

Fear Him

A Biblical Study on The Fear of the LORD, Fear of Man, and Fear of Circumstances

Luke 12:5

“But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell;
yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”

Psalm 31:19

“Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; Which thou hast wrought
for them that trust in thee Before the sons of men!”

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Introduction

Assess Yourself:

- 1) Whose opinion matters most in your life? God or others?
- 2) Is God big or small in your life?
- 3) Is God near or distant in your life?
- 4) Does God's mercy or judgment dominate your decision making?
- 5) Is God engaged in the details of your life or aloof?

The wicked heart of man, the carnal and alluring world, and the realm of spiritual warfare under the domain of Satan have sought to make Jehovah Elohim small and distant to Christians (II Pt.3:3-5). Subsequently, Christians do not live in a healthy, reverent "*fear of the LORD*." Instead, we fear man and circumstances that render the LORD incapable of handling our challenges. A reorientation to the thorough study of the "*fear of the LORD*" in Scripture has numerous benefits to the believer such as knowledge of the Holy, understanding, and wisdom! Ultimately, the believer who walks in the "*fear of the LORD*" is a true disciple of Christ, who carried the scent of fearing God (Is.11:2-3).

This study seeks to look at the robust and interconnected topic of mankind's action of fear and reverence towards God, man, and circumstances. Scripture indicates the need to fear God, who in turn demands that the faithful "*fear not*." However, it is common to man to fear, worry, and be concerned, which prompted the vast number of reminders to trust the LORD. Furthermore, the fear of man and circumstances is a serious affront against the Almighty, who is jealous of the believer's dependence and worship (Ps.33:8; Zech.1:16). There is temporal and eternal value in growing in the "*fear of the LORD*", so disciples of Christ count the cost and worship the Savior amid a lost and dark world (Ps.31:19).

Christ Exemplified the Fear of the LORD

The only opinion that mattered to Christ was that of His Father. The Savior set the example for His disciples during His Earthly ministry. The Lord Jesus Christ was motivated to "*fulfill all righteousness*" and to glorify the Father while in step with the other members of the Triune Godhead (Mt.3:15-17; Jn.17:1). Isaiah revealed that the Messiah would operate in the "*fear of the LORD*" by the seven-fold Spirit of God (Is.11:2-3). Isaiah 11:2 revealed the seven-fold Spirit of God would rest upon the Messiah, which is fulfilled in Matthew 3:15-17 (cf. seven-fold Spirit in Zech.3:9, 4:10; Rev.1:4). Interestingly, the Spirit and the Son both submit to the position of the Father in the Trinity in this passage (cf. Jn.14:28).

An aspect of the seven-fold Spirit is the "*Fear of the LORD*," which "*shall make him of quick understanding*" in the fear of the LORD. The phrase "*shall make him of quick understanding*" is based on a single Hebrew verb ריח (riach), which means "smell, scent, or odor" (cf. Gen.8:21, 27:27). As well, it is a pun on the Hebrew word behind "*Spirit*" רוח (ruach) in verse two. In essence, the seven-fold Spirit of God would cause the Messiah to smell like the "*Fear of the LORD*." It is appropriately rendered as "*shall make him of quick understanding*" in the sense that He was quickly recognized as

fearing the LORD when He walked into a room. In all that He did, the Lord Jesus Christ always carried the scent of the “*Fear of the LORD*.” Positionally, He submitted Himself at every turn in humble obedience out of majestic reverence for the Father. Likewise, the Spirit-filled believer walks in the fear of the LORD and manifests the fruit of the Spirit. What do you smell like?

Christ Instructed the Fear of the LORD

Luke 12:5 “*But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*”

Hebrews 12:28-29 “*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.*”

Man Does Not Fear God

Romans 3:18 “*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*”

II Peter 3:3-6 “*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*”

Genesis 20:10-11 “*And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing? 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.*”

Exodus 9:30 “*But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God.*”

Christians are to serve in the Fear of the LORD

Colossians 3:22 “*Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:*”

II Corinthians 7:1 “*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*”

I Peter 2:17 “*Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*”

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.*”

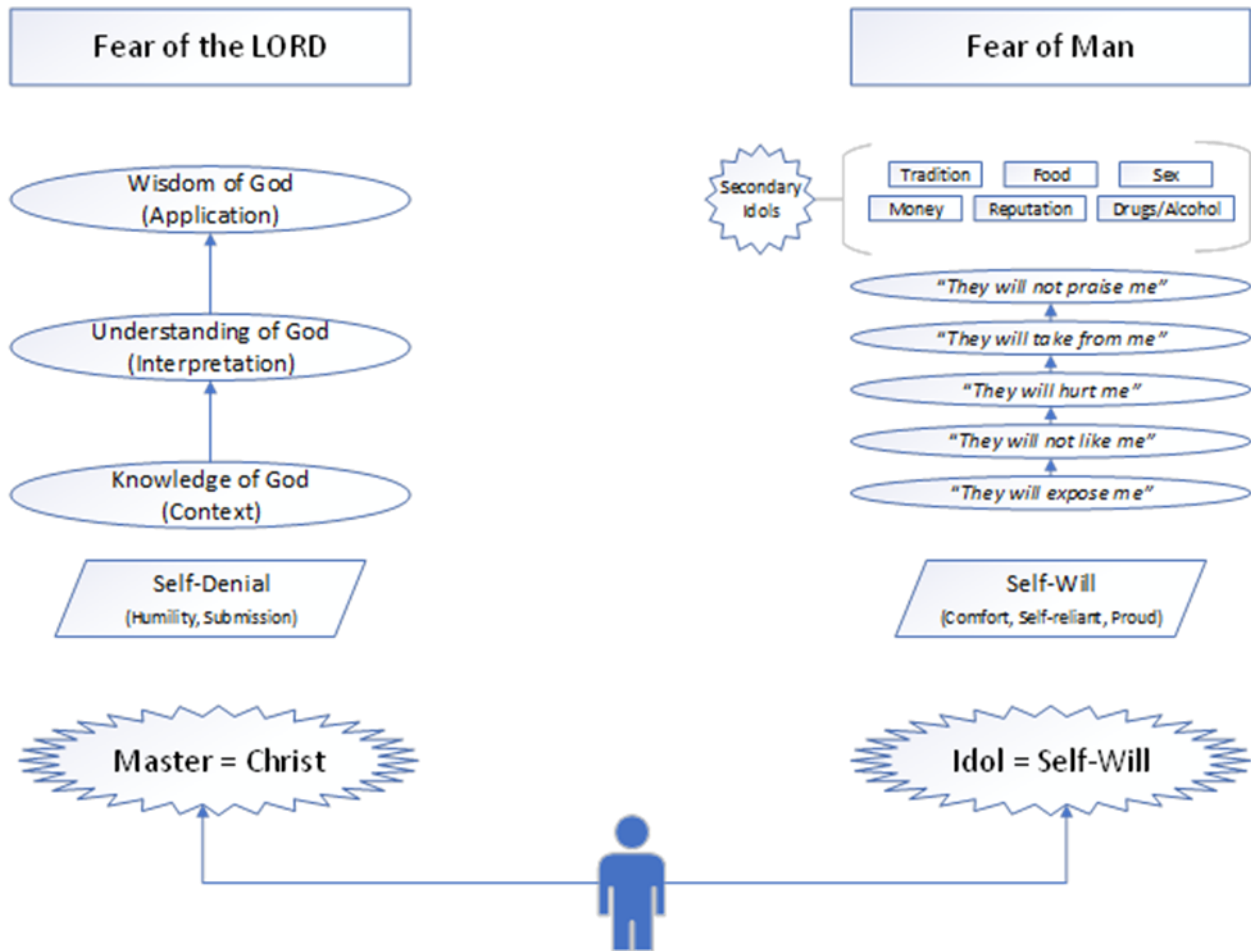
Do you want to grow in the Fear of the LORD?

Psalm 34:11 *“Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.”*

Deuteronomy 14:23 *“And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.”*

Questions:

- 1) How would you describe the fear of the LORD? Is your definition biblical? Too narrow? Too carnal?
- 2) In what areas do you fear the LORD? What are your blind spots? (Royal Law?)
- 3) How often is Christ and His Word at the forefront of your mind in the day?
- 4) Whose opinion matters most to you? God or man?



*Examples of being controlled by the fear of man:*¹

- Peer pressure (camouflage by our resume and perceived successes)
- Over-committed or over-extended because you cannot say “no”
- Unhealthy need for admiration, respect, love, etc.
- Need to feel comfortable and approved by those in your communal circles
- Imposter syndrome – exposure of weakness and vulnerability (men, business)
- Second guessing decisions because afraid of what others will think?
- Easily embarrassed? Perceived opinions of others define you? Ruled by the opinion of others?
- White lies to elevate or cover up?
- Jealous of others and their possessions? Controlled by keeping up with others?
- Do others drive you crazy? Do you have mental arguments? Are they the controlling center of your life?
- Do you avoid people? Hermits are dominated by fear of man.
- No fear of others? Elevated regarding your own success over people?
- Share the Gospel?

¹Welch, E. *When People are Big and God is Small*. P&R Publishing, New Jersey, 1997. P.16-18.

Part One: An Introduction to Biblical Fear

Chapter1: Defining the “Fear of the LORD”

Getting Back to Normal

Psalm 33:8-9 “*Let all the earth fear the LORD: Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*”

Genesis 1:27 “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*”

Mankind was created in the image or likeness of Jehovah God for the purpose of worshipping, praising, and fearing their Creator. As image bearers, mankind is the height of the LORD’s creation; as stated in Psalm 139:14, “*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvellous are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well.*” The LORD has instilled these basic aspects in the spiritual realm of man’s heart and conscience.

Mankind is without excuses when it comes to their broken relationship with Jehovah. Romans 2:15 reveals that the law of God is written in the conscience (co-knowledge) of man. As well, Solomon revealed that the LORD placed *olam* “*the world*” or eternity in the heart of man (Eccl.3:11). Furthermore, mankind is in the midst of the created realm which declares the glory of God (General revelation – Rom.1:20, Ps.19:1-4). Even further, the LORD has provided His Word to mankind (Ex.31:18; II Tim.3:15-16). Man is separated from God by sin and does not live in recognition of a Creator (Jer.5:24; Ps.36:1; Eccl.8:13; Rom.3:18).

Each soul must recognize their Adamic sin nature in view of the Holy One that is high and lifted up, and turn to His Son – Jesus Christ – in faith and repentance (Is.57:15). Romans 10:17 “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” Knowledge of the Holy and exposure of man’s sin are essential to re-establishing a Biblical fear of the LORD (Pr.9:10).

A Definition

The fear of the LORD begins with knowledge of the LORD (nature, attributes) that leads to understanding of how to fear Him; ultimately, the learning process culminates in Wisdom, which is actively fleeing sin and obeying the LORD in awestruck submission.

Knowledge = Context

Understanding = Interpretation

Wisdom = Application

Proverbs 9:10 “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: And the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*”

- Recognizing who God is (Holy Creator) in contrast to who we are (sinful creature).
 - o Perfect Holiness and separation from sin in contrast to desperately wicked hearts
- Reverential awe – a mix of respect, fear, pleasure, joy, and awe that drives submission, humility, and obedience.
 - o Loving fear of a child toward a loving Father.

- Hebrews 12:6-7 “*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*”
- Transcendent majesty

Practical Definition:

- 1) Growing in the knowledge of the LORD and His Word (Prov.1:7)
- 2) Growing in the interpretation and understanding of the LORD in a full biblical context (Prov.9:10)
- 3) Having Wisdom: Applying the knowledge and understanding of the LORD and His Word to the extent that we obey Him (Job 28:28)
 - a. Obey Him
 - b. Seek Him
 - c. Praise Him
 - d. Thank Him
 - e. Submit to Him
 - f. Be ever aware of Him

Word Study

The Hebrew root verb יָרָא (*yare*) is found 314 times in the Masoretic Text (Gen.15:1); it is rendered in the King James Version (KJV) as “*fear,*” “*afraid,*” “*terrible,*” “*terrible thing,*” “*dreadful,*” “*reverence,*” “*fearful,*” and “*terrible acts.*”² The identical Hebrew root adjective יָרָא (*yare*) is found 64 times in the MT (Gen.32:11), and it is rendered in the KJV as “*fear,*” “*feareth,*” “*afraid,*” and “*fearest.*” Furthermore, the noun form יִרְאָה (*yira*) is found 44 times in the MT (Gen.20:11).

The phrase “*now...feared*” (הִיָּיָא יָרָא, *haya yare*) is found five times in the MT, and gives the sense of immediate fear and respect (I Kings 18:3, II Kings 4:1, 17:32-33, 41).

The Hebrew verb, פָּחַד (*pachad*), is found 25 times in the MT, and it is rendered as “*fear,*” “*tremble,*” “*awe,*” and “*shake.*”³ See Genesis 31:42, Deuteronomy 11:25, I Samuel 11:7, I Chronicles 14:17.

The Hebrew noun מַגּוֹר (*magor*) is found 8 times in the MT, and it is rendered as “*fear*” (Ps.31:13) and “*terror*” (Jer.20:4, Lam.2:22). See also Isaiah 31:9, Jeremiah 6:25, 20:10, 46:5, 49:29.

The Hebrew noun מוֹרָא (*mora*) is found 13 times in the MT, and is rendered as “*fear*” (Gen.9:2, Ps.9:20), “*dread*” (Gen.9:2, Dt.11:25, Is.8:13), “*terror*” (Dt.4:34, Dt. 34:12, Jer.35:21), and “*terribleness*” (Deut.26:8).

The Hebrew noun אֵימָה (*ema*) is found 17 times in the MT, and is rendered as “*fear*” (Ex.15:16, 23:27, Ezra 3:3, Job 9:34, Prov.20:2), “*terror*” (Dt.32:25, Jos.2:9, Job 20:25, 33:7, Ps.55:4, 88:15, Is.33:18), “*terrible*” (Job 39:20, 41:14), “*horror*” (Gen.15:12), “*dread*” (Job 13:21), and “*idols*” (Jer.30:38).

²First reference is found in Genesis 3:10, “*And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*”

³Key references include Deuteronomy 28:66, Job 3:25, Isaiah 51:13.

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The Hebrew verb אָרַץ (*arats*) is found 15 times in the MT, and is rendered as “shake terribly” (Is.2:19, 2:21), “Fear” (Ps.89:7, Is.29:23), “dread” (Dt.1:29, Is.8:13), “afraid” (Josh.1:9, Is.8:12), “terrified” (Deut.20:3), “be affrighted” (Dt.7:21).

The Hebrew verb חָלַל (*chul*) is found twice in the MT, and it means to tremble, writhe, and fear (I Chron.16:30, Ps.96:9).

The Hebrew noun חָרָדָה (*charada*) is found nine times in the MT, and it means anxiety, tremble, quake, fear. See Genesis 27:33. Prov.29:25, Isaiah 21:4, Jeremiah 30:5).

The Aramaic verb חָלַל (*dechal*) is found twice (Dan.5:19, 6:26).

The Greek noun φόβος (*phobos*) is found 42 times in the Received Text (TR). See Matthew 14:26, 28:4, Luke 1:12, and John 7:13, 19:38. The Greek verb φοβέω (*phobeo*) is found 58 times in the TR. See Matthew 10:26, 28, Mark 6:20, Luke 12:5.

The Greek word δειλός (*deilos*) means cowardly fear and it is found three times in the TR (Mt.8:26, Mk.4:40, Rev.21:8).

New Testament references include: Luke 1:50 & 74, Luke 12:5, 32, Acts 9:31, Romans 3:18, 8:15, II Corinthians 5:11, II Timothy 1:7, I Peter 2:17, I John 4:18, Jude 1:23.

Encounters with the Almighty and the Response of Man

Jacob:

Genesis 28:16-17 “*And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.*”

Gideon:

Judges 6:22-23 “*And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.*”

Job:

Job 42:1-6 “*Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, And that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel Without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; Things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: But now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore **I abhor myself, and repent In dust and ashes.**”*

Isaiah:

Isaiah 6:1-5 “*In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: The whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone**; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*”

Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 1:25-28 “*And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, **I fell upon my face**, and I heard a voice of one that spake.*”

Peter:

Luke 5:8-9 “*When Simon Peter saw it, **he fell down at Jesus’ knees**, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken.*”

Saul (Paul):

Acts 9:5-6 “*And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*”

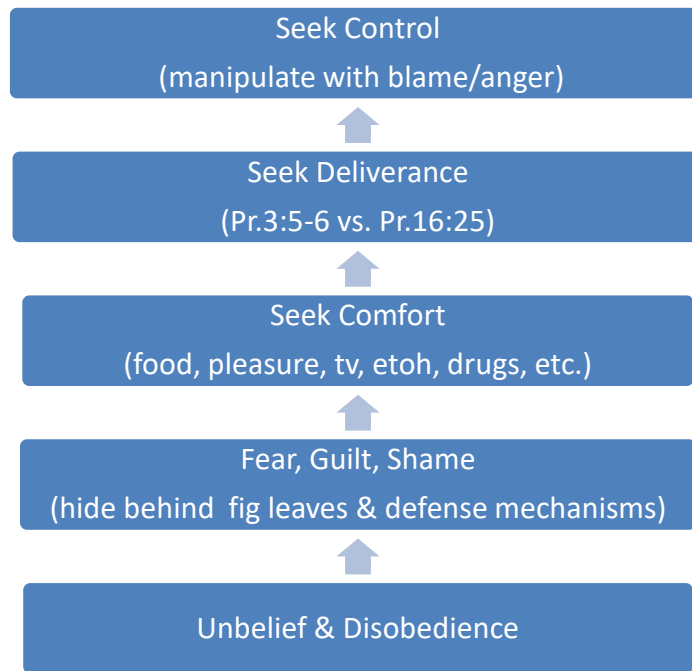
John:

Revelation 1:17 “*And when I saw him, **I fell at his feet as dead**. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.*”

Chapter 2: Irony of Not Fearing God

Irony: Not fearing God equates to fearing everything else

Genesis 3:7-11 states, “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”



No fear of God = Great Fear!

Psalm 53:5 “There were they in great fear, where no fear was: For God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: Thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.”

Chapter 3: Fear of Exposure – we hide behind fig leaves and walls (Ezek.13)

Self-Reliant Hiding all the way to the Great White Throne Judgment

Hosea 10:8 *“The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: The thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; And they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; And to the hills, Fall on us.”*

Luke 23:30 *“Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.”*

Zechariah 14:17 (avoidance) *“And it shall be, that whoso will not come up Of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem To worship the King, the LORD of hosts, Even upon them shall be no rain.”*

Revelation 6:15-16 *“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:”*

The LORD Exposes

Ezekiel 13:10ff *“Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:”*

Micah 1:6 *“Therefore I will make Samaria as an heap of the field, And as plantings of a vineyard: And I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, And I will discover the foundations thereof.”*

Revelation 20:11 *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”*

Christ Covers

Genesis 3:21 *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”*

Colossians 3:3 *“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”*

Hebrews 9:14 *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

Various Defense Mechanisms to Protect One’s Pride

The following is a short list of various forms and biblical examples of defense mechanisms. The purpose of this list is to assist in revealing the desperate measures one will take to protect one’s proud heart from being exposed.

- Various forms of hiding sin – fig leaves (Gen.3:5-12), hiding treasure under tent (Josh.7:1)
- Blame and accuse others of the sins one is guilty of – Adam and Eve (Gen.3:12; Jn.8:4)
- Misdirection and deception to avoid exposing wicked sin (Mt.23:5; Jn.8:3-11)
- Take frustration and injured pride out on others.
- Escapism, fantasize, unrealistic status and efforts instead of confronting reality (Phil.4:8)
- Coverup and whitewash the reality of a situation (Mt.23:27)
- Comparison to others to esteem oneself (Lk.18:11)
- Minimize the consequences of one’s actions.

Biblical counselor, David Powlison, provided the following list of the various fig leaves Christian’s hide behind to protect their proud heart.⁴

- *“We change the subject or crack jokes if an awkward or threatening subject arises.”*
- *“We monopolize conversation, filling silences to keep others at bay and to keep from feeling like failures.”*
- *“We live or die vicariously with a sports team.”*
- *“We run from problems by watching TV, drinking, smoking, promiscuity, workaholism, and compulsive eating.”*
- *“We get defensive, accusatory, testy, or talk loudly, or try to bully others to defend ourselves and make a show of competency.”*
- *“We lie outright, to look good or to avoid looking bad.”*
- *“We lie subtly, putting ourselves in the best light by innuendo, embellishment, or careful selection of data. This often accompanies subtle expressions of contempt or criticism for other people.”*
- *“We think highly of our own opinions on every issue.”*
- *“We tie up our identity in certain grandiose roles, like counselor or parent or pastor. And of our functions and successes can be fodder for self-deception”*

Can we run from the presence of the LORD?

Psalm 139:7 *“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”*

Hebrews 4:13 *“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”*

“Trying to run from the presence of God is like trying to shovel smoke with a rake” – anonymous

⁴Powlison, D. *Seeing with New Eyes: Counseling and the Human Condition through the Lens of Scripture*. Phillipsburg, NJ. P&R Publishing, 2003.

Chapter 4: Takes place in the heart – Deut.10:12

Deuteronomy 6:5 “*And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*”

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 states, “*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, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?*”

I Samuel 12:24 “*Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*”

Matthew 22:37-40 “*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*”

Word Study:

The Hebrew word לֵב (*leb*) is found 600x in the MT, and it is primarily rendered as “*heart*” in reference to the spiritual aspect of the inner man. This word is found 102x in the *Psalms* and 97 times in *Proverbs*, which both have a focus on the heart of man.

A Heart that Trembles or Hardens?

Proverbs 28:14 “*Happy is the man that feareth alway: But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.*”

Psalms 16:4 “*Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: Their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, Nor take up their names into my lips.*”

I Kings 11:4, 9 “*For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father... And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.*”

Steps to a hard heart:

- 1) Affliction and suffering occur (Gen.50:20, Rom.8:28, Jms.1:2)
- 2) Impatience, unbelief, and disobedience in response (Heb.3:12)
- 3) Bitterness, complaining, idolatry (Heb.3:7-12; I Cor.10:1-14)
- 4) Hardening of the heart (Heb.3:13)

Chapter 5: Perfect love casts out fear → Fear not passages

I John 4:18 states, *“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.”*

Fear Not:

Genesis 15:1 *“After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”*

Genesis 21:17 *“And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.”*

Genesis 26:24 *“And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham’s sake.”*

Genesis 35:17 *“And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.”*

Genesis 43:23 *“And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.”*

Genesis 46:3 *“And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation.”*

Genesis 50:19-20 *“And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”*

Exodus 14:13 *“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.”*

Psalms 3:6 *“I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, That have set themselves against me round about.”*

Psalms 23:4 *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”*

Psalms 27:1 *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”*

Psalms 27:3 *“Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.”*

Psalms 46:2 *“Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;”*

Fear Him

Psalms 56:11 *“In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid What man can do unto me.”*

Psalms 91:5 *“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;”*

Psalms 118:6 *“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: What can man do unto me?”*

Isaiah 12:2 *“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: For the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation.”*

Isaiah 40:31 *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint.”*

Isaiah 41:10, 13 *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: Be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness... For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, Saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.”*

Isaiah 43:2 *“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; Neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”*

Matthew 10:26, 28, 31 *“Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.”*

Luke 12:4, 7, 27 *“And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do... But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows... Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”*

1 Peter 3:14 *“But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;”*

Hebrews 13:6 *“So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”*

Hebrews 10:32-39 *“But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”*

Chapter 6: Secular Perspective on Fear – DSM-V

“Anxiety disorders form the most common group of mental disorders and generally start before or in early adulthood. Core features include excessive fear and anxiety or avoidance of perceived threats that are persistent and impairing. Anxiety disorders involve dysfunction in brain circuits that respond to danger. Risk for anxiety disorders is influenced by genetic factors, environmental factors, and their epigenetic relations. Anxiety disorders are often comorbid with one another and with other mental disorders, especially depression, as well as with somatic disorders. Such comorbidity generally signifies more severe symptoms, greater clinical burden, and greater treatment difficulty. Reducing the large burden of disease from anxiety disorders in individuals and worldwide can be best achieved by timely, accurate disease detection and adequate treatment administration, scaling up of treatments when needed. Evidence-based psychotherapy (particularly cognitive behavioural therapy) and psychoactive medications (particularly serotonergic compounds) are both effective, facilitating patients' choices in therapeutic decisions. Although promising, no enduring preventive measures are available, and, along with frequent therapy resistance, clinical needs remain unaddressed. Ongoing research efforts tackle these problems, and future efforts should seek individualised, more effective approaches for treatment with precision medicine.”⁵

	Selective mutism	Separation anxiety	Specific phobia	Social anxiety disorder	Agoraphobia	Panic disorder	Generalised anxiety disorder
Core emotions or cognitions	Consistent failure to speak in situations for which there is an expectation to speak, despite language competence	Unrealistic, persistent fear or anxiety about separation from, or loss of, attachment figure, or adverse events occurring to them	Marked, excessive, and unreasonable fear or anxiety of circumscribed objects or situations (eg, animals, natural forces, blood injection, or places)	Marked, excessive, and unreasonable fear or anxiety of scrutiny or negative judgement by other people	Marked, excessive, and concerning fear of leaving home, entering closed or open public places, crowds, or transportation	Recurrent, unexpected panic attacks with sustained mental (eg, fear, fear of losing control, or feeling of alienation) manifestations	Marked, uncontrollable, and anxious worry and fears about everyday events and problems
Physical symptoms	No physical symptoms	Nightmares and symptoms of distress	No physical symptoms	Blushing, fear of vomiting, urgency or fear of micturition or defaecation	No physical symptoms	Multiple symptoms (eg, palpitations, dyspnoea, diaphoresis, chest pain, dizziness, paraesthesia, or nausea)	Restlessness, fatigue, irritability, difficulty concentrating, muscle tension, sleep disturbance, or autonomic arousal
Behaviour	Disturbance interferes with (educational) achievement or social communication	Reluctance to leave attachment figure; disturbance impairs social, school, or other functioning	Avoidance of circumscribed objects or situations; disturbance impairs social, school, work, or other functioning	Avoidance of social interactions and situations; disturbance impairs social, school, work, or other functioning	Avoidance of fear-inducing situations; disturbance impairs social, school, work, or other functioning	Changed behaviour in maladaptive ways related to the attacks; disturbance impairs social, school, work or other functioning	Disturbance impairs social, school, work, or other functioning
Required symptom duration	>1 month (beyond first school month)	>1 month (childhood; 4–18 years); >6 months (adulthood; 18 years or older)	>6 months	>6 months	>6 months	>1 month	>6 months
Median age of onset	Childhood (<5 years)	Childhood (around 6 years)	Childhood (around 8 years)	Early adolescence (around 13 years)	Late adolescence (around 20 years)	Adulthood (around 25 years)	Adulthood (around 30 years)

Characteristics and features for anxiety disorders were based on criteria from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (fifth edition) and International Classification of Diseases (11th edition).

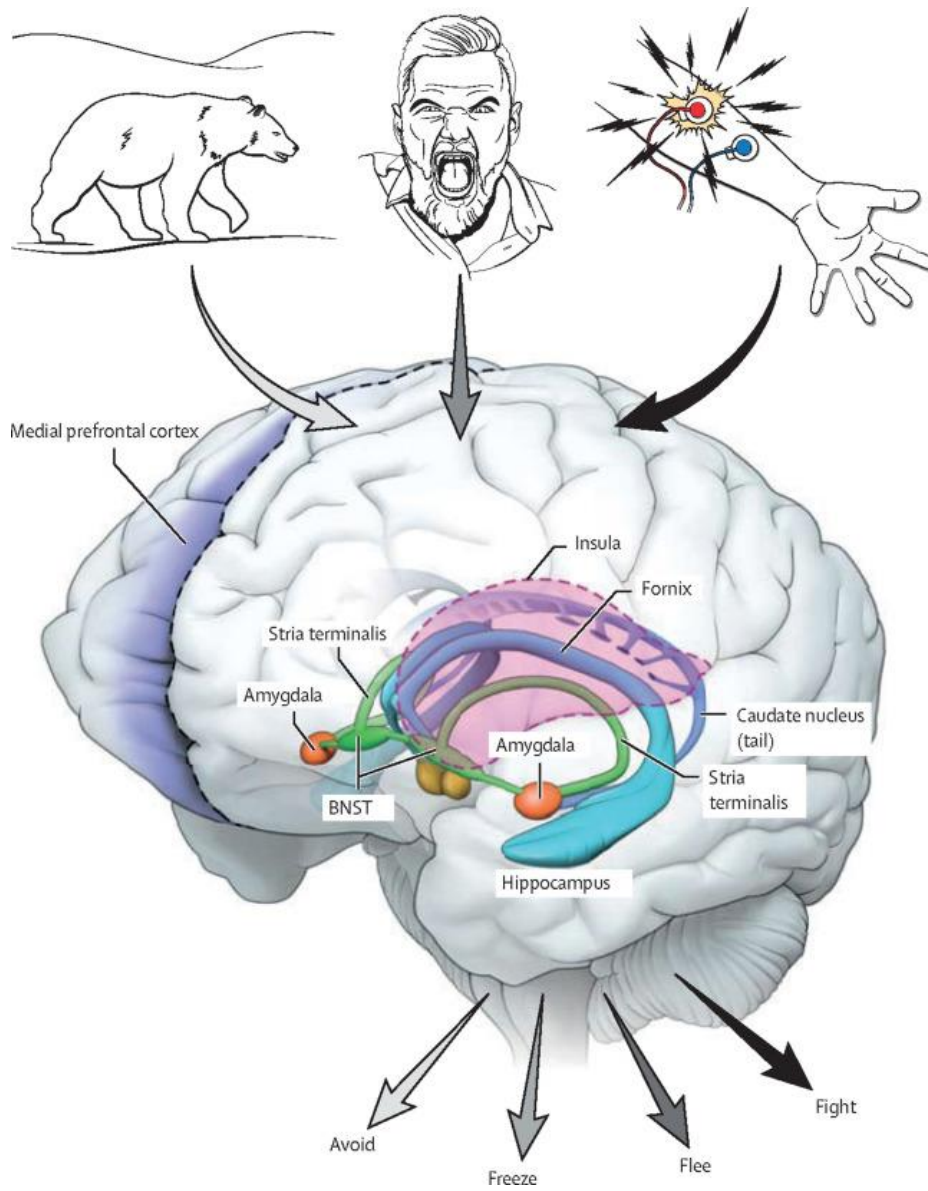
Table 1: Core diagnostic features and characteristics for anxiety disorders

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⁵Brenda WJH Penninx, Daniel S Pine, Emily A Holmes, Andreas Reif, “Anxiety disorders”, *The Lancet*, Volume 397, Issue 10277, 2021, Pages 914-927, ISSN 0140-6736, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00359-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00359-7).

⁶Ibid.

Fear Him



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	Examples of overlapping symptoms	Key clinical insights to recognise
Mental disorders		
Major depressive disorder	Fatigue, anxiety, worry, or agitation	Major depressive disorder is the highest comorbidity in anxiety disorder and associated with higher severity, suicidality, disability and chronicity; ¹⁹ clinicians must comprehensively assess because major depressive disorder comorbidity requires more intensive pharmacological treatment and a different form of psychotherapy treatment (eg, cognitive behavioural therapy for depression rather than for anxiety disorder)
Bipolar disorder	Agitation, irritability, or racing thoughts	Anxiety is often present in bipolar disorder and is associated with rapid cycling; ²⁰ targeting anxiety could aid in mood stabilisation; bipolar disorder requires focus on mood stabilisation and considerate use of medication, which could induce mania (especially antidepressants)
Obsessive-compulsive disorder*	Extreme worry or inability to relax	People who have obsessive-compulsive disorder engage in ritualistic, repetitive behaviour to deal with their fears, which is absent in anxiety disorder; these people often realise that their behaviour is irrational and inappropriate
Post-traumatic stress disorder*	Avoidance, hyperarousal, or anxiety-laden intrusive memories	The intense experience of anxiety in post-traumatic stress disorder is specifically in response to a psychological trauma (eg, abuse, war, or accident); specific psychotherapies focused on the trauma associated with the post-traumatic stress disorder should be used
Health anxiety* (hypochondriasis)	Anxiety or worry from bodily responses	Anxiety is specifically related to preoccupation with having or acquiring a serious, undiagnosed medical illness
Substance use (eg, illicit drugs, alcohol, or benzodiazepines) disorder	Tremor, sweating, palpitations, or panic attacks (during withdrawal or in some cases intoxication)	When suspected, clinicians should conduct a psychiatric interview of substance use disorders, with potential breath, urine, or plasma drug screening; comorbidity of alcohol or benzodiazepine abuse with anxiety disorder is considerable
Somatic disorders		
Cardiac disease	Chest pain or palpitations (which is also common in panic disorder)	Clinical evaluation, including electrocardiogram, assessment of plasma troponin concentration, or Holter monitoring
Thyroid disease (eg, hyperthyroidism)	Palpitations, tremor, panic attacks, or persistent anxiety	Laboratory assessment of plasma thyroid-stimulating hormone
Respiratory disease (eg, asthma)	Shortness of breath	Clinical evaluation with a pulmonary function test
Phaeochromocytoma or other disorders that result in a sudden blood pressure increase	Panic attacks or bodily sensations	Blood pressure monitoring over 24 h or hormone assessment (eg, in blood or urine)
Epilepsy	Anxiety symptoms as part of aura or start of seizure	Clinical evaluation or neurological referral when the causes of symptoms are unclear
*In previous classifications of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and International Classification of Diseases, these disorders were included in the classification of anxiety disorders. In current classifications (eg, the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the 11th edition of the International Classification of Diseases), they are integrated in different classifications.		
Table 2: Mental and somatic disorders that are frequently comorbid or difficult to distinguish in anxiety disorder		

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⁸Ibid.

Part Two:

**Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom
Leads to the Fear of the LORD**

Chapter 7: The Great Creator

Knowledge = Context
Understanding = Interpretation
Wisdom = Application

Psalms 145:3 “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And his greatness is unsearchable.”

His Great Power through Faith

Exodus 14:31 “And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.”

Psalms 33:16-18 “There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: A mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: Neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, Upon them that hope in his mercy;”

His Greatness

Exodus 15:7 “And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: Thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.”

Deuteronomy 7:21 “Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible.”

Deuteronomy 10:17 “For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:”

Isaiah 40:12-31 “Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, And meted out heaven with the span, And comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, And weighed the mountains in scales, And the hills in a balance?”

Greater than the Nations

Isaiah 40:15-17 “Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, And are counted as the small dust of the balance: Behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him are as nothing; And they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.”

Acts 17:26 “*And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;*”

Greater than Princes

Isaiah 40:23-24 “*That bringeth the princes to nothing; He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; Yea, they shall not be sown: Yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: And he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, And the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.*”

Proverbs 21:1 “*The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever he will.*”

Greater than the Stars

Isaiah 40:26 “*Lift up your eyes on high, And behold who hath created these things, That bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names By the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; Not one faileth.*”

Psalms 147:4 “*He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names.*”

Job 38:31-33 “*Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, Or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? Canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?”*

Beyond Comparison

Isaiah 40:18, 25 “*To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto him?... To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, And behold who hath created these things, That bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names By the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; Not one faileth.*”

Man Doubts God’s Great Power

Numbers 11:21-23 “*And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month. Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them? And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD’s hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.*”

Psalms 50:21 “*These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: But I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.*”

Genesis 18:14 *“Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”*

Jeremiah 32:27 *“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”*

Luke 1:37 *“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”*

Jeremiah 10:6-7 *“Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; Thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: Forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.”*

Chapter 8: "I AM" - The Ever-Present LORD

Exodus 3:14 *"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."*

Revelation 21:6 *"And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."*

Jeremiah 16:17 *"For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes."*

Psalms 139:7-10 *"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, And thy right hand shall hold me."*

I Kings 8:27 *"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"*

Jeremiah 23:23 *"Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?"*

Proverbs 15:3 *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Beholding the evil and the good."*

Our Thoughts and Heart

Psalms 139:2, 4 *"Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, And art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, But, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether."*

Psalms 44:21 *"Shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart."*

Jeremiah 17:10 *"I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."*

Hebrews 4:13 *"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."*

Proverbs 4:23 *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life"*

II Corinthians 10:3-5

Chapter 9: The Nature of God is Holy, Holy, Holy

Holiness Defined

The Hebrew word *qadash* (קִדָּשׁ) means “to be separate, set apart, consecrated, pure, clean, holy.”

Nature, not Attribute

Job 6:10 “*Then should I yet have comfort; Yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; For I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.*”

Leviticus 11:44 “*For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*”

Leviticus 19:2 “*Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.*”

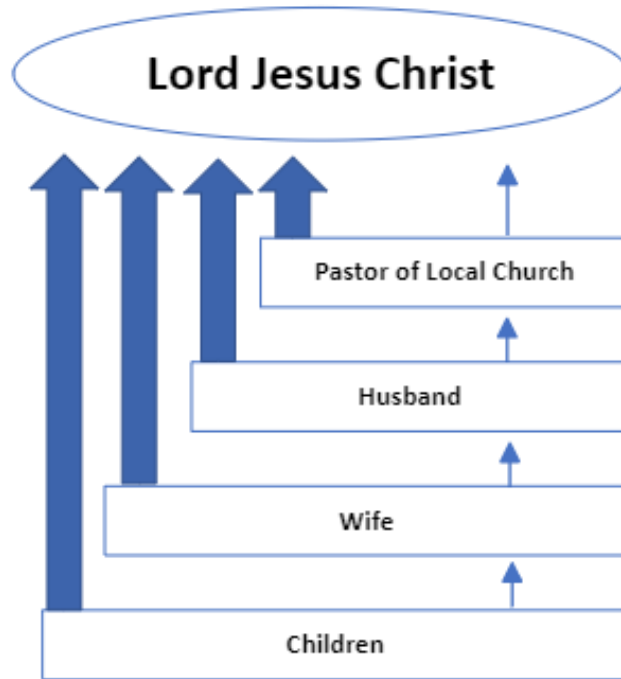
Psalms 89:18 “*For the LORD is our defence; And the Holy One of Israel is our king.*”

Full awareness of sin before the LORD

Isaiah 6:1-3 “*In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: The whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*”

Chapter 10: Authority

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”



Authority through His Word – Authority to demand obedience to Him

Genesis 2:16 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:”

Exodus 20:1ff “And God spake all these words, saying,”

Deuteronomy 6:1 “Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:”

Psalms 119:4 “Thou hast commanded us To keep thy precepts diligently.”

Jeremiah 7:22 “For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:”

John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

Revelation 20:12 *“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”*

Authority of His Word

II Timothy 3:16 *“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”*

II Peter 1:21 *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

Authority of Christ

Ephesians 1:19-23

Ephesians 2:17-22

Rev.1:19-2:1

Phil.2:10-11

Rev.20:11-15

Rev.22:12

Chapter 11: Fear of the LORD in Job

Job 42:5 *“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: But now mine eye seeth thee.”*

Job 36-37 – How would you feel in that situation? What would be your response?

Job 38-41 – How would you feel in that situation? What would be your response?

Chapter 12: Ironic Judgment of the LORD

The fear of the LORD contains an understanding of His ironic judgment!

Irony Defined:

- “Saying one thing and meaning another”
- One layer has an opposite meaning to that of the other layer
- Verbal irony: saying one thing and meaning another
- Dramatic irony: narrated events are turned to the opposite of the way they appeared to be heading
- Character irony: one’s true character stands in contrast with what he appears to be.

The LORD judges according to the sin

- Proverbs 16:25
- Esther 3:1-5 to 5:14 → Esther 9:1, 22
- Job 5:11-12, Job 18:7-10
- Leviticus 24:19-31, Ex.21:23-25 → Eye for an Eye
- Psalm 5:10, 7:15-16, 9:15-16, 37:14-15
- Proverbs 26:27
- Job 18:8, Ps.35:8, 57:6, 64:3-8, 75:4-5, 115:2-8
- II Samuel 12:9-11 → II Sam.16:22
- Dan.6:7 → 6:24
- Obadiah 15
- Isaiah 33:1
- Isaiah 1:10-11, 18-19
- Proverbs 14:12

Part Three: The Fear of Man

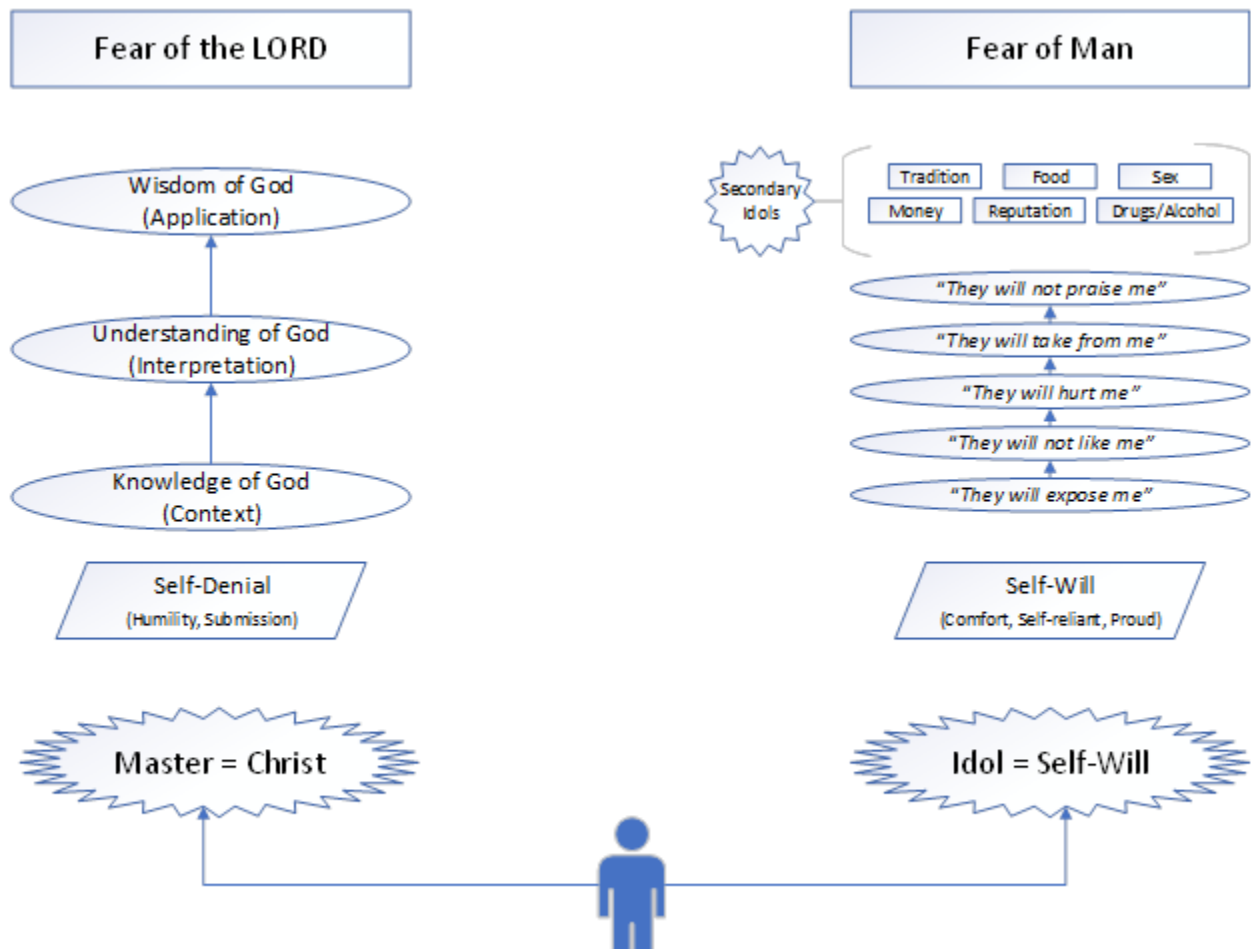
Chapter 13: The Root of Fear of Man – Self-Esteem

Proverbs 29:25 *“The fear of man bringeth a snare: But whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”*

Fear	Trust
Man	LORD
Snare	Safe

Luke 12:5 *“But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”*

Psalms 34:9 *“O fear the LORD, ye his saints: For there is no want to them that fear him.”*



- Fear of exposure – they will see me, I want to look better
 - Gen.3:7-11
 - Luke 18:9-14
 - Acts 5:1-12
 - Josh.7:19
- Fear of rejection – I won't be good enough
 - Esther 4:16
 - Is,53, John 15:18, I Pt.2:4
 - I Sam.15:23-24, Hosea 4:6 – Saul feared the people
 - Jer.1:17
- Fear of harm – physical or emotional – I don't want to get hurt
 - Gen.12:12
 - Acts 7
 - Luke 22:54-62
- Fear of Loss – I will lose ___ (\$, health, relationships, etc.)
 - Matthew 13:55-58
 - Phil.2:25-30

What do you not want to be exposed? (Ps.51)

Who do you not want to be rejected by?

Who could hurt you physically? Emotionally?

What are you afraid of losing?

- Often, our fears manipulate us into bowing to idols. (Christ lost everything for us in earthly ministry)

How have you been shaped to fear?

- Through Adam?
- Through your parents?
- Through your friends?
- Through your cultural climate?

In What ways have you responded to fearing others instead of trusting the LORD?

Fear of Man Outline

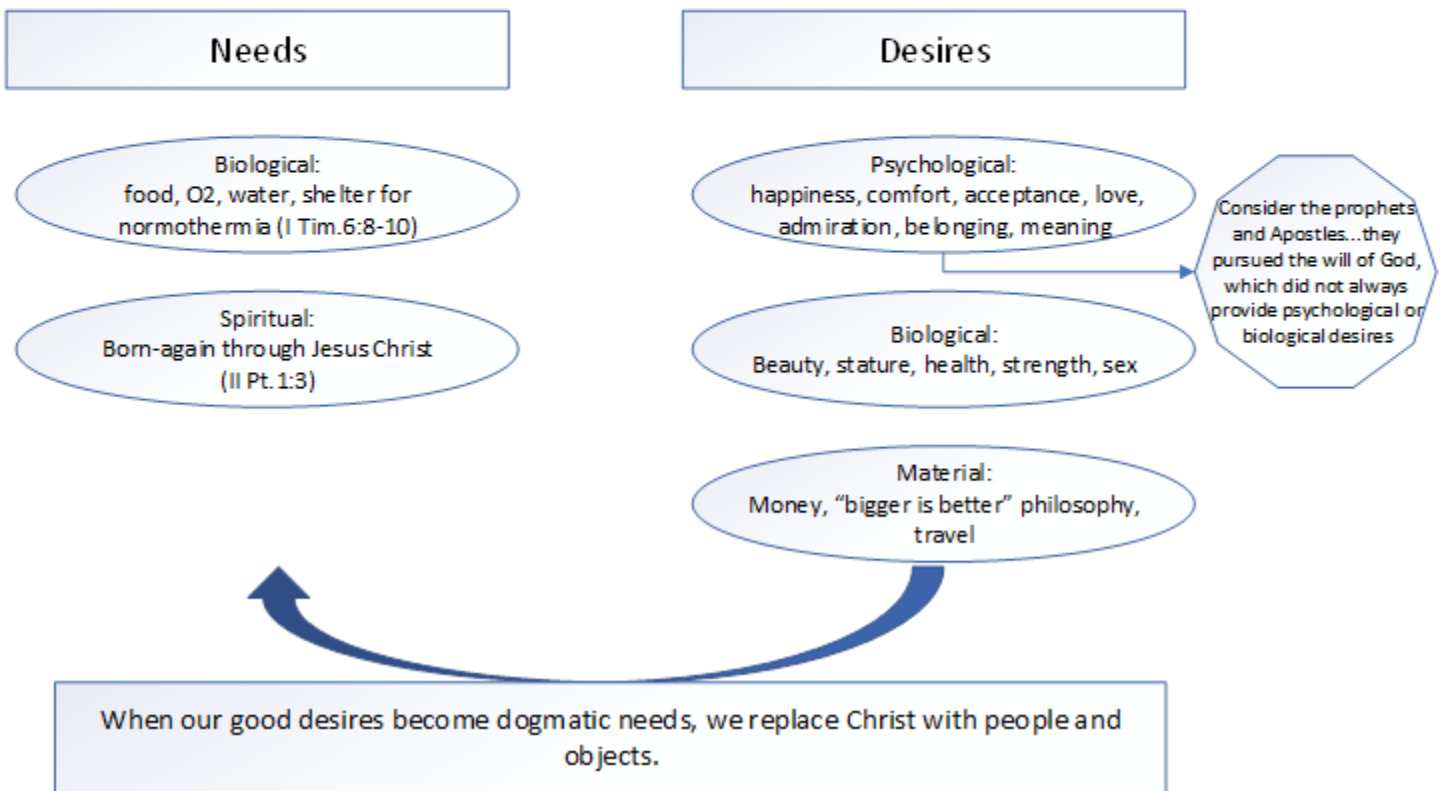
- A. Think on Christ – the only opinion that mattered to Him was the Father's opinion.
 - a. Consider examples from His interactions with others – no fear in line with Father's will
 - i. Mary Magdalene – no fear of her demons (Lk.8:2-3)
 - ii. Nicodemus – no fear of his prowess, esteem, position (Jn.3:10)
 - iii. Pharisees – Mt.12 – no fear to confront their evil
 - iv. Zaccheus – no fear of association – Luke 19:2

- v. Woman at the well – no fear of association (Jn.4)
 - vi. Adulterous woman – no fear of association (Jn.8:3-11)
 - vii. Pontius Pilate – no fear of his position, no need to protect His reputation (Mt.27:11)
 - viii. Dying thief – No fear of association - the lowest of the low – Lk.23:39-43
- B. Fear of being exposed and disapproved of → secret sin of unbelief and other areas.
- C. Whose opinion matters most? Who are you performing for?
- a. In your family? Why?
 - b. At work? Why?
 - c. At church? Why?
 - d. Examples of opinions:
 - i. “How do I look?”
 - ii. “Will they like me?”
 - iii. “Did I say it right?”
 - iv. “What do they think?”
 - v. “How did I come across?”
- D. Goal: No longer fear others so we can biblically love and serve them.
- E. Identify the idols of your heart:
- a. Self-will – my comfort, my will, my desires be done at my bidding.
 - b. Appearance (money, possessions)
 - c. Status (money, possessions, trips)
 - d. Reputation (big talker, resume, name dropping)
 - e.
- F. Identify your symptoms of Fear of Man
- a. Avoidance, craving attention, insecure, people pleaser, given to ____ idol, does not handle feedback well, oversensitive, managed by the opinions of others,
 - b. Overeating, talk too much, lacks transparency, sarcastic, isolates, bites nails, namedropping, very rigid, blameshifter, hypocritical, must have the last word, false humility
 - c. Reactionary, defensive, needs to be in control,
 - d. The root of fear in one’s heart is unbelief/sin – not trusting the LORD.
- G. Identify the good and evil causes of your fear of man
- a. Shaping influences: Adam, Parents, Spouse, friends
 - b. Why have you given certain people’s opinion power over you?
- H. Where do you find security?
- a. Do you lack daily faith, hope, and trust in Christ that you place trust in someone or something?
 - b. Faith or Fear (Sight)?
 - i. How do your symptoms of fear answer this?
- I. Practical Plan for Change:
- a. The Grace of God – II Cor.12:9-10, II Peter 3:17
 - b. For Starters:
 - i. Cut off the Limb – get rid of bad habits, idols – Mt.5:29-30
 - ii. Mortify – kill the idols of the heart– Rom.8:13
 - iii. Lay aside – put away things that do not help (social media, news, etc.) – Heb.12:1

- c. Ephesians 4:22-25
 - i. Put off
 - ii. Renew the mind
 - iii. Put on
- d. Scripture memory and daily gratitude assessment
- e. Study Christ's interactions with those He engaged with – their opinion of Him never caused Him to cower or hold back from loving/serving them

Do you need people or Christ?

- Needing the love, respect, admiration, attention of others will strain and deplete relationships
- If Christ is your portion then you do not need people in a selfish way.
- You will be free to serve and love others like Christ



Needs: Food, water, oxygen, normothermia, shelter, clothes → cannot sustain life without

Desires (turn into felt needs): love, comfort, sex, children, possessions, significance → cannot sustain personal happiness without

Spiritualized desires outside the will of God turn into “felt needs” that drives one to demand from God or else.

- Consider Job, David, the prophets, John the Baptist, and Jesus Christ – in many cases their needs were barely met; nevertheless, they were to obey the LORD.

Self-esteem demands desires be met at all times for happiness to occur (empty love cup)

- A spouse cannot be happy unless the other spouse fills their “love language or love cup”
- The focus is on receiving and not serving! Yes, it is good serve your spouse in the ways they desire; however, it sets an expectation that states “I cannot be happy unless I get my desires met...so meet them now.”
- Contrary to Ephesians 5 and Philippians 2.

Ecclesiastes 2 – Solomon chased desires (idols) that were empty

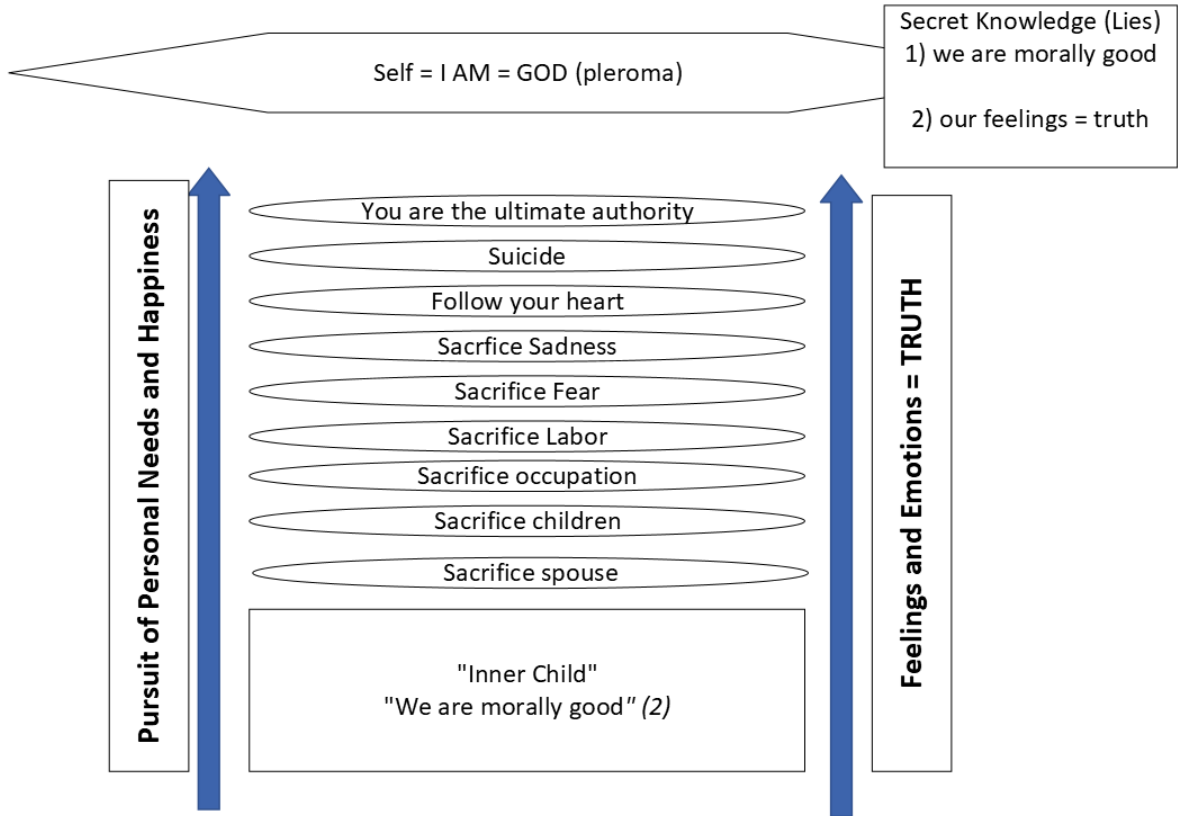
- Pleasure, projects, possessions, sex, work

John 15:5 – we are to abide in Christ to bring forth fruit of the Spirit

Colossians 2:9-10 *“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”*

Various forms of Gnosticism versus being complete in Christ (despite lack of desires)

Gnostic System of Self-Will
"I will" - Isaiah 14

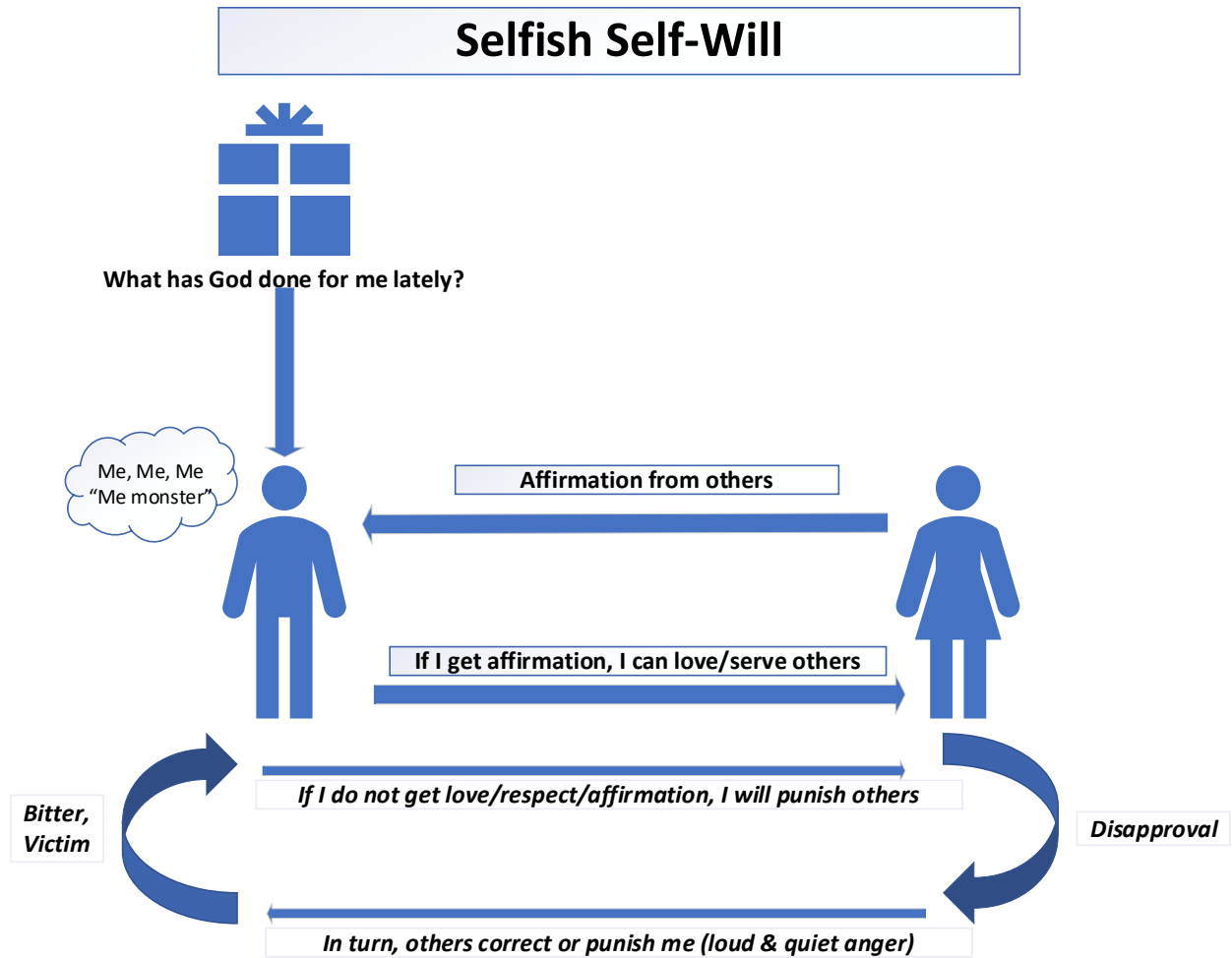


"We begin with the I KNOW Myself, in order to end with the absolute I AM. We proceed from the SELF, in order to lose and find all self in GOD." (1)

"Becoming one with the infinite. by realizing that your soul is a perfect reflection of God or cosmic consciousness, your'e able to unite your soul with that consciousness."

"To honor the self is to be in love with our own life, in love with our possibilities for growth and for the experiencinng of joy, in love with the process of discovery and exploring our distinctively human potentialities. thus we can begin to see that to honor the self is to practice selfishness in the highest, noblest, and the least understood sense of the word. and this, i shall argue, requires enormous independence, courage, and integrity." (3)

References:
1) Coleridge, Samuel. *Biographia Literaria*. (1817)
2)Williams, Todd. *Los Angeles Times*, July 29, 1995
3) Robinson, D. *An Anthology of Modern Philosophy*. NY: Thomas Crowell, 1931, p.508.
4)Branden, Nathaniel. *Honoring the Self: Personal Integrity and the Heroic Potentials of Human Nature* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1983, p.4

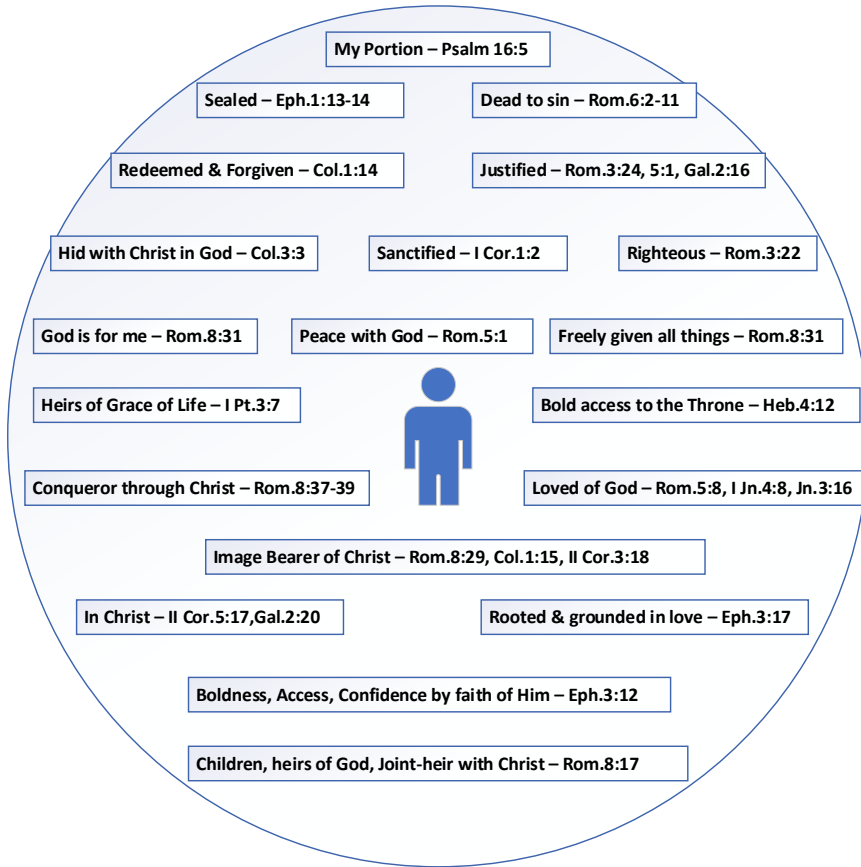


Position in Christ

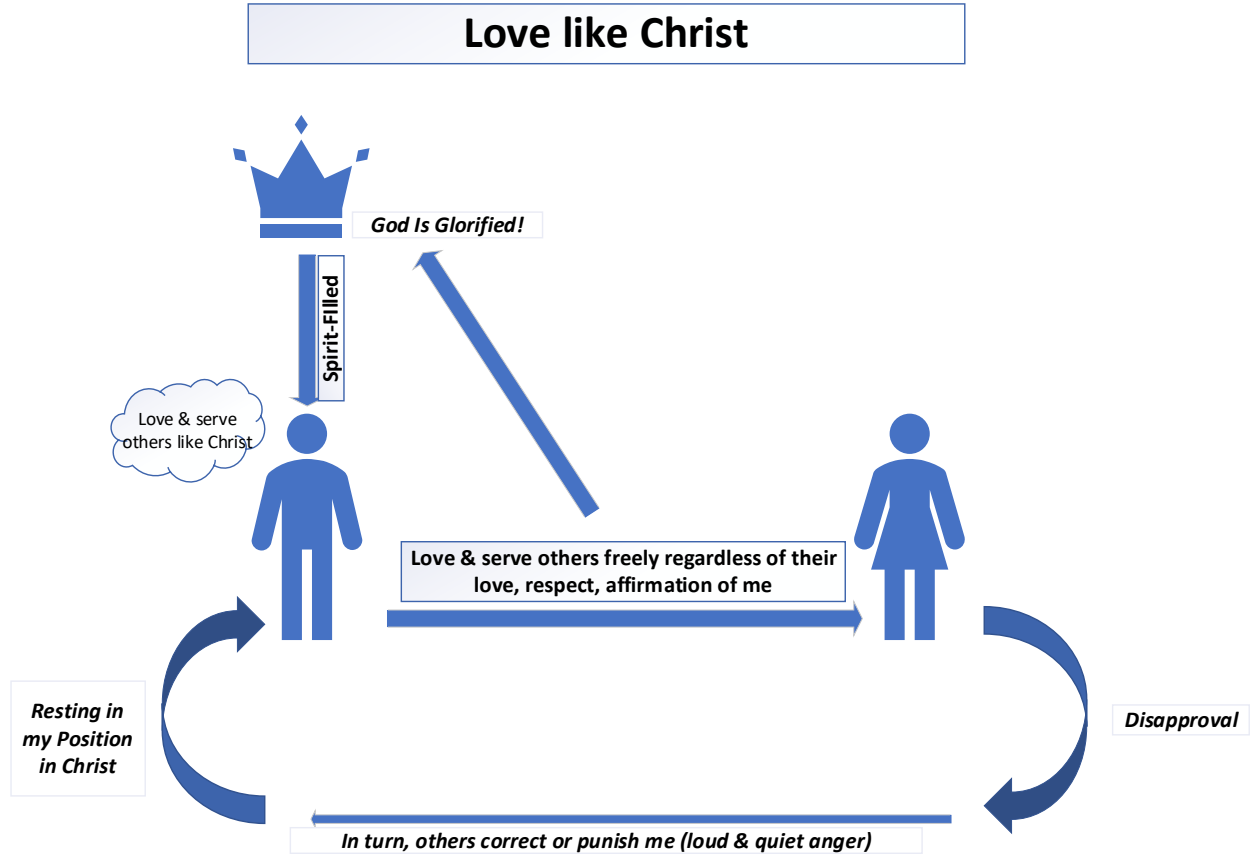
“For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him...” Col.2:9-10

Whose opinion matters most to you?

- The Father’s opinion is the only one that managed Christ (Lk.22:42)
- God’s opinion of me “in Christ” should give me the freedom to love & serve the unloveable.



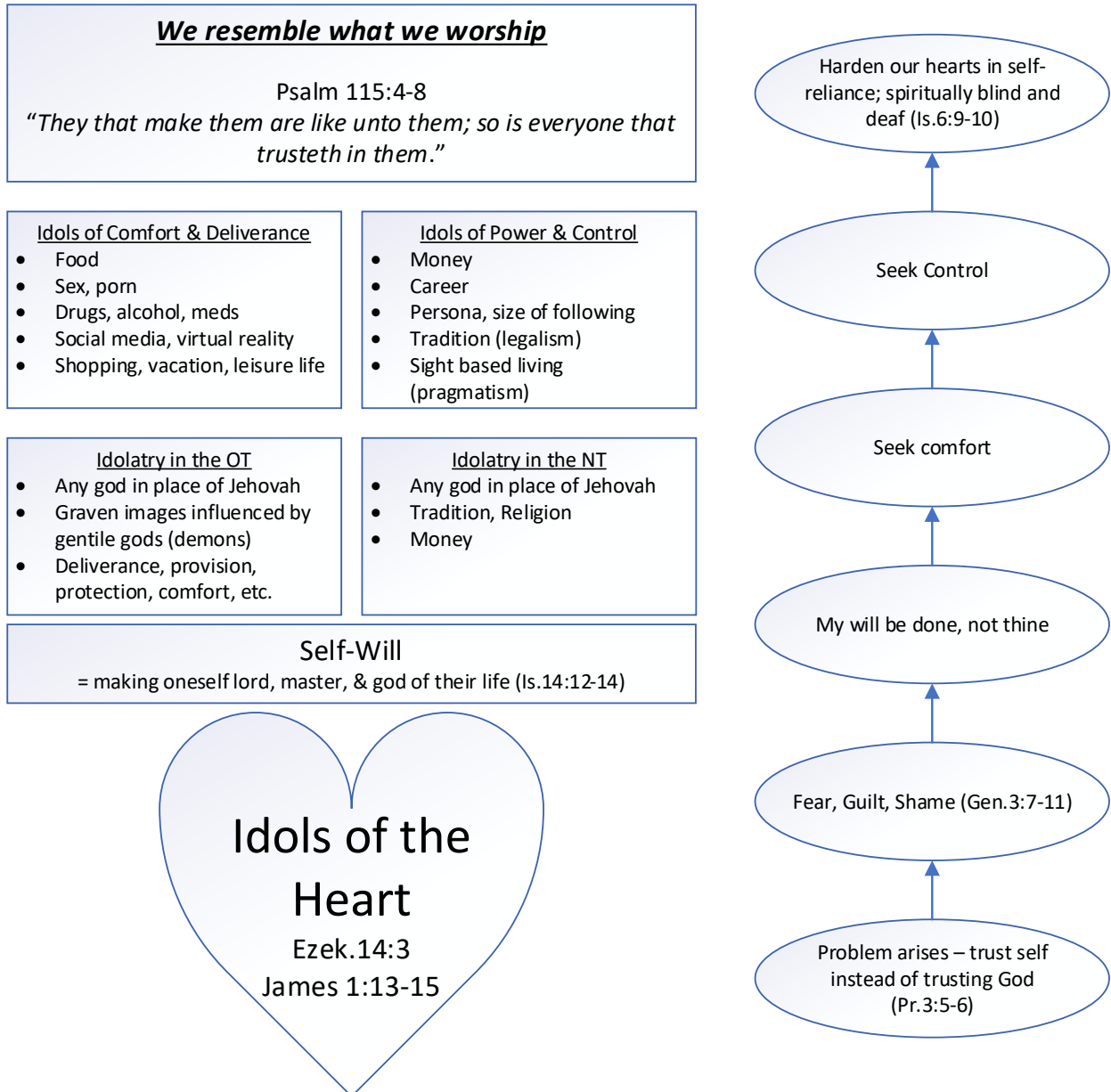
When we rest in our position in Christ, we are free to serve and love others without reciprocity...just as Christ did for us (Rom.5:8, I Jn.4:7)



Chapter 14: Idolatry = lack of fear of LORD

Do we bear the image of Christ or the image of our idol? We resemble what we revere.

Instead of fearing the LORD, we run to idols that provide temporary comfort/control of our #1 idol - self-will.



Idols replace aspects of God (comfort, deliverer, love, etc)

God's Jealousy and Warning against Idols

Exodus 20:5 – no other idols or gods

Exodus 32:1-9 and Deut.4:12-16 – making an image for Jehovah prohibited

Exodus 34:14 “*For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*”

Deut.4:24 “*For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*”

Deut.5:9 “*Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,*”

Isaiah 40:18-20 – comparing Jehovah to anything else is absurd.

Isaiah 42:8 “*I am the LORD: that is my name: And my glory will I not give to another, Neither my praise to graven images.*”

Spiritual Adultery against the LORD

Psalms 16:4 “*Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god:*” – Hasten – pursue after a wife

Hosea

Idolatry increases as Fear of the LORD decreases (Isaiah)

Deuteronomy 32:17 “*They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; To gods whom they knew not, To new gods that came newly up, Whom your fathers feared not.*”

Psalms 16:4 “*Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: Their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, Nor take up their names into my lips.*”

Isaiah 2:8 “*Their land also is full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, That which their own fingers have made:*”

Isaiah 2:10, 19, 21 – The Day of the LORD will drive a true fear – serves as warning for idolatry

Isaiah 8:12 – confederacy with man instead of Jehovah

Isaiah 29:13-14 – true fear of the LORD is replaced by man's tradition

Man Resembles what he Reveres (we become what we worship)

Idolatry leads to the worshiper mockingly resembling the negative spiritual and physical emptiness and rebellion of that very idol.

Psalm 115:8 “*They that make them are like unto them; So is every one that trusteth in them.*”

Jonah 2:8 “*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*” (Jonah’s self-will)

Habakkuk 2:19 “*Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, And there is no breath at all in the midst of it.*”

Examples:

- Idol: Graven images with no eyes, ears, mouth
 - Worshiper: spiritually blind, deaf, and dumb
- Idol: Self as god of one’s life (Is.14:12-16)
 - Worshiper: ignorant and blind of the true God – Jehovah. Become a nothing.
- Idol: Money (Lk.12:21)
 - Worshiper: spiritually poor
- Idol: Sex and pleasure
 - Worshiper: becomes like a piece of bread, wound, dishonor, reproach
- Idol: Tradition (Is.29:13-14, Mt.23, Jms.3:13)
 - Worshiper: heavy burden, lack wisdom with all that knowledge.

Isaiah 6:9-13

Judgment for Idolatry: People are punished by means of their own sin – ironically like or opposite the idol.

- “sensory organ malfunction language”⁹
- Israel would resemble the idols they worship – spiritually insensitive and lifeless
 - Unable to understand, perceive
 - Fat heart
 - Ears heavy
 - Eyes shut
- See also:
 - Isaiah 42:17-20
 - Isaiah 43:8-10
 - Isaiah 41:21-24 (7)
 - Isaiah 44:6-11 (**9, 18-19**)
 - Isaiah 45:20-21
-

Jehovah Calls for Hearing and Seeing

⁹Beale, G. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL. Intervarsity press, 2008.

- Deuteronomy 6:4
 - *Shama* (שמע) – “hear”
- Compare with Wisdom’s plea in Proverbs 1:1-7, 23-33

Jehovah Sees and Hears in contrast to idols that do not

- Isaiah 29:15-16
- Psalm 94:7-11

Becoming Like What We worship

- Psalm 115:4-8 (135:15-18) – Israel would become spiritual dead as the lifeless idols
- Tree Study: Israel’s remnant would become as a burning stump of a tree used for idols
 - Isaiah 57:5, 12-13
 - Isaiah 65:2-7
 - Isaiah 6:13 – Trees
 - אֵלֶּה (*elah*) teil
 - אֵלֹנִי (*allon*) oak
 - See Isaiah 1:29-31 “oak” “burn together”
 - אֵלֶּה (*elah*) = oak
 - Isaiah 6:13 – stump = מַצְבֵּת (*massebeth*)
 - Stump or idolatrous pillar
 - II Sam.18:18 – absalom’s pillar
 - I Kings 14:23 – image or stone pillar
 - Judges 9:6 – pillar
 - Joshua 24:26 – Joshua sets up pillar of remembrance near the oaks – Jehovah v. Idols
 - Isaiah 11:1 - Jesus Christ would be a shoot out of that burning stump

Deuteronomy 29:4, 4:27-28

Follow idols – Become like the idols

- Deut.4:27-28
- Deut.28:64-65
- Deut.29:4, 16-18

Exodus 32 – the golden calf

Hosea 4:16-17 “*For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: Now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place. Ephraim is joined to idols: Let him alone.*”

- Ex.32:9 – stiffnecked
- Ex.32:25 – let loose
- Ex.32:8 – turned aside quickly
- Ex.32:26 – gathered together in the gate
- Ex.34:29-25 – Moses “shone” (קָרַן – *qaran*) → root = קָרַן (*qeren*) found 75x in MT as “horns)
 - 4x in MT – “shone” (Ex.34:29, 30, 35) “horns” (Ps.69:31)
 - See Habakkuk 3:4
 - A shining display around face like horns?

- The LORD was mocking their worship of a horned beast?
- Horns would go on to represent God's power and wrath against idolatry!

Psalm 106:19-21

Exchanged their glory for the image of an ox

- Man created in the image of God to worship God exchanges glory of Savior for ox

Part Four: The Fear of Circumstances

Chapter 15: Examples of Circumstantial Fear

Fear of losing control (self-reliance)

- Exodus 13
- Joshua 1:8
- II Chron.14:11 – Asa’s complete trust in the LORD

Fear for Loved Ones

- Deut.1:29
- Ezra 8:21
- Luke 14
- II Kings 4:26

Fear of Death

- Luke 12:5
- Acts 7

Fear of Disease

- II Kings 20:1ff
- Phil.2:25-30

Appendix A: The Fear of the LORD in the Torah

Yira (יִרָא) – noun form - reverent fear and awe

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.”*

Exodus 20:20 *“And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.”*

Deuteronomy 2:25 *“This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.”*

Yare (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear

Genesis 15:1 *“After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”*

Genesis 21:17 *“And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.”*

Genesis 26:24 *“And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham’s sake.”*

** Genesis 42:18 *“And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:”*

Exodus 9:20 *“He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses:”*

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:”*

Leviticus 19:14 *“Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.”*

Leviticus 19:32 *“Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.”*

Leviticus 25:36 *“Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.”*

Leviticus 25:43 *“Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God.”*

** Deuteronomy 28:58 *“If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;”*

Deuteronomy 32:17 *“They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; To gods whom they knew not, To new gods that came newly up, Whom your fathers feared not.”*

Emah (אָמַח) – noun form – terror, dread, fear

Exodus 23:27 *“I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.”*

Mora (מֹרָא) – noun form – fright, terror

Genesis 9:2 *“And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.”*

Appendix B: The Fear of the LORD in the *Joshua and Judges*

***Yare* (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear**

Joshua 4:14 “*On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life.*”

Joshua 4:24 “*That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.*”

Joshua 8:1 “*And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land.*”

Joshua 10:8 “*And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.*”

Joshua 22:25 “*For the LORD hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of Reuben and children of Gad; ye have no part in the LORD: so shall your children make our children cease from fearing the LORD.*”

Joshua 24:14 “*Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.*”

Judges 6:10, 23 “*And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice... And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.*”

Appendix C: The Fear of the LORD in Samuel, Kings, Chronicles

Yare (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear

I Samuel 12:14, 18 *“If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God... So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.”*

I Samuel 12:24 *“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”*

I Kings 8:40 *“That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.”*

I Kings 18:3 *“And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:”*

I Kings 18:12 *“And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.”*

II Kings 4:1 *“Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.”*

**** Idolatry **** II Kings 17:7, 25, 32, 33 *“For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods... And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them... So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;”*

II Kings 17:38-39 *“And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods. But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.”*

**** Idolatry **** I Chronicles 16:25- 26 *“For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: He also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the people are idols: But the LORD made the heavens.”*

II Chronicles 6:31 *“That they may fear thee, to walk in thy ways, so long as they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.”*

II Chronicles 20:3, 17 *“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah... Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation*

of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.”

Yira (יִרָא) – noun form - reverent fear and awe

II 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.”*

II Chronicles 19:9 *“And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.”*

Pachad (פָּחַד) – noun form - trembling, dread, fear

I Samuel 11:7 *“And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.”*

I Chronicles 14:17 *“And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.”*

II Chronicles 14:14 *“And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them.”*

II Chronicles 17:10 *“And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.”*

II Chronicles 19:7 *“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.”*

II Chronicles 20:29 *“And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.”*

Appendix D: The Fear of the LORD in Psalms

Yira (יִרָא) – noun form - reverent fear and awe

Psalm 2:11 *“Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.”*

Psalm 5:7 *“But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: And in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.”*

Psalm 19:9 *“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”*

Psalm 34:11 *“Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.”*

Psalm 90:11 *“Who knoweth the power of thine anger? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.”*

Psalm 111:10 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all they that do his commandments: His praise endureth for ever.”*

Psalm 119:38 *“Stablish thy word unto thy servant, Who is devoted to thy fear.”*

Yare (יָרֵא) – adjective form - reverent fear

Psalm 15:4 *“In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; But he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.”*

Psalm 22:23, 25 *“Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; All ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; And fear him, all ye the seed of Israel... My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.”*

Psalm 25:14 *“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; And he will shew them his covenant.”*

Psalm 31:19 *“Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; Which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee Before the sons of men!”*

Psalm 33:18 *“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, Upon them that hope in his mercy;”*

Psalm 34:7 *“The angel of the LORD encampeth Round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”*

Psalm 34:9 *“O fear the LORD, ye his saints: For there is no want to them that fear him.”*

Psalm 60:4 *“Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.”*

Psalm 61:5 *“For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.”*

Psalm 66:16 *“Come and hear, all ye that fear God, And I will declare what he hath done for my soul.”*

Psalm 85:9 *“Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; That glory may dwell in our land.”*

Psalm 103: 11, 13, 17 *“For as the heaven is high above the earth, So great is his mercy toward them that fear him... Like as a father pitieth his children, So the LORD pitieth them that fear him... But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, And his righteousness unto children’s children;”*

Psalm 111:5 *“He hath given meat unto them that fear him: He will ever be mindful of his covenant.”*

Psalm 115:11, 13 *“Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: He is their help and their shield... He will bless them that fear the LORD, Both small and great.”*

Psalm 118:4 *“Let them now that fear the LORD say, That his mercy endureth for ever.”*

Psalm 119:74, 79 *“They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; Because I have hoped in thy word... Let those that fear thee turn unto me, And those that have known thy testimonies.”*

Psalm 135:20 *“Bless the LORD, O house of Levi: Ye that fear the LORD, bless the LORD.”*

Psalm 145:19 *“He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them.”*

Psalm 147:11 *“The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, In those that hope in his mercy.”*

Yare (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear

Terrible

Psalm 45:4 *“And in thy majesty ride prosperously Because of truth and meekness and righteousness; And thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.”*

Psalm 47:2 *“For the LORD most high is terrible; He is a great King over all the earth.”*

Psalm 65:5 *“By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; Who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:”*

Psalm 66:3, 5 *“Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee... Come and see the works of God: He is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.”*

Psalm 68:35 *“O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: The God of Israel is he That giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.”*

Psalm 76:12 *“He shall cut off the spirit of princes: he is terrible to the kings of the earth.”*

Psalm 99:3 *“Let them praise thy great and terrible name; For it is holy.”*

Psalm 106:22 *“Wondrous works in the land of Ham, And terrible things by the Red sea.”*

Afraid

Psalm 3:6 *“I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, That have set themselves against me round about.”*

Psalm 56:3, 11 *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee... In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid What man can do unto me.”*

Psalm 65:8 *“They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.”*

Psalm 91:5 *“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;”*

Psalm 112:7-8 *“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: His heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, Until he see his desire upon his enemies.”*

Psalm 119:120 *“My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; And I am afraid of thy judgments.”*

Reverence

Psalm 89:7 *“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.”*

Psalm 111:9 *“He sent redemption unto his people: He hath commanded his covenant for ever: Holy and reverend is his name.”*

Be Feared and Terrible Acts

Psalm 130:4 *“But there is forgiveness with thee, That thou mayest be feared.”*

Psalm 145:6 *“And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: And I will declare thy greatness.”*

Fear

Psalm 23:4 *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”*

Psalm 27:1 *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”*

Psalm 33:8 *“Let all the earth fear the LORD: Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”*

Psalm 34:9 *“O fear the LORD, ye his saints: For there is no want to them that fear him.”*

Fear Him

Psalm 40:3 *“And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”*

Psalm 46:2 *“Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;”*

Psalm 49:5 *“Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, When the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?”*

Psalm 55:19 *“God shall hear, and afflict them, Even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, Therefore they fear not God.”*

Psalm 56:4 *“In God I will praise his word, In God I have put my trust; I will not fear What flesh can do unto me.”*

Psalm 64:4, 9 *“That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: Suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not... And all men shall fear, And shall declare the work of God; For they shall wisely consider of his doing.”*

Psalm 67:7 *“God shall bless us; And all the ends of the earth shall fear him.”*

Psalm 72:5 *“They shall fear thee as long as the sun And moon endure, throughout all generations.”*

Psalm 76:7, 8 *“Thou, even thou, art to be feared: And who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry? Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared, and was still,”*

Psalm 86:11 *“Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: Unite my heart to fear thy name.”*

Psalm 96:4 *“For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: He is to be feared above all gods.”*

Psalm 102:15 *“So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth thy glory.”*

Psalm 118:6 *“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: What can man do unto me?”*

Psalm 119:63 *“I am a companion of all them that fear thee, And of them that keep thy precepts.”*

Psalm 139:14 *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvellous are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well.”*

Pachad (פָּחַד) – noun form - trembling, dread, fear

Psalm 14:5 *“There were they in great fear: For God is in the generation of the righteous.”*

Psalm 53:5 *“There were they in great fear, where no fear was: For God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: Thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.”*

Psalm 91:5 *“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;”*

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

Psalm 64:1 “*Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.*”

Psalm 105:38 “*Egypt was glad when they departed: For the fear of them fell upon them.*”

Psalm 119:120 “*My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; And I am afraid of thy judgments.*”

Pachad (פָּחַד) – verb form - trembling, dread, fear

Psalm 27:1 “*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*”

Psalm 119:161 “*SCHIN. Princes have persecuted me without a cause: But my heart standeth in awe of thy word.*”

Psalm 78:53 “*And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.*”

Chul (חָלַל) – verb form – twist, writhe, anguish, tremble

Psalm 96:9 – “*O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: Fear before him, all the earth.*”

Arats (אָרַס) – verb form – dread, fear

Psalm 89:7 “*God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.*”

Mora (מֹרָא) – noun form – fear, reverence, awe

Psalm 9:20 “*Put them in fear, O LORD: That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.*”

Megora (מִגְוָרָא) – noun form – fear, terror

Psalm 34:4 – “*I sought the LORD, and he heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.*”

Appendix E: The Fear of the LORD in Proverbs

The “*fear of the LORD*” was an established concept prior to Creation among the Triune Godhead (Is.11:2-3) and thereafter with early saints of God (Gen.5:22; Heb.11:7); however, under inspiration Solomon provided a thorough understanding of Wisdom and the “*fear of the LORD*.”

The fear of the LORD begins with knowledge of the LORD that leads to understanding of how to fear Him; ultimately, the learning process culminates in Wisdom, which is actively fleeing sin and obeying the LORD.

Knowledge = Context

Understanding = Interpretation

Wisdom = Application

The fear of the LORD serves as an inclusion for the book of *Proverbs* (Prov.1:7 and Prov.31:30). The book begins with the desire for the son to learn, understand, and apply the fear of the LORD in his life, and it concludes with exhortation for him to marry a woman that fears the LORD.

Yira (יִרָא) – noun form - reverent fear and awe

Proverbs 1:7 “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

Proverbs 1:29 “*For that they hated knowledge, And did not choose the fear of the LORD:*”

Proverbs 2:5 “*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.*”

Proverbs 8:13 “*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: Pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, And the froward mouth, do I hate.*”

Proverbs 9:10 “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: And the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*”

Proverbs 10:27 “*The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: But the years of the wicked shall be shortened.*”

Proverbs 14:26 “*In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: And his children shall have a place of refuge.*”

Proverbs 14:27 “*The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To depart from the snares of death.*”

Proverbs 15:16 “*Better is little with the fear of the LORD Than great treasure and trouble therewith.*”

Proverbs 15:33 “*The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; And before honour is humility.*”

Proverbs 16:6 “*By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: And by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*”

Proverbs 19:23 “*The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: And he that hath it shall abide satisfied; He shall not be visited with evil.*”

Proverbs 22:4 “*By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches, and honour, and life.*”

Proverbs 23:17 *“Let not thine heart envy sinners: But be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.”*

Yare (יָרֵא) – adjective form - reverent fear

Proverbs 13:13 *“Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: But he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.”*

Proverbs 14:2 *“He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: But he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.”*

Proverbs 31:30 *“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: But a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.”*

Yare (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear

Proverbs 3:7 *“Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”*

Proverbs 24:21 *“My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: And meddle not with them that are given to change:”*

Proverbs 31:21 *“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: For all her household are clothed with scarlet.”*

Proverbs 14:16 *“A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: But the fool rageth, and is confident.”*

Proverbs 3:25 *“Be not afraid of sudden fear, Neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.”*

Pachad (פָּחַד) – noun form - trembling, dread, fear

Proverbs 1:26-27 *“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, And your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; When distress and anguish cometh upon you.”*

Proverbs 1:33 *“But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, And shall be quiet from fear of evil.”*

Pachad (פָּחַד) – verb form - trembling, dread, fear

Proverbs 3:24 *“When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: Yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.”*

Proverbs 28:14 *“Happy is the man that feareth alway: But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.”*

Appendix F: The Fear of the LORD in Job

Yira (יָרָא) – noun form - reverent fear and awe

Job 6:14 *“To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; But he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.”*

Job 28:28 *“And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.”*

Yare (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear

Job 1:9 *“Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?”*

Job 37:24 *“Men do therefore fear him: He respecteth not any that are wise of heart.”*

Yare (יָרֵא) – adjective form - reverent fear

Job 1:1 *“THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”*

Emah (מַחֲסֵי) – noun form – terror, dread, fear

Job 9:34 – *“Let him take his rod away from me, And let not his fear terrify me:”*

Appendix G: The Fear of the LORD in Ecclesiastes

Yare (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear

Ecclesiastes 3:14 *“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:7 *“For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.”*

Ecclesiastes 8:12 *“Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him.”*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”*

Appendix H: The Fear of the LORD in the *Prophets*

Yare (יָרֵא) – verb form – reverent fear

Isaiah 59:19 “*So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, And his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*”

Jeremiah 3:8 “*And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.*”

Jeremiah 5:24 “*Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.*”

Jeremiah 32:39 “*And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them.*”

Jeremiah 44:10 “*They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers.*”

Ezekiel 11:8 “*Ye have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you, saith the Lord GOD.*”

Hosea 10:3 “*For now they shall say, We have no king, Because we feared not the LORD; What then should a king do to us?*”

Amos 3:8 “*The lion hath roared, who will not fear? The Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?*”

Haggai 1:12 “*Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.*”

Malachi 2:5 “*My covenant was with him of life and peace; And I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, And was afraid before my name.*”

Pachad (פָּחַד) – noun form - trembling, dread, fear

Isaiah 2:10, 19, 21

Yira (יִרָא) – noun form - reverent fear and awe

Isaiah 11:2-3 “*And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, Neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.*”

Isaiah 33:6 “*And wisdom and knowledge shall be The stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: The fear of the LORD is his treasure.*”

Isaiah 63:17 “*O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, And hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants’ sake, The tribes of thine inheritance.*”

Jeremiah 32:40 “*And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*”

Yare (יָרֵא) – adjective form - reverent fear

Jeremiah 26:19 “*Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.*”

Jonah 1:9 “*And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.*”

Malachi 3:16 “*Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: And the LORD hearkened, and heard it, And a book of remembrance was written before him For them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*”

Malachi 4:2 “*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise With healing in his wings; And ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*”

Mora (מִרְאָה) – noun form – fear, reverence, awe

Isaiah 8:12-13 “*Say ye not, A confederacy, To all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; Neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; And let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.*”

Malachi 1:6 “*A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: If then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? Saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?”*

Malachi 2:5 “*My covenant was with him of life and peace; And I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, And was afraid before my name.*”

Appendix I: The Fear of the LORD in the *Nehemiah*

***Yira* (יִרָא) – noun form - reverent fear and awe**

Nehemiah 5:9 *“Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?”*

Nehemiah 5:15 *“But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.”*

***Yare* (יָרַע) – verb form – reverent fear**

Nehemiah 1:11 *“O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer.”*

Nehemiah 6:14 *“My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.”*

Nehemiah 6:19 *“Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.”*

Nehemiah 7:2 *“That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.”*

Appendix J: Tremble at the Words of God

***Chared* (חָרַד) – Adjective – tremble, frighten.**

Ezra 9:4 *“Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.”*

Ezra 10:3 *“Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.”*

Isaiah 66:2 *“For all those things hath mine hand made, And all those things have been, saith the LORD: But to this man will I look, Even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, And trembleth at my word.”*

Isaiah 66:5 *“Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, That cast you out for my name’s sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: But he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.”*

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