

Fear or Respect

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” Prov. 9:10 and “Perfect love casteth out fear” 1 John 4:18 are two statements from scripture. How can we understand and reconcile these two statements?

Lets start by defining fear. What are some different meanings of fear?

Definitions of the different Hebrew words for it were:

- fear
- reverence
- dread
- awe
- to be terrified
- to shake or tremble
- to be afraid

Fear of the Lord seemed to include a mixture of reverence, awe, and dread. It described the concept of true religion at the time. It was a recognition of God, His holiness, and our accountability to Him who can and will bring justice for our deeds.

Some characteristics and benefits of having a proper Fear of the Lord

- Genesis 20:11 — it was seen as a restraint of evil (Proverbs 16:6)
- Proverbs 1:7 — it is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 9:10, Psalms 111:10, Job 28:28)
- Proverbs 8:13 — it is to hate evil
- Proverbs 10:27 — it prolongs life
- Proverbs 14:26 — it is strong confidence
- Proverbs 14:27 — it is a fountain of life
- Proverbs 15:16 — it is better than great treasure
- Psalms 19:9 — it is clean and enduring
- Psalms 86:11 — it is something to be asked for
- Proverbs 22:4 — it brings riches, honor, and life

Verses about the “fear of the Lord.”: Deut. 10:12–14, Joshua 24:14, 1 Sam.12:14–15, Job 1:8, Ps.2:11, Ps 22:23, Ps.25:12–14, Ps.33:8–9, Ps.34:7–11, Ps.89:6–11, Ps.103:17–18, Ps.112:1–2, Ps.128:1–4, Ps 147:11, Prov.2:1–5, Prov.3:5–8, Prov.10:27, Prov.19:23, Eccl.12:13, Is.50:10, Jer.32:39–40, Dan.6:26–27, Ma.1.3:16, Acts 10:34–35, 2 Cor.5:11, 1 Pet.1:17, Rev.19:5

Verses about fear of something or someone: Prov.29:25, Matt.10:28, Heb.13:6, Ps.34:4, 1Sam.17:10–11,24, Ps.56:3–4, Mark 4:39–40

Verses with the idea that we should “fear not”: Josh.1:9, Is.43:1, Is.41:10, Ps.23:4, Is.35:4, Ps.27:1, Mark6:50, Deut.31:6, 1Pet.3:14, Mark5:36, Rev.1:17

Should we be afraid if we are unsaved?

What are some reasons we should respect and have reverence and awe of God?

How does perfect love cast out fear?

What are some benefits to “fearing the Lord”?

How might our lives change as we have a proper “fear of the Lord”?

If we are truly saved do we fear the wrath of God?

Ro 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

1 Th 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1Th 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Other verses about fear: Matt.6:34, Rom.8:15, Rom.8:38-39, 1Pet.5:6-7, Ps.118:6, 2Tim.1:7