

## **FEAR OF GOD**

**Request:** “I have heard that the command most often given in the Bible is to FEAR GOD. Would you do a study on Fear of God?”

The Hebrew word for fear is yare and the Greek word is phobeo. The basic meaning of both biblical words for fear is “running away or inner flight from a sense of threat to life or living whether real or imagined.”

However, when these words for fear are used with God, the basic meaning changes to “running towards or inner fight from a sense of confidence in God regarding the threat to life or living.”

This type of Fear of God is characteristic of super grace believer’s life – **“And the Lord said to Satan, “have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, FEARING GOD and turning away from evil.” (Job 1:8; 2:3)**

We will study our text verse by the following four homiletical points.

- Servant Job – “My servant Job
- Singled out Job – For there is no one like him on the earth
- Spiritual advancing Job – blameless and upright
- Super grace Job - fearing God and turning away from evil.”

<b>We will study FIVE aspects of the FEAR OF GOD.</b>
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**1. There are two categories of the Fear of God: one fear of God is associated with His wrath and the other is associated with His blessings.**

Fear of God can be associated with His wrath – “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb.10:31)

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.” (Prov.8:13)

“Do not let your envy sinners, but live in the fear of the Lord always.” (Prov.23:17)

“A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless.” (Prov.14:16)

Fear of God can also be associated with His blessing, which is the subject of this lesson – “Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who is greatly delights in His commandments.” (Psa.112:1; 128:1,4)

“How blessed is the man who fears always, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.” (Prov.28:14)

“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It is healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones.” (Prov.3:7-8)

“The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.” (Prov.10:27; 14:27; 19:23)

**2. The spiritually advancing believer runs to God in the face of fear because he has learned it from the word of God.**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Prov.1:7; 9:10)

“The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.” (Prov.15:33)  
“O fear the Lord, you His saints; for to those who fear Him, there is no want.” (Prov.34:9)

**3. The spiritually advancing believers who has confidence in the word of God runs to God for outer safety and inner security in the face of threat because of the fear of God (Psa.91:1-5).**

“In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge.” (Prov.14:26)  
“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.” (Psa.34:7)

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.” (Psa.46:1-3)

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Isa.41:10)

**4. Living from inner security the spiritually advancing believer is able to evaluate the threat more objectivity and Scriptural.**

“When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee. In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid.” (Psa.56:3-4)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?” (Psa.27:1)

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.” (Psa.23:4)

“And the Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear, or be dismayed.” (Deut.31:8)

**5. Now let me bring these four points about the FEAR OF GOD together by contrasting the trained Israelites soldiers to the civilian David while facing the fear of Goliath (1 Sam.17: 23-24, 28, 32-37, 46-47, 51-52).**

- It is a source of divine blessing.
- It is learned from the word of God.
- It creates inner security in CWL.
- It allows the spiritual advancing believer to evaluate the object of fear and deal with it Scripturally.

It is a contrast between the worldly fear of the soldiers and the fear of God of the civilian David.

Remember that the fear of God means running to God with confidence that God will fight the battle - courage.  
Remember that worldly fear means running away from the object of threat - coward.

**“I sought the Lord and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears!” (Psa.34:4)**