

The Correct of Fear of the Lord

By G Michael Price

Just like there are two kinds of sorrow, with one leading to Godly repentance and the other leading to death, there are two kinds of fear that go in opposite directions. However, for the persistent sinner who refuses to see spirituality, they can actually fuse together. How so? When our Lord said:

Matthew 10:28

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"

The fear of mankind

The fear of loss

The Word says if we Love the world then the Love of the Father is not in us, so could we conclude that if we fear the world more than the Creator then our faith is amiss?

The Bible shows several examples of fear gone wrong. Consider these passages:

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"
(James 2:19).

The unprofitable servant was corrected for being wicked and lazy after he made the excuse, "I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground" instead of using it productively (Matthew 25:25).

Revelation 21:8 even tells us the "cowardly" or "fearful" (King James Version) will not be in God's Kingdom.

Such fear does not have a positive end. Obviously this kind of fear is not what God is looking for.

Be cautious of using humility as a holy looking cover for a genuine fear of stepping out and taking risks with people.

At an early age my personal journey with fear was with only one thing, and it was not hell but what I would become without Jesus. To become like most the grown-ups I saw simply was not on doable list, it was more like a nightmare. I KNEW Jesus Christ was my ticket out of that horrible destiny. That fear drove me to my Lord Jesus for good just shy of 15 years old.

So fear can be a great thing and a great motivator if put in the right perspective.

Example: instead of fearing a punisher, rather fear turning into the person who would need to be punished.

A scripture that I like the most about is:

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

A good combo is **Matthew 7:1** followed by **Philippians 2:12**

My opinion: something to fear is the ignorance of what our own words do to us...fear idle talk, for in them are the punishments without explanation.

Our Lord Jesus said by our own words we will be justified and by our own words condemned.

Another point:

Let's not not fear because we are unwilling to conquer timidity but fear things worthy of fear.

Closing points:

When our friendship with our Lord Jesus reaches such a milestone that His perfect Love truly casts out "all fear", then to abide in His Love by becoming Love with Him is the key.

In John 1:9, "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son."

I gather from scripture this beautiful but sobering point: If we remain in Him then He will never forsake us. Remember in Heaven we will still have freedom of choice.

Linguistics references on fear:

The Greek noun phobos can mean "reverential fear" of God, "not a mere 'fear' of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him"

The Hebrew verb yare can mean "to fear, to respect, to reverence" and the Hebrew noun yirah "usually refers to the fear of God and is viewed as a positive quality."

| Thanks to Robert Russell for this list: | |
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| Psalm 27:1 | Psalm 7:11 |
| Deuteronomy 6:13 | Proverbs 13:9 |
| Matthew 10:22 | Psalm 89:7 |
| Matthew 10:28 | Psalm 34:7&9 |
| Ephesians 5:21 | 103:13 |
| Philippians 2:12 | Proverbs 1:7 |
| Luke 18:2 | Proverbs 9:10 |
| First Samuel 15:23 to 24 | Proverbs 19:23 |
| Acts 9:31 | Proverbs 14:26-27 |
| Acts 10:2 | |