

# The Fear of the Lord

## Introduction:

- o Phil. 2:12 “work out your salvation with “**fear and trembling**”
- o Acts 9:31 “...living in the “**fear of the Lord**”
- o Heb. 12:28 “...have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with **reverence and godly fear.**”
- o Eccl. 12:13 “The conclusion of the matter: **Fear God** and keep His commands for this is the whole duty of man.”
- o Dan. 6:26 “I make a decree in every dominion of my kingdom...men must **tremble and fear** before the God of Daniel.” (after Daniel in the lion’s den)
- o Ps 5:7 “In **fear of you** I will worship...”
- o Prov. 1:7 “The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge.”

Powerful statements of the far-reaching influence of the Fear of the Lord.

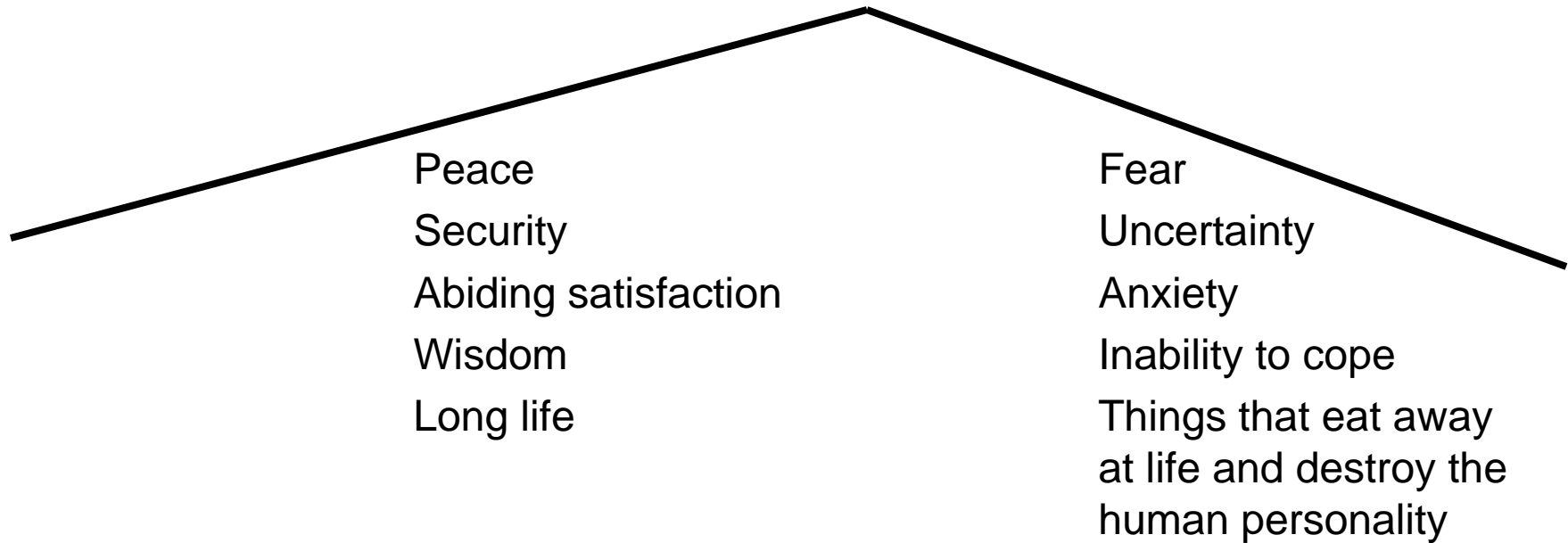
## “Fear of the Lord”

- Background:
  - “FotL ~ 160Xs in the Bible
  - similar expressions (terrified, afraid, trembling) > 400Xs
  - approximately 600 references to elements of the FotL.
- It’s blessings are too numerous to count
  - Wisdom Job 28:28
  - Contentment/freedom from evil Prov. 19:23 (rests content)
  - Have the Lord’s love Ps 103:17 (“chesed” = lovingkindness)
  - Good life, many days Ps 34: 9-14; Prov. 10:27
  - Fountain of life – guides one away from the traps of death Prov. 14:27
  - Instruction/prosperity/inheritance Ps 25: 12-14 (secret of the Lord)
  - The Lord hears you. Mal. 3:16
  - “...so that you will not sin Ex. 20:20
  - wealth, honor and life Prov. 22:4 (by humility and the FotL)
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Understatement – The FotL is highly desirable in one’s life.

## Fear of the Lord

- The Fear of the Lord is a watershed of life  
(flows in opposite directions with opposite destinations)



What is another watershed of life? (resulting in different destinations)

# Fear of the Lord

- What the fear of the Lord is not:

1. Natural fear:

- o thunder and lightning
- o taking a final exam
- o my experience as an ice cream salesman
- o phobias – the dark, heights, spiders, snakes, etc.
- o child – fear of punishment for wrongdoing



2. Fear taught by men Isa. 29:13 Jesus quotes Isaiah in Matt. 15:8-9

- o religious laws – (If you don't do certain things you are not a true Jew)
- o Pharisees – their rules were the commands of men  
self-righteous living



3. Fear of man –

- o fear of what man thinks
- o fearing the look of rejection (looking for man's acceptance)  
(You would disobey God to satisfy men.) e.g. Saul – had just lost the kingdom and he was still interested in “looking good” before the men.



## Fear of the Lord

- What it is:

Many biblical words for fear

enah – terror

deagah – sorrow

charadah – trembling

chath – fright/terror

yirah – reverence

nagor – terror

megorah – fear

mora – fear/reverence

pachad – dread

rogez – rage/anger/trembling

phoboz – fear/terror

Other words – amazement, awe, wonder, astonishment

## Fear of the Lord

- As can be seen from the variety of meanings – there are many outworkings in our lives.
- Underneath it all is a profound sense of **awe**, **reverence** and **respect** towards God coupled with a **great appreciation and acknowledgement** of who He is and what He does. **(The heart knows, not merely mental assent.)**
- Awe: an emotion in which dread, veneration and wonder are mingled in various ways.
- Awe: submissive and admiring fear inspired by authority
- Awe: a fearful reverence inspired by deity.

### Examples:

1. Gen. 28:16-17 Jacob at Bethel (“afraid”)
2. Matt. 28:8 the women were afraid yet filled with joy.
3. Luke 5:1-11 Peter and the catch of fish
4. My experience at age 19 while seeking God

## Fear of the Lord



- Prov. 1:7 The chief part, the soul of Godliness

From the amplified Bible: “The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge (its starting point and its essence)

Theological dictionary includes “necessary condition”

It is that substance or quality from which all things are constructed.

### Illustration of the alphabet

From earlier scriptures – our life, our worship, our service must be infused with godly fear.

Just as every word we form is constructed from letters of the alphabet, so every choice, every word and every action coming from us should be influenced, suffused, permeated, constructed with the fear of the Lord.

It is not by accident that the fear of the Lord is called the beginning of wisdom.

# Fear of the Lord

## How do you get the Fear of the Lord?

1. A grace from God – Jer. 32:40 “I will put my fear in the hearts.”  
Ps. 130:2 “There is forgiveness with you, therefore you are feared.”  
Initial deposit of the FotL at new birth.
2. By answered prayer/our response to God’s love and kindness
3. By true repentance II Cor. 7:11
4. By asking for it. Ask – seek – knock (present, continuous action)
5. By observing God’s judgments on the earth – e.g. Ananias and Saphira  
Acts 5:1ff v.11 “So great fear came upon the church...”  
see also: sons of Eli and the “strange fire”
6. By meditating/studying God’s Word regarding His greatness and those who experienced Him. See Psalm 145
7. By having a pervading sense of His presence. Ps 139
8. By having a constraining awareness of our obligation to this great God  
The awareness of who God is and what He has done constrains me to do what is right and pleasing in His eyes.