



The Beginning of Wisdom

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Fear is the Beginning of Wisdom

Psalm 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...

The Fear of the Lord...

a) Fear – reverence based

Awe, respect, piety

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

The Fear of the Lord...

b) Fear – dread based Anxiety, worry, terror

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

Is the beginning...

- ◆ **The first, the best, the chief**
- ◆ **Fear of the Lord = foundational, start point**

...of wisdom.

- ◆ Knowledge, perception, maturity
- ◆ More fear of Lord = more wisdom
- ◆ Less fear of Lord = decrease wisdom

Too afraid not to fear

Jeremiah 36

v16 - *When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king."*

v24 - *The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.*

We must be to afraid not to fear

Rousing warriors in 2011

- ◆ **Warriors are fearless men & women of God.**
- ◆ **Only thing they fear is the Lord**
- ◆ **All other Fear should be destroyed before them...**

The Fear of the Lord destroys...

1) Fear of man

Proverbs 29:25

*Fear of man will prove to be a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept
safe.*

***Fear of the Lord must outweigh any
fear of man***

Psalm 34:9

Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing

Isaiah 33:6

*He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; **the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.***

The Fear of the Lord destroys...

2) Ball of Offense

Matthew 18:7

*Woe to the world because of offenses!
For offenses must come...*

***Fear the Lord too much to catch
any ball of offense thrown at me***

The Fear of the Lord destroys...

3) Familiarity with God

Psalm 33:18

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them

Fathers will

Psalm 25:14

*The LORD confides in those who **fear him...***

Acts 9:31

*Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, **living in the fear of the Lord.***

The Fear of the Lord destroys...

4) Dread-driven Christianity

Psalm 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

Religiosity health check

- ✓ Do I do certain things just because I should?
- ✓ Do I worry about getting in trouble with God?
- ✓ Do I dread coming to church, worshiping or speaking one-on-one with pastor because I feel I will be condemned?
- ✓ Do I try my hardest to be good because it is the right thing to do?
- ✓ Do I serve God believing that this will result in receiving blessing and open doors?

The Fear of the Lord destroys...

5) Fear of transparency

Ephesians 5:21

...submitting to one another in the fear of God.

In your life... who speaks into the darkness?

Communion

Proverbs 14:27

*The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
turning a man from the snares of death.*