

THE FEAR OF GOD

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

What is the fear of God?

The fear of God is unreserved obedience to His Word, the best form of worship.

We see in the scriptures the lives of some God-fearing men, who have demonstrated this obedience by faith and love (not fear).

David

He walked in the presence of God, with a particular disposition of heart, he prayed thus:

Ps 86:11 (David) Teach me, O Lord, thy way; I will walk in thy truth; unite my heart to the fear of your name.

God was pleased with David precisely because David placed God's will as sovereign in his life, and this is the testimony that God himself gave:

At 13:22..." I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all my will.

David said in Psalm 103:17-18 "But the goodness of the Lord is without end to those who fear him, and his mercy to their children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Noah

Ge 6:9 "Noah was a righteous man, upright, in his day; Noah walked with

God.

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, who was warned by God of things not yet seen, prepared an ark with godly fear for the salvation of his family; by his faith he condemned the world, and was made heir to the righteousness that comes from faith.

Abraham

Ge 22:11-12,18 "But the angel of the Lord called him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' He answered, 'Here I am.' And the angel: 'Do not stretch out your hand against the boy or hurt him! Now I know that you fear God, for you have not refused me your son, your only son.' All the nations of the earth will be blessed in your descendants, because you have obeyed my voice."

Giuseppe

Ge 39:9 "In this house, he himself (i.e., Potiphar) is not greater than I, and nothing has forbidden me except you, because you are his wife." How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?"

Joseph's behavior confirms what is written in Proverbs Prov 16:6: "Iniquity is atoned for by goodness and faithfulness, and evil by fear of the Lord is avoided."

Moses

Heb 11:24-26 "By faith Moses became great, and refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, preferring to be ill-treated with God's people, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time; esteeming the outrages of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he had his eyes fixed on the reward.

Nehemiah

Ne 5:14-15 "From the day I was appointed governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes,

for twelve years, neither I nor my brethren enjoyed the reward awarded by the governor. The governors who had gone before me had burdened the people, receiving bread and wine, as well as forty shekels of silver; even their servants harassed the people; but I did not do so, because **I feared God.**

Job

Job 1:1,8 "There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. This man was **upright and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.** The Lord said to Satan, "Have you noticed **my servant Job?** There is no other on earth who is **upright, upright, fears God and shuns evil like him.**"

Daniel

From 1:8 But Daniel **resolved in his heart not to defile himself** with the king's delicious food, and with the wine which he himself drank; and he asked the chief eunuch to allow him not to contaminate himself.

From 6:10 ... Then in his upper chamber, with its windows open to Jerusalem, **three times a day he knelt down, prayed, and gave thanks to his God,** as he was accustomed to do before.

Da 6:26-27 (King Darius) I decree that in all the territory of my kingdom **let the God of Daniel be feared and respected,** for he is the living God who endures in eternal; His kingdom will never be destroyed and his rule will last to the end. He liberates and saves, he performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth. He is the one who freed Daniel from the lions' paws."

The centurion Cornelius

Ac 10:1,22 "There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of the cohort called Italica. This man was **pious and God-fearing with all his family, he gave many alms to the people and prayed to God assiduously.** "The centurion Cornelius, **a just and God-fearing man,** of whom all the

Jewish people bear good witness, was divinely warned by a holy angel to call you into his house and to listen to what you have to say to him."

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak and said, "Truly I understand that **God has no personal concerns**; but that in any nation **he who fears him and acts justly is pleasing to him**.

The believers

Acts 9:31 "Thus **the church** throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up; and **walking in the fear of the Lord and in the consolation of the Holy Spirit**, it grew steadily in number.

1 Peter 1:14-17 "**As obedient children**, do not be conformed to the passions of former times, when you were in ignorance; but as he who called you is holy, you also must be holy in all your ways, for it is written, '**Be holy**, for I am holy.' And if you call upon as Father the one who judges without favoritism, according to the work of each one, **conduct yourselves with fear** during the time of your earthly sojourn;

1 Peter 2:17 ... Honor everyone. Love your brothers. **Fear God**. Honor the king.

Fearing the Lord is a work of faith to please Him, loving what God loves, keeping His commandments, and hating what God hates, that is, evil, sin, and all the works of the flesh as it is written:

Ec 12:13 ... **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the whole thing for man.

Proverbs 8:13 **The fear of the Lord is to hate evil**.

The Lord approves, blesses, and rewards those who fear Him, and He is constantly looking for men with this attitude of heart, precisely because He wants to accomplish His purposes. He says:

Isaiah 66:2 "Behold, on whom shall I look, that which is humble, that hath the a spirit afflicted and trembles at my word.

Ps 112:1 Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, and finds great joy in his commandments.

Pr 31:30 "The woman that feareth the LORD is the one that shall be praised."

Ps 128:1 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, and walks in his ways.

Let us also follow the example of these great men of faith, let God use our lives to do His will, for His glory. We walk in His presence, with faith motivated by love, thanksgiving, and joy and not by a sense of duty, we honor everyone, we love our brothers and sisters, we serve others with our gifts, we proclaim salvation in Christ and His Kingdom, we do the works that God has prepared for us, constantly seeking to imitate Christ.

Ps 119:63 "I am a friend to all those who fear Thee (worship Thee, because they obey Thy Word by doing Thy will), and to them that keep Thy commandments. (They love you because you need them)

The most relevant biblical definition for fear is Worship and love God.

Worship can be expressed in two ways, verbal or practical:

Angels continually worship God with praise and service:

Ne 9:6 You, you alone are the Lord! You have made the heavens, the heavens of the heavens and all their hosts, the earth and all that is above it, the seas and all that is in them, and you make all these things live, and the army of heavens worships you.

Rev 7:11-12 "And all the angels were standing around the throne, and the elders, and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! To our God be praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength, forever and ever! Amen».

Heb 1:13-14 "And to which of the angels did He say, 'Sit at my right hand until I have set your enemies as your footstool'? Are they not all spirits in

the service of God, sent forth to serve in behalf of those who are to inherit salvation?

We can worship God by offering worship, by offering service, but especially when we put his Word into practice by submitting to his will, the best form of worship is obedience to his Word and teaching the truth, in theory and in practice.

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.