44:2, 8, 54:4; Jer 30:10; Dan 10:12, 19; Joel 2:21; Hag 2:5; Zec 8:13

Second: Learn to especially distinguish it from the fear that is godly, but only godly for a time. Spirit of adoption vs. spirit of slavery. God has set limits to this fear and decrees that after the spirit of adoption is received, that other fear no longer belongs in your heart. Rom 8:15; 2 Tim 1:7. Distinguish Satan's counterfeit fear. Heb 2:14-15; Even though Jesus has removed death, the thought of dying will always be a living nightmare in all your ways and thoughts. It will break your peace and make you distrust your hope in Christ.

Third: Learn to distinguish between the right fear and the wrong fear, and treasure and cling to the right fear. Jer 32:40; Exo 20:20. Make it a matter of conscience to have this fear. There is a great fault among Christians about this matter. They do not take resisting this slavish fear as seriously as they should. Instead, they cling to it and adore it. It is hard to struggle against a fear that seems so similar to that good first fear. Psa 49:5

Fourth: Grow in the knowledge of the new covenant, because this is the belt that keeps us clothed and the strength of our souls. Luke 1:69-75. This covenant is confirmed by promise, by oath, and by the blood of the son of god. Understanding this covenant and having faith in it is absolutely necessary to bring us out of our slavish terrors and into liberty. It results in our growing in that childlike, godly fear, which even the son of god himself demonstrated.

Fifth: Always work to keep your hope and assurance for salvation and heaven alive in your heart. Psa 61:2-5. Without faith in him, and the renewing, or exercising, of that faith, the soul has no reason to be assured of heaven. This is why David prays for faith first. Then he puts that faith into practice. So you see how David, in his distresses, gathers up his prayers, faith and hope for eternal life, to deliver himself from slavish fear; and also, so he can be filled with the same childlike fear of his fellow brothers and sisters. This is not only proper, regarding our profession of faith, but profitable to our souls.

Sixth: Set the existence and majesty of God before your eyes. Stir up this fear. Nurture it,

increase it. The fear of God means standing in awe of him. However, how can we do this if we do not set him before us? Deut 28:58

Seventh: Always keep the authority of the word close to your conscience. Always keep the scripture with your eye, your ear and your heart. Fear and flourish. Prov 13:13, 4:20-22; Deut 6:1-2

Eighth: Believe and act on the promises of God. This fear grows by the goodness and mercy of God. Hos 3:5; 2 Cor 7:1. Holiness will be brought to completion with this godly fear, in this godly fear and as a result of this godly fear.

Ninth: Remember the judgments of God that have already or will eventually catch up with those professors who have been either downright hypocrites or careless Christians. The true Christian will be disciplined to correct his carelessness.

Hypocrite judgements:

1. They become blind fools
2. Their hope perishes on the day of their death
3. Their souls will be damned at the day of judgment.

Matt 23:15-19; Job 8:13, 11:20, 18:14, 20:4-7; Matt 23:33, 24:51; Luke 20:47

The sacred consideration of these things tends to make people grow in the fear of God!

Tenth: Study the outstanding features of the grace of Fear of God. Work to get your heart to LOVE this fear, to exercise this grace, and to reap its fruit. Psa 119:119-120

Eleventh: Remember the world of privileges that I have hinted at, that belong to those who fear the Lord. Psa 91:10; 34:10, 91:11, 20:7; Isa 50:10

Twelfth: Be much in prayer to God for the abundance and increase of it. 1 John 5:14; Psa 86:11

Lastly: Devote yourself to it. Psa 119:38. Give yourself to it. Become addicted to it. Meditate on God, reverencing his name, studying his word and worshiping him. Then you will fear and grow in this grace of fear.

#### Chapter 17-How to Use This Doctrine-Part 5 **What Hinders our Growth in this Fear?**

First: Guard against a hard heart. Isa 63:17

1. Pay close attention to the beginnings of sin. Gal 5:9
2. Do not let the sun go down without repenting. Jer 3:3
3. Spend much time meditating about Christ on the cross. Zech 12:10

A soft, tender, broken Heart is an excellent place for the grace of fear to thrive.

Second: Guard against a prayerless heart. Job 15:4

Third: Guard against a careless and self-indulgent heart. Jer 3:8.

Fourth: Guard against a covetous heart. Exo 18:21, 33:30-32; 1 John 2:15

Fifth: Protect yourself from an unbelieving heart. Heb 3:12 Faith or a believing heart is what nourishes the fear of God. Heb 11:7

Sixth: Guard yourself against a forgetful heart. Remember God. His kindness, his patience, and mercy, judgments, etc. Job 21:6, 23:15

Seventh: Guard against a resentful and murmuring heart. Grace of fear cannot grow in a heart full of worry and discontent. God's actions are judged as too hard or too ridiculous. Job 39:9.

Eighth: Guard against a haughty and fault-finding spirit. A gentle and quiet spirit is best. 1 Peter 3:15-16. Gentleness and respect (fear) put together. Soft heart soil.

Ninth: Be warned that an envious heart is not a good heart in which the fear of God can grow. Prov 23:17. Envying sinners and fearing God are opposites. Luke 6:28

Tenth: Be on your guard at all times against hardening your heart against your biblical obligations, like prayer, helping the poor, or self-denial. Also be careful about hardening

your heart when God is disciplining you with sickness, losses, crosses to bear, and such. Heartening a heart makes it worse than it already is. It becomes harder, more desperate, and bolder than it presently is. Be warned about hardening it against being convicted to do good works; because those convictions are sent from God. Like showers of rain in season, to keep the soil of your heart prepared, so the grace of fear may grow in it. Prov 28:14

#### Chapter 18-How to Use This Doctrine-Part 6      Reasons to be Encouraged by This Fear

Jer 32:40. Eccl 8:12.

First: The world is passing away along with its desires, it he who fears the Lord abides forever and ever. A promised grace of the new covenant that will abide with you forever. Eccl 7:18. A wonderful mercy to be blessed with this grace of fear and kept from final damnable apostasy.

1. This fear is headquartered in the heart and the heart is the main fort in the spiritual world. When the fort is well manned, the town is more secure.
2. Where the heart goes, so goes the will. Whether that is to heaven or hell. 1 Sam 12:14, Psa 110:3. Things done without the will are as if they were not done at all. Mark 14:8. Now this fear about which we are speaking is placed in the soul, and so consequently in the will, so that the person is better kept from final and damnable apostasy.
3. Be encouraged! It shows God wants you to be happy and content. Godly fear is his gift to us. Fear is your special friend. 2 Sam 15:37, 16:16. Close personal way: my fear, God's fear, his fear... if a king wants to keep a town secure, he must fortify the fort. If he does not have. Trustworthy and special friend to lead his troops, then he may find the town defeated ...if you have everything but fear then all the things will rebel and the souls will be under the control of Hell, when it should have been standing up for god and his truth in the world.
4. This grace of fear honors god more than any other graces because of its compassion and tenderness.
5. This grace of fear is what first works on the hearts of saints after we have sinned. It convicts of sin and reminds them "The Lord disciplines the one he loves. What a precious grace of God.

Second: **if this fear is truly there, it will not fail to do its work for the soul, no matter how small it is. This is true about sin, but also about the fear of god. Even. Little will protect the soul from final apostasy, and deliver it into the arms of the son of God at the final judgment. However, they should eagerly cover more, pray for more, and use all lawful means that god has provided to get more of this grace and fear.**

**The fear of the lord is the heartbeat of the soul. As some pulses are stronger and some weaker. So is this grace of fear in the soul. Those that beat the strongest are a sign of the strongest lose. However those that beat the weakest show that at least SOME LIFE is present. This fear, wherever it is, keeps going into everlasting life. This fear of god stops when some blockage is caused by evil in the soul. Rom 5:5**

Question: How can I know I fear God? Neh 1:11.

Answer: Wishes are not real, but in the spiritual world, a persons desire to be good, to believe, to love, to hope, and fear god, flows from the very nature of god's

grow. What we love , we desire. Prov 19:20. The very fact that the sanctifying nature of this grace exists in the soul proves this grace already exists there. Heb 11:16; Psa 145:19

**Third:** This grace can make that person, who in many other ways is not capable of serving god, serve him better than those who have everything except his grace.

You're not a preacher.

You are not rich

You don't have great wisdom.

But, here is your mercy...you fear god. Psalm 112:1

Blessed is the person who fears god. God has not stored up comfort r promised salvation for his people for doing outward works. Blessings are given for believing, loving, and fearing God...you may receive Christ and fear God, good Christian, and be accepted, even though you are confined to your bed all your life. You may be sick and believe, be sick and love, be sick and fear god, and so be a happy person. 1 Kings 18:12; Jonah 1:8-9

I, your servant, fear the lord. This person is honored, even if Fearing the lord is the only thing he has in the world. He has THE THING, the honor, the life, and the glory that is lasting. His happiness will abide when all others hoped for happiness is buried in the dust, in shame and contempt.

#### Afterword-A Word to Hypocrites

- \*A person who wants others to believe he loves and fears god, but does not. You wear masks and disguises and dishonesty and playacting. Inside you are dull of rottenness and you are out of control. Luke 16:15; Phil 3; Eccl 12:13
- \*If you do not fear god first, then you are breaking the commandments instead of keeping them. Exo 9:15; Job 8:13-15, 20:4-6
- \*You should have chosen the fear of god, as you have chosen to be a professing Christian without it. Job 27:8; Matt 7:2; Prov 1:17
- \*tremble Isa 33:14
- \*No protection from the schemes of Satan. Psa 33:18-19
- \*No reward from God Matt 24:31-46
- \*what you do have you have stolen like Judas Psa 60:4
- \*You are not true to God, nor man, nor your own soul. If god gave you his word you would sell it. If men delivered their souls to your care, you would destroy them, by exploiting them with false words, and for your own hypocritical purposes.

#### The Forgotten Fear by Albert Martin

##### **1. Predominance is the Fear of God in Biblical thought—every genre of the Bible.**

- \*Genuine godliness, take away God from any profession of godliness and all that is left is the stinking carcass of pharisaism, barren religiosity, or calculated hypocrisy.
- \*Beginning of knowledge-learning the fear of god is not only the ABC from which we move on to the rest of the alphabet. Learning the fear of God is the chief part, just as the use of the alphabet is something that is not left behind but becomes the chief part of all our learning.
- \*There is dread and there is awe. The first aspect of our fear drives us FROM the object of dread; the other aspect draws us to the object of awe. Our lords teaching makes very clear that both aspects are included in a healthy fear of God.
- \*Jesus did not come to negate the fear of God; he came to enforce it.

\*THE FEAR OF GOD, OUR HOLINESS AND OUR PROGRESSION IN SANCTIFICATION MUST BE SEEN IN OUR INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

\*The knowledge that you have been redeemed at such an awful price will intensify the reality of the fear of god, not negate it.

\*The fear if god is so fundamental to Godliness that even into eternity, even after the last remains of sin are purged from believers, we will still fear God.

\*The fear of God marks the worship of the redeemed.

\*To be devoid of the fear of God is to be devoid of biblical and saving religion.

\*Growth in grace is always joined to growth in knowledge.

## 2. Definition of the fear of God

Fear of dread and terror/awe and reverence

\*Those spiritually insane or spiritually deaf and blind.

\*Believers not marked by terror and dread yet there is still a limited place for it for believers. All professing Christians still face the danger of apostasy.

\*Never permit yourself to become irresponsibly giddy and so flippantly overconfident that your dealing with a God who judges without respect of persons. Let there be something of holy dread (but not crippling dread.). Crippling dread neither glorifies God nor does justice to the promises of the gospel.

MOSES: His his face yet talks with God.

## 3. Ingredients of the fear of god

\*Correct concepts of the **character** of God

\*A pervasive sense of the **presence** of God

\*A constraining awareness of our **obligations** to God

## 4. Source of the fear of god

\*A promised blessing of the new covenant 1 Cor 11:25; Jer 32:38-41

Eternal

Only through Jesus shed blood

Given mercy

Fear placed in hearts

Indifference to communion with God reveals God has not planted fear there. It WILL MANIFEST IF PLANTED.

\*A work in the heart by the God of grace

God places the fear and works through, under, in and behind the sinners mind, affections and will. Phil 2:13

God inclines our hearts to a life of obedience.

Law written on our hearts

God owns his people, and they own him

True knowledge of God

\*The Forgiveness of Sins and the Fear of God Psa 130; Jer 31:34

The display of God's character

Peace with God and Filial fear-Father and Children

\*Forgiveness of Sins Misused

Folly of man-made religions

Profess Christ but zero changes in their life. Luke 6:46

\*Practical Words of Instruction

You will not fear him until you entrust yourself to him as your Savior and Lord. If you feel weight of sin, do not try to forget it. Ask god to reveal what he can. Be amazed at the magnitude of god's glory in providing forgiveness.

**5. Relationship of the fear of god to our conduct**

Holy Soil Produces a Godly Life—Abraham, Joseph, God sees

Unholy Soil Produces an ungodly Life—Rom 3:18; Psa 10; Mal 3:2-5

Religious Hypocrites

Unbelievers

**6. How to maintain and increase the fear of god**

Foundational Principle: When it comes to the Christian life, the focus of our conscious spiritual endeavors is to be the very things God declares to be the result of His own work in us.

**Specific Directives for Maintaining the Fear of God**

1. An interest in the New Covenant
2. Feed your mind on the scriptures in general
3. Feed your soul with the reality of the forgiveness of God
4. Learn to feed your soul on the majestic greatness of god.
5. Seek to cultivate an awareness of god's presence.
6. Seek to cultivate the consciousness of your obligations to God
7. Associate closely with those who walk in the fear of God  
We must encourage one another in the fear of God in the midst of the spiritual decay around us.
8. Fervently pray for an increase of the fear of God.

**7. A final word to the reader**

Hebrews 12:18-29. ESP 28-29

Press on in persevering faith and obedience

Been lax? Isa 55:6-7