

## What is the Fear of God?

**Introduction:** Day by day our current society lacks a fear of God. In fact, it's rarely mentioned and people who are within the church practice things they should hate; and this is all because a lack of fearing God. Today we will learn about the difference between the spirit of fear and the fear of God, while learning about other distinct fears that exist.

### **I. What is Fear?**

1. Natural Fear: It is the kind of fear that is produced due to a frightful experience. For example, an earthquake, an accident, etc.
2. Demonic Fear: 2 Timothy 1:7
  - a. This fear is more than mere emotion it is a worldly spirit that torments a person.
  - b. The spirit of fear entered when Adam and Eve sinned. This evil spirit causes us to lie, lose hope, see things that are not real and it steals our peace and God's blessings.
  - c. Fear snares us when we face something terrible in our lives; when unexpected things happen to us such as situations we cannot control, fear of loneliness, darkness or abandonment.
  - d. Signs that help us recognize demonic fear:
    - It stops us from obeying God and from acting on our free will. People who constantly feel unqualified to serve God are oppressed by a demon.
    - It causes us to run away from problems and life challenges instead of facing them.
    - It is a fear or phobia that makes one feel, think or imagine cruel and destructive events.
    - It tortures one physically, emotionally and spiritually with fear of abandonment, fear of darkness, fear of sickness, fear of losing loved ones, fear of rejection etc.
3. Religious Fear: Isaiah 29.13 It is a fear instilled by another human being in regards to a religious belief. It stops us from acting in freedom and from worshipping the only true God. It is superficial because it affects the external conduct instead of the heart (it's based on rituals).
4. Fear of Men: Prov. 29.25 Those who have this fear are more concerned about what others think instead of what God thinks. This fear causes people to live enslaved to sin, drugs, alcohol or illicit sex because they fear others (wife, friends, father, boyfriend).

### **II. What is the Fear of God? Proverbs 3:7-8**

1. The fear of God is respect and admiration for Him. It is to have a holy dread of displeasing Him.
2. The fear of God is to be terrified of displeasing Him. It is to be willing to do whatever it takes to please Him, and to be willing to hate sin, love what God loves and hate what God hates.
3. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of God. Many seek wisdom everywhere, but the true source of wisdom is the fear of God. Prov. 1.7 When we have a fear of God inside our hearts then wisdom is obtained.
4. Whoever you fear to displease, that is your God. You create your own God when you fear something, such as fearing your husband, your family, a crisis, a disease, a man etc.

5. There are people who fear God in certain areas but not in other areas. For example a good man who serves God and is a good father, but is unfaithful; this means that he does not fear God in that area.

### III. HOW CAN WE CULTIVATE A FEAR OF GOD IN OUR LIVES?

1. Making a Personal Decision- you decide to honor God above your desires and other people.
2. Hearing and Obeying the Word of God: Prov. 2.1-5 If we receive His Word and we put it to practice then we will find knowledge and the fear of God.
3. Accepting the Teachings of the Holy Spirit: Psalms 34.11 We will learn to hear the Holy Spirit, ask Him to be your teacher, to teach you to hear Him and cultivate sensitivity towards Him.
4. Hearing and Practicing the Teachings of your Pastors and Leaders: God speaks through your pastors and leaders.

**Conclusion-** *The fear of God is not to be scared but to have a holy fear, a holy dread to always please Him and make Him happy. The way of living, character and the way of reacting manifests a fear of God; so it is time to align our life so that it pleases God and fears Him in all areas. Begin by giving your life to Christ...*

#### **Sinner's Prayer**

*Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.*