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4. **Fourth**, meditate on the Lord Himself—Prov. 9:10; Phil. 3:7-11.
 - a. Meditate on His attributes as they are found in Scripture—Ps. 139:1-18; 36:5-10; Lk. 1:46-55, 67-79; Ex. 33:18-20; 34:5-8; Job 28:1-40:6, etc.
 - b. Meditate on the miracles of the Lord both past and present--Josh. 4:24; Deut. 10:20-22. What do they reveal about God?
 - c. Meditate on descriptions of the Lord in His glorified state--Rev. 1:12-16; 4:1-11; 19:1-21; Is. 6:1-7; Ezek. 1:26-28; Dan. 10:5-6.
5. **Fifth**, go frequently into God's special school on the "fear of God" and ask Him to teach you—Ps. 34:11-13; 86:11; 36:1-4; Prov. 8:13.
 - a. The invitation--Ps. 34:11-12, reward in James 4:8
 - b. The evidence of the fear of the Lord—Ps. 34:11-14; 86:11; 36:1-4; Prov. 8:13.

- 1) **Tongue control**--Ps. 34:13a; 36:3a; Prov. 8:13; James 3:9-12; Matt. 12:33-37; 15:15-19; Col.3:16
 - 2) **Honesty**--Ps. 34:13b; 36:3a
 - 3) **Avoidance of evil**--Ps. 34:14a; 36:4; Prov. 8:13a
 - 4) **Service/good works**--Ps. 34:14b; 2:11
 - 5) **Be a peace seeker and peacemaker**--Ps. 34:14c; James 3:17-18
 - 6) **Wisdom in our speech**--Prov. 15:33; 8:13
 - 7) **Obedience**--Eccl.12:13;Gen.22:12;Ex.1:17,22
 - 8) **Humility**--Prov. 8:13
 - 9) **Worship**--Ps. 5:7; Rev. 14:6-7
 - 10) **No fear of man**--Lk. 12:4-5; Prov. 29:25; I Sam. 15:24; Col. 3:22; Is. 8:13
 - c. The contrast: Ps. 36:1-4; Prov. 1:29-33; Jer. 2:19

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

PROVERBS 9:10

ROBERT C. STONE

INTRODUCTION: The Scripture makes it clear that the fear of the Lord is central to a believer's life and success--Deut. 6:13; 10:12; 13:4; Ps. 33:8; 34:9; 86:11; Eccl. 8:12; 12:13; Job 28:28; Mal. 2:5; 3:16; II Cor. 7:1; I Pet. 1:17; 2:17; Rev. 14:7; Matt. 10:28. It is a consistent theme throughout Scripture. In this study, we intend to give an overview of the subject; show its necessity; as well as answer some key questions regarding it.

I. The Overview of the Subject:

- A. **The definition of the fear of the Lord:** It means a reverential awe of God; a complete submission to His rulership and control—Ps. 33:8. “It means to have God’s attitude toward sin, and to have a deep and healthy respect for His character and holiness”—Joy Dawson.
- B. **The relationship between wisdom and the fear of God**—Prov. 1:7; Job 28:28; Prov. 9:10; Ps. 111:10.
- C. **The priority of the fear of the Lord**—Deut. 10:12.
- D. **The value of the fear of God**—Prov. 15:16.
- E. **The description of the fear of God**—Prov. 14:27.
- F. **The commands concerning the fear of God**—Prov. 23:17; Ps. 33:8.
- G. **The connection between the fear of God and giving Him glory**—Rev. 15:4; Heb. 12:28-29.



II. **The Necessity of the Fear of God.** Why is it necessary for us today? It is the basis and motivation for all we do.

- A. **Worship**—Ps. 5:7; Rev. 14:6-7; Eccl. 5:1,7b.
- B. **Service and Sacrifice**—Ps. 2:11; Heb. 11:7; Neh. 5:15-16; Acts 9:31; Col. 3:22; Duet. 10:20; Gen. 22:11-12.

III. **The Key Questions Regarding the Fear of the Lord:**

A. How do we know if we have this fear? The fear of the Lord expresses itself in a hatred of evil. Prov. 8:13--“*To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*” (See also Prov. 3:7; 14:16; 16:6; 23:17; Job. 1:1,8; II Cor. 7:1.)

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1. **The contrast**—Ps. 36:1-4; Eccl. 8:13; Prov. 1:29.
2. **The levels of hatred of sin:** There are four levels.
 - a. Level one: This is a person who doesn't sin because the consequences are too great.
 - b. Level two: This person lives at the level of the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”
 - c. Level three: This is a sincere Christian who doesn't want to sin. They are sensitive to sin, and confess quickly, but often find they are in defeat and failure in some areas of their life. I John 1:9 is their favorite verse.
 - d. Level four: This is a person who has faced the reason for sin and has done something about it. Why do we sin? 2 reasons:
 - 1) **We love it**—James 1:13-15.
 - 2) **We choose to do it.** We choose to do something we love. If sin has any fascination to us, we don't yet fear the Lord.

3. **An illustration of where we might be at with regard to sin.**

4. **The proper response:** What should our response be to sin? What should be our prayer regarding the fear of the Lord?

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B. How do we gain such an awe of God and thus a hatred for sin? There are five responses which will help us.

1. **First**, we must choose with our will to have the fear of God above all else--Prov. 1:29; Matt. 5:3-4.
2. **Second**, we should confess our desperate lack of this fear, and ask God for it by faith—Matt. 7:7-8; Ps. 86:11.
3. **Third**, we get a greater understanding of the fear of God by doing a subject study--Prov. 2:1-5; Ps. 112:1; Deut. 4:10; 31:11-12. How is that done?



- a. List all the references where the fear of God is mentioned.
 - 1) Use a Topical Bible/Exhaustive Concordance
 - 2) Underline the verses and write/type out the key ones
- b. Read through all the references. As you do:
 - 1) Notice what is before and after each passage.
 - 2) Read each passage carefully, slowly, with feeling, repeatedly and prayerfully.
 - 3) Meditate on what you are reading—Prov. 2:1-5.
 - 4) Put yourself in the place of the original hearers.
- c. Summarize the context of each passage in a sentence.
- d. List the questions your outline answers.
- e. Outline and summarize your findings.

C. What will be the benefits to a person, who through Christ, begins to grow in the fear of the Lord?

1. There will be benefits for family--Prov. 14:26; Ps. 34:7; 115:11
2. There will be honor--Prov. 31:30
3. There will be an avoidance of evil--16:6
4. There will be true life and contentment--19:23
5. The Lord will confide in the one who fears Him--Ps. 25:14
6. There will be long life--Prov. 10:27
7. There will be no lack of anything--Ps. 34:9
8. There will be mercy--Ps. 103:13-14; Lk. 1:50
9. There will be fulfilled desires--Ps. 145:19
10. It will give pleasure to God--Ps. 147:11
11. It will be a great treasure to you--Is. 33:5-6
12. We will be blessed by God--Ps. 112:1; 115:13
13. We will have the companionship of God--119:63
14. We will be acceptable to God--Acts 10:35
15. There will be guidance for us--Ps. 25:12
16. There will be healing--Ps. 25:12; Mal. 4:2
17. We will have riches, honor and life--Ps. 22:4
18. The goodness of God will be ours--Ps. 31:19
19. We will be taught by the Lord--Ps. 25:12
20. A righteous government--II Sam. 23:3; II Chron. 19:4-7

Conclusion: What will be the greatest reward for those who fear God? Their names will be recorded in a special book and they will be God's treasured possession--Mal. 3:16-17. 16] *"Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. 17] They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him."*



Application Questions and Assignments

1. Using the above list, as far as you are concerned, what will be the greatest reward for those who fear God? (Why? List 2 rewards.)
2. Reread Malachi 3:16-17. From this passage, what will be the rewards for those who fear God? Is this your desire?
3. Why do you think the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom?
4. How should the fear of God affect your worship and service?
5. Using the outline, what evidence shows one has the fear of God?
6. What steps will you take to begin to assure that you have the fear of God? (Use the outline for help.) What will be the biggest obstacle, the most difficult part of the process for you/most people?
7. How will meditating on the Lord affect the fear of God? (Scriptures?)