

Introduction

What part should the FEAR OF THE LORD play in man's life?  
Should BELIEVERS FEAR GOD or should only the unsaved FEAR GOD?

Does FEAR as it is used in the BIBLE really mean FEAR or does it mean simply to STAND IN AWE?

Let us see what the SCRIPTURES say about FEARING GOD.

I. LET'S FIRST CONSIDER "WHAT IS THE FEAR OF GOD?"

A. First Let's Look At OLD TESTAMENT FEAR.

1. The word translated "FEAR" in the OLD TESTAMENT carries several thoughts with it, but with regard to GOD it carries the thought of :  
*"regarding with FEAR mingled with RESPECT and AFFECTION. (i.e. to REVERING)"*
2. So FEAR means to STAND IN AWE because of WHO GOD is and that we must face GOD or give an account of ourselves to GOD at some point!

B. Next Let's Look At NEW TESTAMENT FEAR.

1. The word translated "FEAR" in the NEW TESTAMENT is the GREEK word "phobos" which is the basis for our ENGLISH word "phobia."  
  
*"FEAR" then speaks of ALARM or FRIGHT; to BE AFRAID; to FEAR EXCEEDINGLY; to TURN.*
2. So "TO FEAR" means "to STAND IN AWE or be frightened at the idea of HAVING TO FACE GOD."

C. Man is to truly FEAR GOD in this way because EVERY PERSON WILL STAND BEFORE GOD one day!  
*Romans 14:11-12 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God"*

II. LET'S CONSIDER THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND THE UNSAVED.

A. Without The Proper FEAR OF GOD, Men Walk In Blinded Ignorance!

*Psalm 111:10—"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:..."*

*Proverbs 1:7—"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

*Exodus 9:29-30—"And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD's. But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God."*

PHARAOH would not let ISRAEL go at this point because he did not FEAR GOD!

*Psalm 36:1—"The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes."*

GOD'S JUDGMENT will come on men because they do not FEAR HIM!

*Malachi 3:5—"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts."*

Sinful conditions prevail when there is no FEAR OF GOD before men's eyes.

*Romans 3:18—"There is no fear of God before their eyes." Without The Proper FEAR OF GOD, Men Walk In Blinded Ignorance!*

So,

**B. The Unsaved Should FEAR The Thought Of Facing GOD’S WRATH!**

1. **Because when GOD’S LONGSUFFERING ceases men will face HIS WRATH!**  
*2 Peter 3:9—“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*
2. **Men are instructed to FEAR GOD and DEPART FROM EVIL!**  
*Proverbs 3:7—“Be not wise in thine own eyes: **fear the LORD, and depart from evil.**”*
3. **In the TRIBULATION PERIOD men will hide in caves for FEAR OF THE LORD!**  
*Isaiah 2:19—“And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, **for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.**”*  
  
*(Revelation 6:12-17)*
4. **JESUS gave instructions in Matthew 10:28 not to FEAR men who have power to kill the body but rather FEAR HIM (GOD) WHO has power to destroy both soul and body in HELL!**

**III. LET’S CONSIDER THE FEAR OF THE LORD AS IT RELATES TO ALL MANKIND.**

- A. Failure To FEAR GOD Is Responsible For SINFUL And IMMORAL Conditions! (Genesis 6:11-12)**
1. **ABRAHAM FEARED ABIMELECH because the FEAR OF THE LORD was NOT in the place!**  
*Genesis 20:11—“And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake.”*

2. **Proverbs 8: 13 says the FEAR OF THE LORD is to HATE EVIL!** *“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”*
3. **According to Romans 3:18, one of the reasons why mankind is so SINFUL is that “there is no FEAR OF GOD before their eyes!”**

**B. Proper Government Requires The FEAR OF THE LORD!**

1. **In Exodus 18:21, when Moses father-in-law gave him counsel about choosing men to help in governing Israel, here is what he said about who to choose:**  
*Exodus 18:21—“Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, **such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:**”*
2. **Listen to some of David’s final words recorded in 2 Samuel 23:3—“The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.”**
3. **Jehoshaphat had these words of admonishment for judges to do right!**  
*2 Chronicles 19:6-7—“And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. 7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.”*

**C. It Is The WHOLE DUTY Of Man To FEAR GOD And KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS! (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)**

IV. LET'S CONSIDER THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND THE  
SAVED!

A. BELIEVERS Who Are Out Of GOD'S WILL FACE HIS  
CHASTISEMENT! (*Hebrews 10:30-31; 12:5-11*)

B. FEAR OF THE LORD Is Necessary For Keeping HIS  
Ways! (*Deuteronomy 10:12-20*)

1. Those who have no FEAR will not be OBEDIENT!
2. The FEAR OF THE LORD is to keep HIS  
COMMANDMENTS! (*Deuteronomy 6:2,13, 24-25*)
3. People who are rebellious do not say in their hearts let  
us now FEAR GOD! (*Jeremiah 5:22-25*)

4. LORDSHIP is directly connected with the FEAR OF  
THE LORD!

*Malachi 1:6*– "If I be Master, where is my fear?"

*Luke 6:46*– "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do  
not the things which I say?"

5. The CHURCH had rest walking in FEAR OF THE  
LORD!  
*Acts 9:31*– "Then had the churches rest throughout all  
Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and  
walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the  
Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

6. We are to submit to one another in FEAR OF THE  
LORD!  
*Ephesians 5:21*– "Submitting yourselves one to another  
in the fear of God."

7. FEAR OF GOD is included in the list of things that a  
man is to do in order that he may do the WILL OF  
GOD and put the ignorance of foolish men to silence.

*1 Peter 2:17*– "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood.  
Fear God. Honour the king."

C. FEARING THE LORD Is The Negative Side Of Service  
And LOVE Is The Positive Side Of Service.

We are to serve the LORD because we FEAR THE LORD  
and because we LOVE THE LORD!

V. SERVING GOD REQUIRES LOVE AND FEAR!

*Deuteronomy 10:12* And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God  
require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways,  
and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and  
with all thy soul,

*Matthew 22:35-40*

*1 John 4:18*– "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out  
fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in  
love."

1. The more one learns to love the less fear involved.
2. If there is no fear, there will never be love.

Conclusion

GOD is to be FEARED. The thought of standing before GOD and not being  
cleansed by the BLOOD OF CHRIST will bring FEAR to anyone but a fool.

The idea of being out of GOD'S WILL and facing HIS hand of  
CHASTISEMENT should bring FEAR to any saved person.

GOD is not to be taken lightly. HE is to be obeyed. HE is the ALMIGHTY!  
HE is the ONE to whom each individual will give account.

If there has never been any FEAR there has been no REPENTANCE and  
SALVATION!

*Psalms 85:9*– "Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may  
dwell in our land."