



## Fear of God - Equals Love of the Lord

Another step in experiencing the promises of God in our lives is to welcome the fear of God as a virtue. For the Word of God explicitly teaches that without love we are nothing, and without fear of God we understand nothing. Nevertheless, we ask ourselves, how is all that God has said about Jesus' body, about you, to become reality?

- *These questions are not new, they concern us all.*

If we looked after ourselves, we would quickly be at the end of our wisdom. But I want us to consider one of the effects that the Holy Spirit activates in our lives as we seek and live a close fellowship with Him.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. This is not just a greeting from Paul, no, it is a vital necessity for us Christians if we want to live a holy, God-pleasing life.

- *But Jesus promised us the helper, the Holy Spirit as a comforter and helper.*

*John 16:7-15 (Luther-84)*

*7 But I tell you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Comforter (helper, counselor, intercessor, power giver) does not come to you. But when I leave, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he shall open the eyes of the world to sin, and to righteousness, and to judgment; 9 on sin: that they do not believe in me; 10 on righteousness: that I may go unto the father, and ye shall not see me henceforth; 11 on the judgment: that the prince of this world is judged. 12 I still have much to say to you; but you can't stand it now. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, will come, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak of himself; but what he will hear, he will speak, and what is in the future he will proclaim unto you. 14 He will glorify me; for he will take it from mine and proclaim it to you. 15 All that the father has is mine. That is why I said: He will take it from mine and proclaim it to you.*

He will glorify me; for he will take it from mine and proclaim it to you. We want to deal with the following questions and have them answered by the Bible:

- *Existing fear of God versus non-existent fear of God*
- *What is fear of God*
- *How do I gain fear of God*
- *What are the effects of the fear of God in our life*

### ***Existing fear of God versus non-existent fear of God***

*Isaiah 11:2.*

*And upon him will rest the Spirit of the LORD, the Spirit of wisdom and reason, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD; and he will be pleased with the fear of the Lord.*

This was said of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Upon him rested the Spirit of the Lord's fear, he was pleased with the fear of the Lord.

We can see the effects of the Lord's fear on His life. He thought, spoke, and acted not out of himself, but he did what his father told him to do. His life would never have had this measure of submission to the will of God without the fear of the Lord.

I would like to show the difference between existing and absent fear of God through Scripture, because I believe that only then can we grasp what does the fear of God and what is fear of God.

*Romans 3:10 – 18*

*10 as it is written: There is no righteous man, not even one; 11 there is no one who is reasonable; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have deviated, they have all become unfit; there is no one who does good, there is not one.*

*13 Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they acted deceptively. Otter poison is under her lips. 14 Your mouth is full of swearing and bitterness. 15 Your feet are quick to shed blood; 16 Devastation and misery is on their way, 17 and the way of peace they have not recognized. 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

*Psalms 36:2*

*Transgression speaks to the wicked inside his heart. It is not a fear of God before his eyes. 3 For it flatters him in his eyes to accomplish his sin, to have hatred. 4 Lies and deceit are the words of his mouth; he has given up acting sensibly, doing good. 5 He invents wickedness in his camp; he enters a path that is not good; He does not spurn evil.*

There we see the two extremes of Jesus – towards the ungodly. We see the effects of the fear of God:

**With Jesus:**

- *Absolute devotion to God and devotion to God*
- *Charity*

**With the ungodly:**

- *Denial of God*
- *Self-interest, egocentricity...*

So far, we have dealt with the effects of the fear of God. We should now be clear about how we act when we are godly or when we are not.

However, this still leaves three important questions open for clarification:

- *What is God's Fear*
- *How do I gain fear of God*
- *What are the effects of the fear of God in my life*

### **What is fear of God**

Unfortunately, Satan has succeeded in completely perverting divine concepts in our society and giving them a negative connotation for us "modern" humans.

We who know the Lord as our Savior must finally be ready to expose these word perversions as Satan's lie. If we do not do this, we will find ourselves in a constant dichotomy over divine terminology and we will block the path to the divine blessing that these word contents contain.

I would like to start with the term fear of God, in which I show what fear of God is not. To clarify, I would like to preface the lexicide definition of fear with the biblical interpretation of the fear of God.

- ***General term fear (lexicons explanation)***  
*Fear means a person's anxious attitude towards objectively or subjectively perceived danger. Since life and the goods of life are constantly in danger, because threatened by different powers, people have reason to be afraid. Fear is a primordial phenomenon of human existence. The child's fear of the "black man" is qualitatively not different from the fear of the adult. In fear, primitive and highly civilized people do not differ significantly.*

It is extremely important that the concepts of fear and fear of God are not mixed. Fear has a negative impact on our well-being, while fear of God has an edifying effect on our lives.

- *Fear of God is not fear. Fear is not in love. God is love. Love and not fear emanates from him, towards his children.*

- *Fear of God is not coercion and not pressure  
God has given man freedom of choice. He laid this down in his word. His word is binding for him. His word is:*

*YES, YES and NO, NO*

- *Fear of God is not a shackle. Jesus freed us from the bonds and shackles of Satan and brought us into the freedom ordained by God. Don't think that he imposes new bonds on you. The Word of God says that whom the Son makes free is quite free. Right free means completely free. Placed in the original state.*

I think we have understood what fear of God is not. But what is fear of God if it is not fear, coercion, pressure, and bondage. If there is none that contains negative word content for us.

### **Fear of God is:**

Fear of God is (from Hebrew Jirah, Greek phobein) means fear, reverence in the sense of striving to please God under all circumstances.

### **The supposed contradiction**

As much as Scripture speaks of freedom from fear because Jesus freed us from fear, it emphasizes the only correct fear of God in the sense of reverence, devotion to God, but of our own free will.

The stronger our relationship with God, the more fear of God is filled (substituted) by our love for Him. Fear of God becomes, in the light of mutual love between God and man, a lived love, the most intimate intimacy, with at the same time existing awareness of who we are and who God is.

A masterful definition of the fear of God has been given to us by Martin Luther in the term combination of "I am the Lord" and "the love of God":

*We are to have God above all things.  
fear, love, and trust.*

Fear of God can be defined for us as His children as follows:

The deeper our relationship with God, with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit develops, the more practiced, lived fear of God is objectively expressed in love for God.

or short

Fear of God is practiced love for God and love for God is fear of God.

### **How do I gain fear of God**

In the opening word we have read the statements of Jesus regarding the Holy Spirit. But have we also understood what Jesus is telling us here?

*John 16:7 – 13–14*

*7 But I tell you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Comforter (helper, counselor, intercessor, counselor, power giver) does not come to you. But when I leave, I will send him to you. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, will come, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak of himself; but what he will hear, he will speak, and what is in the future, he will proclaim to you. 14 He will glorify me; for he will take it from mine and proclaim it to you.*

*Isaiah 11:2*

*Upon him will rest the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom and reason, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD; and he will be pleased with the fear of the Lord.*

From the combination of the two Bible passages, it becomes clear to us what Jesus is doing about "*He will glorify me; for he will take it from mine and proclaim it to you.*"

Fear of God is a preciousness, a jewel from the treasure of God, is from mine, is something that the Spirit of God proclaims, teaches, and leads us into it, so that Jesus may be glorified.



Fear of God is caused by the Spirit of God. We humans cannot live out of ourselves in true fear of God. Fear of God is a gift from God to us. We will never be able to receive this gift if we do not reach out to it. It is a gift; it seems so precious to God that He only gives us fear of God if we seek this gift with all that we have.

*Romans 3:11.*

*... there is no one who is understanding; there is no one **who seeks God.***

Thus, if we truly seek God, we begin to know Him, and the fear of God would grow within us with increasing knowledge of His nature.

This is where the task of the Holy Spirit begins. He leads us into all truth, he teaches us treasures from the treasure of the Word of God, from his own he takes it.

The Holy Spirit does not glorify Himself:

**... He will glorify me**

For him to glorify Jesus, he first causes in us a deep love for Jesus and for heavenly Father. He acquaints us with the Son and the Father. This, in turn, causes admiration, reverence, fear of God in us.

How absurd it would be for us to assume that we can reverence someone we do not know or only poorly know. Changing this is the task of the Holy Spirit. I can tell you that he does it with resounding success if we allow ourselves to be taught by him.

We may ask, why is there so little fear of God in our churches? I think this is relatively easy to answer and I think there are two reasons. A structural and a personal one:

- *Many Christians often confuse effect and cause.*
- *We are fixated on the effects of the Holy Spirit and have largely forgotten*

*the cause, namely the person of the Holy Spirit.*

When we return to the cause, it may cost us our own life so that we can live and work in intimate communion of the Holy Spirit.

But this is what I want to say, I want to have fellowship with the cause of the person of the Holy Spirit in all circumstances, whatever the cost. If we strive for this from the bottom of our hearts, the first thing He will do is to magnify Jesus and the Father. I am one hundred percent aware that this is the key to the deeper knowledge of God.

## **Living in the Fear of the Lord**

*Psalm 34:12 ff.*

*Come, you sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man who has the desire to live, who loves his days to see good? Protect your tongue from evil and your lips from deceitful speech. Let go of evil and do good, seek peace and chase after it!*

I believe these are the two reasons why the fear of God is not one of the most widespread virtues in the church of Jesus. Fear of God means absolute, radical, uncompromising following of Jesus. We can ask ourselves this question, whether we are ready for it.

In this context, let us think of what James tells us:

*Faith without works is dead*

## **The Effects of the Lord's Fear**

The effects are a life of wisdom and knowledge of the fullness of God.

*Proverbs 1:7*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Wisdom and discipline despise only the fools.*

God has determined that before wisdom and knowledge, there is fear of God, because he can and wants to reveal himself only to the willing, understanding and the teachable.



Just imagine: Would you reveal your deepest thoughts, feelings, your being to someone you have only met fleetingly? Surely not, why do we think God would act differently than you admit to yourself?

Before wisdom and knowledge, God has set fear of God, reverence, and relationship, just like you. Wisdom is the treasure of God, which opens to us through the fear of God.

*Daniel 2:21-22*

*... he gives the sages their wisdom and the rational their minds, he reveals what is deep and hidden; he knows what lies in the darkness, for there is a lot of light with him.*

If we live in the fear of God, we can call to God, and He will hear.

*James 1:5.*

*But if anyone among you lacks wisdom, ask God, who likes to give to everyone and does not squint anyone; so, it will be given to him.*

*Proverbs 2:6*

*For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and insight.*

*What we receive is wisdom i.e. - insight into the fullness of things and life contexts*

**Divine wisdom is:**

*Insight into the abundance of things and into the universal contexts.*

**Divine knowledge is:**

*The know-how for methods to be used in certain situations.*

Does this not mean that if we have wisdom of God, we also know how things behave. We have insight into the connections, can see our way and achieve our goal with the least possible effort.

Can we guess why Scripture is so enthusiastic about wisdom and calls you more valuable than gold, pearls, and all material goods? Because it is knowledge of the connections and that also includes the knowledge of how

we can shape our lives and earn our living. Through the fear of God, you open this treasure.

*Daniel 2:21*

*... he gives the sages their wisdom and the understanding their minds,*

But it is not that God does not want to share this precious good with His children. On the contrary, it is his declared will to let us share in this wealth.

**God's offer is:**

*... to make us insightful into the abundance of things and life contexts.*

God has already shown us the pattern of how to behave. God-fearing, pleading and believing, but there is still something missing. And this missing part is the main reason why we are not connected to the source of wisdom.

Let's look at how a sage acts in this situation.

*Proverbs 1:5*

*Whoever is wise, listen and grow in wisdom, and whoever is understanding, let himself be advised,*

*Proverbs 15:31*

*The ear that listens to healing instructions will dwell among the sages.*

*Proverbs 18:15*

*An understanding heart acquires insight, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

*Proverbs 22:17*

*Tilt your ears and hear the words of sages and take my teaching to heart.*

*Proverbs 21:11.*

*... and when a sage is taught, he accepts knowledge.*

He hears, he allows himself to be instructed, he seeks advice, and he allows himself to be corrected. He has no ego problems that prevent Him from accepting advice, instruction, and correction, but also reproach.

**But he hears!**

Can we see that it is not possible for us to hear without fear of God, because we are guided by egocentric, non-divine motives and God gives His treasures, wisdom, and knowledge, only to His children, i.e., to those who fear and hear Him.

*Proverbs 2:6*

*For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and insight.*

- *It is the priority of the sage to hear what comes out of the "mouth of the only sage", namely knowledge and insight. He knows how to be in constant contact with the source of knowledge and insight. I praise and praise God for making this source of wisdom accessible not only to some elitist sages hovering above the waters, but to all who seek wisdom and seek it on the path Established by Him.*

Let us remember the divine helper, let us remember what Jesus said about him.

*John 16:13.*

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak of himself; but what he will hear, he will speak, and what is in the future, he will proclaim to you.*

He will not speak of himself; but what he will hear, he will speak. He, the Holy Spirit, hears knowledge and insight that come out of the mouth of God.

He hears ... and he tells us what he hears. Do we also hear what he has to say to us? The result of our listening will be that divine knowledge and insight will become our part. When divine insight, divine knowledge, flows into our lives, we have the divine know-how to experience divine guidance and guidance in the circumstances that surrounds us.

I could take off if I imagined the potential god is unlocking for us with this offer. Its offer is not limited to one area of our lives but has full validity. It is a blessing and success in all areas of life, a change from victory to victory.

How we find our way into the flow of the Holy Spirit - I wrote about this in the

previous explanations of the building blocks and it will continue to occupy us.

### Therefore...

- *Ask God for fear of God and you have tapped into the source of wisdom and knowledge.*
- *Act like a sage and listen to the knowledge and insight of God given to us by the Holy Spirit. Seek close communion with Him.*
- *Put what you hear into practice! And enter the flow of the Holy Spirit and become a bearer in all life situations.*
- *A counsel, deal with the Word of God, especially with the many promises about those who live God-fearingly.*

Discouragement, despondency, despair will no longer be part of your life. We walk, or rather, we let ourselves be carried on our way by the Spirit of God and can thus become sustainers ourselves.