

THE FEAR OF GOD

Proverbs 1:7

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The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

1. What does it mean to fear the LORD?

A. It does not mean you cower in fear of God.

Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin. Exodus 20:20

B. It does mean you stand in awe of God.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. Psalm 33:8-9

*Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with **reverence and awe**; for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29*

C. It does mean you do not play games with God.

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:31

2. Why should you and I fear the LORD?

A. It is a prerequisite for success.

The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life. Proverbs 22:4

B. It is the foundation for victory over sin.

By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil. Proverbs 16:6

3. How can you and I learn to fear the LORD?

A. We learn to fear Him by reading His Word.

*And it [the Word of God] shall be with him [the king], and he shall read it all the days of his life, **that he may learn to fear the LORD his God**, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes. Deuteronomy 17:19*

B. We learn to fear Him by choosing His ways.

*Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me, because they hated knowledge, **and did not choose the fear of the LORD**. They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. Proverbs 1:28-30*

Will you choose to fear the LORD?