



SERIES: DEEPER LIFE

How Can I Walk in the “Fear of the Lord”?

Life Reference: Psalm 34:8-11

Focus Verse:

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30, NKJV).

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the phrase, “the fear of the Lord”? Do you envision fire and brimstone, earthquakes and thunderings? Surely this is the type of fear that the Lord could generate should He desire to make us quake and quiver!

God is everywhere and all-powerful, and if He were not a very gracious and merciful God, we all sense that we could face some very serious consequences for our sins and failures. The Bible abounds with examples of the fiery judgments of God: the flood that destroyed nearly all of man and beast; the earth opening and swallowing rebellious Korah and his family for disloyalty; leprosy pronounced on the disobedient in the Old Testament.

Yes, our God is a consuming fire, and He is to be feared! It might surprise you to find, however, that a proper fear of the Lord will actually draw you closer to Him. It will not make you run from Him as much as it will increase within you a desire to please Him and show increased reverence to Him. A true fear of the Lord will produce awe, wonder and a heightened obedience — everything we should want in our Christian walk.



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The Rewards of Fearing the Lord

Look for a moment at just a few of the rewards in store for those who fear the Lord:

- Psalm 25:14** "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."
- Psalm 34:7** "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."
- Psalm 34:9** "O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him."
- Psalm 34:15** "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."
- Proverbs 14:26-27** "In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."

Walk in Obedience

To walk in the fear of the Lord literally means to walk in instant, joyful, and full obedience to the Lord because of **who** He is. He is like no other in our lives! We put Him in His rightful place.

- Hebrews 11:7** Noah feared the Lord and in obedience to Him built the ark.
- Genesis 22:12** Abraham demonstrated his fear of the Lord through his willingness to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.
- John 14:15, 21, 23** Jesus said that if we love Him, we will obey Him.
- Philippians 2:5-8** Jesus is our example of obedience.



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"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

In the Christian classic *In His Steps* by Charles M. Sheldon, Pastor Henry Maxwell challenged himself and those in his congregation willing to join him to ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" before every decision made for one full year. (Read I Peter 2:21.) The question literally changed the lives of those who lived by its mandate during that year. The theme of the book comes closest to giving a visual picture of what walking in the fear of the Lord should be like.

The Word Teaches Us to Fear

How do we learn to walk in the fear of the Lord? By dedicating ourselves to a study of His Word. We begin to fear God as we learn to know Him in a greater measure. Our knowledge of God increases as we consistently spend time in the Word.

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 The duty of a king was "that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the word of this law and these statutes, to do them"

Deuteronomy 31:10-13 Moses commanded that every seven years all of Israel was to appear before the Lord "that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law."

Life Response:

We can show the Lord our deepest respect and honor by telling Him that we want to walk in the fear of the Lord every day. The Bible says that this is the beginning of wisdom and the smartest way to live — which will bring His blessings on us over and over again.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10

Walking this path daily causes us to fear the Lord more than we fear man. It helps us in our decision making. There are so many voices and choices in life. How are we to know that we will hear and respond the best way? By placing God's input and opinion



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over our very own, or that of others, we show Him that we fear Him and want to honor Him above all others.

The next time you are faced with a decision, whether large or small, take the time to ask the Lord, "God, what is the best thing to do here, that I may please you and show you that I fear you and respect your opinion? I want to please you more than anything else in this decision." When we do this, a proper evidence of the fear of the Lord is in operation. The Lord will begin to give His input and increased blessings as you follow it.

On the other side of the coin, when God talks to you in prayer and asks you to do something, you can also "walk in the fear of the Lord," by taking immediate action on what He has asked you to do . . . without arguing or resisting. Joyful obedience displays a proper respect again for Who He is and what He asks.

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28).

More Deeper Life References:

Deuteronomy 5:29
Psalm 103:13
Proverbs 14:26
Proverbs 16:6
Proverbs 28:14
Ecclesiastes 7:18
Malachi 3:16
Luke 1:50
Acts 9:31
Acts 10:35
II Corinthians 7:1

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Lesson Study Sheet

Life Reference: Psalm 34:8-11

Focus Verse:

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30, NKJV).

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of the phrase, "the fear of the Lord"? Do you envision fire and brimstone, earthquakes and thunderings? Surely this is the type of fear that the Lord could generate should He desire to make us quake and quiver!

- A proper fear of the Lord will actually draw you closer to Him.
- A true fear of the Lord will produce awe, wonder and a heightened obedience.

Life Reflection:

How would you define "fear of the Lord"?

Do you feel it is important for a Christian to fear the Lord in order to develop a deep relationship with Him?

These are just a few of the many rewards in fearing the Lord.

- Psalm 25:14 _____
- Psalm 34:7 _____
- Psalm 34:9 _____
- Psalm 34:15 _____



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- Proverbs 14:26-17 _____

To walk in the fear of the Lord literally means to walk in instant, joyful and full obedience to the Lord because of **who** He is. He is like no other in our lives! We put Him in His rightful place.

What do these verses say about obedience?

- Hebrews 11:7 _____
- Genesis 22:12 _____
- John 14:15, 21, 23 _____
- Philippians 2:5-8 _____

How do we learn to walk in the fear of the Lord? By dedicating ourselves to a study of His Word. We begin to fear God as we learn to know Him in a greater measure. Our knowledge of God increases as we consistently spend time in the Word.

Life Reflection:

If you learn to fear the Lord and know Him in a greater way through the reading of His Word, how will this affect your priorities? What commitments will you make to take time in the Word each day?

Do you experience joy in your relationship with the Lord? If not, what steps can you take to find joy and satisfaction in your walk with Him?



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We can show the Lord our deepest respect and honor by telling Him that we want to walk in the fear of the Lord every day. The Bible says that this is the beginning of wisdom and the smartest way to live – which will bring His blessings on us over and over again.

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28).

My Prayer:

Lord, thank You for opportunities today to move You into the highest of places in my heart. I want to walk in the fear of the Lord today, all day, and show You by my actions that I respect what You ask and what You desire. Please help me in my weaker areas of willfulness or disobedience. If I'm not willing, I'm willing to be made willing by Your help.

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Psalm 103:13
Proverbs 14:26
Proverbs 16:6
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