

Fear of the Lord

Among many mentioned subjects in the Word of God, the fear of the Lord ranks in the top three, yet it is not spoken about as much. One question we all have to answer regularly is, Do I have the fear of God, and am I walking in it?

What is the fear of God?

In a biblical context, the fear of God is simply an awe, reverence, respect, and honor of God. The fear of the Lord is above all **worshiping the Lord**.

Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6:13 in Matthew 4:10, but the use of His words is telling about the fear of God.

- a) Deuteronomy 6:13 ***THOU SHALT FEAR THE LORD THY GOD, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.***
- b) Matthew 4:10 *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, **THOU SHALT WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD, and him only shalt thou serve.***
 - i) Jesus used "**WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD**" in Matthew 4:10 interchangeably with "**FEAR THE LORD THY GOD**" as quoted in Deuteronomy 6:13.
 - ii) Therefore, to fear the Lord is to worship the Lord. Those who have rejected the Lord do not have the fear of the Lord because they are worshiping something other than Him who is the Lord God. Those who aren't born again do not have the fear of the Lord. Jesus was and is God (1 Timothy 3:16) and ought to be worshipped, and those who do, truly have the fear of the Lord.

- Fear of the Lord = Worshiping Jesus = Worshiping the Lord thy God

These verses show Jesus rightfully being worshipped. Matthew 2:11—Wise men from the east; Matthew 8:2—Leper; Matthew 9:18—Jairus; Matthew 14:33—Jesus walks on water and goes to the boat; Matthew 15:25—Canaanite Woman; Matthew 20:20—Mother of Zebedee's children (James and John); Matthew 28:9—Mary Magdalene and the other Mary; Matthew 28:17—Some of the disciples after His resurrection; Mark 5:6—A man with an unclean spirit that was dwelling in the tombs; Luke 24:52—The disciples at His ascending; John 9:38—The lame man that was healed in John.

The command to fear the Lord

The Word of God commands us to fear the Lord. These verses below reveal that this is not a choice, nor is it something to be done by just a few zealots or preachers.

- a) Deuteronomy 6:1-2 *Now these [are] the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do [them] in the land whither ye go to possess it: 2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.*
- b) Deuteronomy 6:13 *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.*
- c) Deuteronomy 6:24 *And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as [it is] at this day.*
- d) Deuteronomy 8:6 *Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.*
- e) Deuteronomy 10:12-13 *And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, 13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?*

- f) Deuteronomy 10:20 *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.*
- g) Deuteronomy 13:4 *Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*
- h) Joshua 24:14 *Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.*

1. The fear of the Lord has to be taught and learned.

Did you know that the fear of the Lord has to be taught? If it has to be taught this means it does not come naturally. No one is born with the fear of the Lord, that is why we have to be born again.

You do not just wake up with the fear of the Lord. It is going to take some effort on our part and some renewing of the mind (Romans 12:1-2).

- a) Deuteronomy 14:22-23 *Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. 23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.*

- i) Notice that the fear of the Lord has to be learned. It does not happen automatically or naturally. This passage reveals that the fear of the Lord is being faithful in giving our tithes.

- b) 2 Kings 17:28 *Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Beth-el, and **taught them how they should fear the LORD.***

- c) Psalm 34:11 *Come, ye children, hearken unto me: **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.***

- i) This learning comes through the Word of God (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).
As we read the Word, we learn to fear God.

- d) Haggai 1:12 *Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.*

- e) Deuteronomy 4:9-10 *Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; 10 [Specially] the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and [that] they may teach their children.*
 - i) Notice that when we hear His Words (voice), we will learn to fear Him.

 - ii) This learning comes through the Word of God (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).
As we read the Word, we learn to fear God.

- f) Deuteronomy 13:10-11 *And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you. (Deuteronomy 17:12-13; 19:16-20).*
 - i) If we want people to fear the Lord, we need to deal with certain behaviors that they manifest contrary to God's Word, so they hear and fear. If no action is ever taken against sin, people will not learn the fear of God. The fear of the Lord ought to be taught (Psalm 34:11).

2. Be in the fear of the Lord all day long

- a) Proverbs 23:17 *Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.*
 - i) We ought to be in the fear of the Lord all day long, not part of the day.
- 3. All the inhabitants of the world
 - a) **Psalms 33:8** *Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.*
 - i) The fear of the Lord is not just for the clergy or the preachers, but the entire world. We have no excuse not to fear the Lord.
- 4. A person who says there is no God is not only a fool but has no fear, reverence and honor of the Lord.
 - a) Psalm 14:1 *The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, [there is] none that doeth good.*
 - b) Psalm 53:1 *The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: [there is] none that doeth good.*

Examples of fearing the Lord:

1. Jesus

- a) Isaiah 11:1-3 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD: 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*

- i) This prophecy is about the Lord Jesus. Jesus had and walked in the fear of God.

2. Joseph

a) Genesis 39:9 *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*

- i) Joseph revealed to us why he would not have sexual relations with Potiphar's wife. It is because he had a fear of the Lord. He did not want to sin against God. He saw this sin as a sin against God, not Potiphar, although it would have been a sin against him. He had a greater and bigger cause why he would not commit sin. He feared God. He worshipped, honored, and revered God more than man.

- ii) Lord, help me walk in the fear of the Lord all my life.

3. Early church

a) Acts 9:31 *Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.*

b) Ephesians 5:21 *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

c) Ephesians 5:33 *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.*

- i) The same word that was translated fear in Ephesians 5:21 was translated reverence here in Ephesians 5:33.

- d) 1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

4. Daniel and three friends feared God more than the king

Daniel feared God more than man and would not compromise. One of the reasons we compromise is because we do not have the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord will keep us from compromise.

- a) Daniel 1:8 *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*
- b) Daniel 3:16-18 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee (not afraid) in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*
- c) Daniel 6:10 *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

5. Job

- a) Job 1:1 *"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."*
 - i) This text makes says that Job eschewed evil, which means he hated evil. The Amplified version says that he "abstained from and shunned evil." We won't truly abstain from someone we do not hate because when we hate

something, we lose the desire to participate in it. Shunning evil leads to abstaining and departing from it.

- ii) Notice that there is no genuine fear of the Lord that excludes hatred for evil. One of the major deterrent from sin is to develop a hatred for it. Very few people will do what they hate. We cannot separate hatred for evil from fearing God.

What is the fear of the Lord?

Before I define the fear of the Lord, I must say that we have the grace (God's enabling power and ability that undeserved, unearned, and unmerited) to walk in the fear of the Lord. For everything the Lord asks us to do, He equips and empowers us to do it. We should not do it in our own strength. God works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

1. Beginning of wisdom

- a) Psalm 111:10 *The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do [his commandments]: his praise endureth for ever.*
- b) Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding.*
- c) Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom; and before honour [is] humility.*

2. Beginning of knowledge

- a) Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
 - i) Knowledge precedes by wisdom, but all of them begin by the fear of Lord.

3. Loving the Lord

a) Exodus 20:6 *And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.* Luke 1:50 *And his mercy [is] on them that fear him from generation to generation.*

i) These two verses use the words "fear Him" and "love me" interchangeably.

ii) To fear the Lord = to love the Lord, and to love the Lord = to fear the Lord. Those who claim otherwise are deceived.

b) Psalm 97:10 ***Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.***

i) If we love the Lord, we need to hate evil which is the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 8:13). Again, loving the Lord does not go without hating evil. Those who love the Lord will hate evil.

ii) Loving the Lord = fearing God = hating evil (Proverbs 8:13)

4. Loving the good

a) Amos 5:15 ***Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.***

i) Hating evil is the fearing of the Lord (Proverbs 8:13). When we hate evil, it is because we love good and establish judgment in the gate. Again, it is impossible to love good and not hate evil. Those who claim to love what is good but do not have a hatred for evil are deceived and they do not have the fear of the Lord.

- Hating evil = fearing God = loving the good

ii) Many people do not have a fear for the Lord because of their love for the things of this world. We can't love the world and love God at the same time. Its impossible. We need to choose one and give up on the other.

- 1 John 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- "World" means "the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ" (Thayer's Definition)

5. Fearing the Lord is trusting the Lord

a) Psalm 115:11-13 **Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD:** *he [is] their help and their shield. 12 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless [us]; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. 13 He will bless them that fear the LORD, [both] small and great.*

- i) If you are trusting in yourself and your own goodness, you do not fear God.
- ii) Fearing God is trusting God. If we aren't trusting God, we aren't fearing Him.

b) Proverbs 29:25 *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

- i) The opposite of fearing man is fearing God.
- ii) Some defined the fear of the Lord as fearing nothing else. To fear God is to fear nothing else, not man, death, sickness or disease. Why? Because He tells us to fear not, fearing is something else is going contrary to what He instructs us and it's not fearing Him.

The fear of the Lord is not terror. Jesus has borne our judgment (John 12:32).

c) Psalm 40:3 *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, [even] praise unto our God: many shall see [it], and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.*

6. Fear of the Lord is departing from evil.

a) Proverbs 3:5-9 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways **acknowledge** him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be **not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.** 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. 9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

i) Those who truly love the Lord will depart from evil. Claiming to love the Lord and not departing from evil is not the fear of the Lord. A genuine fear and reverence of the Lord will cause a person to depart from evil.

ii) Trusting the Lord, acknowledging Him in all our ways, and not being wise in our own eyes are all characteristics of fearing the Lord.

b) Proverbs 14:16 *A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.*

i) This is talking about a reverential kind of fear. A fear that is toward the Lord, not people or terror. Fearing the Lord causes a departure from evil. To fear the Lord is to depart from evil.

c) Proverbs 16:6 *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD [men] depart from evil.*

i) One of the reasons people sin is because they have no fear of the Lord. The more we fear the Lord, the godlier we will become.

d) Proverbs 16:17 *The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.*

- i) A highway is the main road. In the same way, the main road for the upright is departing from evil. Highways help us travel faster, safer and without obstacles. This is what the fear of the Lord does to us. The fear of the Lord which we have already defined in multiple ways will cause us to go far and achieve the call of God in our lives.
- ii) The highway can also be likened to a staircase by which we can climb higher.

7. Fearing the Lord is not just to depart from evil but to hate evil. **Fearing the Lord = hate evil**

One time I was entering a grocery store, and I found a bunch of guys stealing the products that were on display on the entrance of the supermarket, because I hated evil, I called the security on them and we ran after them to apprehend them. If I did not have a fear of the Lord, I wouldn't have done that. I hated what they were doing.

- a) Psalm 97:10 **Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:** *he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.*
- b) Proverbs 8:13 **The fear of the LORD [is] to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.**
 - i) Fearing the Lord is to hate evil. Those who don't hate evil don't fear God. It is all talk and no action.
 - ii) According to this verse, the true fear of the Lord is to hate evil. God hates pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the forward mouth. The Lord hates these things. Notice that He doesn't hate people who do these things, but He hates these acts. There is a huge difference. We need to hate what the Lord hates.
- c) Romans 12:9 *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*
 - i) Genuine love is without hypocrisy. It has a **hatred for evil**. When we hate evil, we cleave to what is good.

- ii) We won't depart from what we do not hate. We need to work on our capacity to hate—no, not people but evil. If you do not hate evil, sin, and ungodliness, you will participate.
- d) Ephesians 4:26-27 *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.*
- i) James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
 - ii) One of the ways to hate evil is by being angry at sin, hence resisting the devil.
 - Those who have no hatred for evil will not resist the devil.
 - iii) Jesus was angry at sin and made a whip and drove merchants out of the Temple. He did this twice (at the beginning and at the end).
 - John 2:14-17; Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-46.
 - iv) Psalm 4:4 **Stand in awe, and sin not:** commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.
 - The word "awe" here means to be angry (see the NKJV, and the Amplified). This is talking about a godly anger as Ephesians 4:26-27.
 - If we aren't angry, we will sin. Anger is meant to fight against sin and evil and its author—Satan.
- e) Job 1:1 *"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."*
- i) This text makes says that Job eschewed evil which means he hated evil. The Amplified version says that he "abstained from and shunned evil." We won't truly abstain from that which we do not hate. Shunning evil leads to abstaining and departing from it.

- ii) Notice that there is no genuine fear of the Lord that excludes hatred for evil. One of the major deterrent from sin is to develop a hatred for it. Very few people will go out of their way to do that which they hate. Hatred for evil is one of the ways forward.

8. Giving our tithes and/or offerings is fearing the Lord.

a) Proverbs 3:7-10 *Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. 9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

- i) Those who do not fear the Lord are not givers. Giving honors the Lord. If we do not give, we are not honoring the Lord and aren't walking in the fear of the Lord.

b) Deuteronomy 14:22-23 *Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. 23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.*

- i) Notice that the fear of the Lord has to be learned. It does not happen automatically or naturally. This passage reveals that the fear of the Lord is being faithful in giving our tithes. When we faithfully give, we learn to fear the Lord.

9. Walking in uprightness

a) Proverbs 14:2 *He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.*

- i) Walking in uprightness is fearing the Lord. Those who aren't walking godly do not fear the Lord.
- ii) This is talking about someone who is living right and godly. One who is walking in a righteous and lifestyle.

10. Walking in integrity is walking in the fear of the Lord.

- a) Proverbs 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
 - i) Walking in integrity is profitable not only to us but also to those who are surrounded and associated with us. Our children can and will reap blessings from our integrity and uprightness. On the other side, the opposite is true as well. Those who walk in dishonesty and a lack of character not only affect their lives but the lives of their children and those associated with them.

11. Not taking advantage of others

- a) Leviticus 19:14 *Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I [am] the LORD.*
 - i) Mistreating the deaf, cursing them, being profane toward them because they can't hear us is not fearing the Lord.

The deaf can be extended to mean taking advantage of those who have not heard or have missed a vital communication about something.

- ii) Setting traps and taking advantage of the blind because they can't see is not fearing the Lord. One who does all these things does not have the fear of the Lord.

This includes lying and cheating those who may not be knowledgeable about something.

12. Not oppressing one another

- a) Leviticus 25:17 *Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I [am] the LORD your God.*

13. Fear of those in Authority

Proverbs 24:21 *My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:*

- a) Fear of the Lord is honoring those in authority. Of course, this does not include compliance with ungodly commands. Refusing to fear the king or authority is not walking in the fear of the Lord.
- b) We are to fear not just the Lord, but the king (those in authority) and not mingle or intermix with those who are given to rebellion.
- c) Romans 13:1-5 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ²Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. ³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: ⁴For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. ⁵Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Advantages or Benefits to the fear of the Lord

1. Fear of the Lord produces holiness

a) 2 Corinthians 7:1 *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

i) Holiness is perfected in the fear of God. We can't live holy if we do not have the fear of God. Simply put, the fear of the Lord = Holiness.

2. Fear the LORD our God is for our good always

a) Deuteronomy 6:24 *And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, **to fear the LORD our God, for our good always**, that he might preserve us alive, as [it is] at this day.*

b) Deuteronomy 5:29 *O that there were such an heart in them, **that they would fear me**, and keep all my commandments always, **that it might be well with them**, and with their children forever!*

i) Fearing the Lord is always for our own good and wellness. Those who refuse to fear the Lord will miss out on having things go well for them.

3. Releases the blessing of God in our lives.

a) Psalm 115:11-13 *Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he [is] their help and their shield. 12 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless [us]; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. 13 **He will bless them that fear the LORD, [both] small and great.***

4. No want/lack

a) Psalm 34:9 *O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.*

5. Pleases the Lord.

a) Psalm 147:11 *The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

- i) The Lord is delighted in us fearing Him. It brings Him joy and pleasure.

6. The fear of the Lord prolongs days.

- a) Proverbs 10:27 *The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.*
- b) Proverbs 14:27 *The fear of the LORD [is] a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*
- c) Proverbs 19:23 *The fear of the LORD [tendeth] to life: and [he that hath it] shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*

- i) These verses reveal that a lack of a fear for the Lord will shorten our days. We need to purpose to be in the fear of the Lord.

7. Satisfaction

- a) Proverbs 19:23 *The fear of the LORD [tendeth] to life: and [he that hath it] shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*

- i) The fear of the Lord brings and causes us to remain, abide, live in satisfaction and have need for nothing. If we are not abiding satisfied, we need to look at our fear of the Lord because he that has it shall abide satisfied.

- ii) Because we have the fear of the Lord, we are satisfied and won't go out and do certain ungodly things.

8. Not visited by evil

- a) Proverbs 19:23 *The fear of the LORD [tendeth] to life: and [he that hath it] shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*

- i) The fear of the Lord will bring satisfaction and in the end will protect us from making decisions that could bring evil upon us.
- ii) This is not to say that evil will never come against us (2 Timothy 3:12), but when we are in the fear of the Lord, we can stop the visitation of many evils. The fear of the Lord protects us from self-inflicted wounds.
- iii) We may be afflicted but we have a promise of deliverance from all.
 - Psalm 34:19 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

9. The fear of the Lord gives us confidence.

- a) Proverbs 14:26-27 *In the fear of the LORD [is] strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.*
 - i) If we want to have confidence, we need to walk in the fear of the Lord. This is one crucial way to get strong confidence. If we are lacking in strong confidence, we know the cause—a lack of the fear of the Lord.

10. Riches, Honor and life

- a) Proverbs 22:4 *By humility [and] the fear of the LORD [are] riches, and honour, and life.*
 - i) The fear of the Lord brings and produces honor, riches and life.
- b) Proverbs 15:16 *Better [is] little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.*

11. Fear of the Lord is a treasure.

- a) Isaiah 33:6 *And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, [and] strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD [is] his treasure.*

12. Antidote to envy

a) Proverbs 23:17 *Let not thine heart envy sinners: but [be thou] in the fear of the LORD all the day long.*

i) We need to be in the fear of the Lord all day long (all the time), not just a part of the day or just at certain times. This is speaking of a continuity in fearing the Lord. If we do, some of the benefits is that our hearts will be guarded from envy.

- James 3:16 *For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

ii) One of the ways we can accomplish that is by keeping our minds stayed upon the Lord.

13. Happiness

a) Proverbs 28:14 *Happy is the man that feareth always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.*

i) This is speaking about reverence and the fear of God. Those who fear God are happy. What does this say of those who do not fear the Lord? They are not happy. Our happiness is directly proportional to our fear of the Lord. Those who are looking for happiness while excluding the fear of the Lord have missed the blessing that comes with it which is happiness.

ii) Note that this passage says **ALWAYS**. We need to fear the Lord always, not sporadically. Many fear the Lord, but they do that occasionally. We need to be consistency in the fear of the Lord.

- Proverbs 23:17 *Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.*

- iii) We also learn that those who are heart hardened, have no fear of the Lord and therefore fall into mischief.

In conclusion,

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and Keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.

Rich Kanyali