

## The Fear of God

The Bible states in Proverbs 9:10 that "THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Without the fear of God operating in our lives we would be continuously walking in rebellion towards the Lord.

The Word reminds us of this very important point in Exodus 20:20 when Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, SO THAT THE FEAR OF GOD WILL BE WITH YOU TO KEEP YOU FROM SINNING."

Historically we see that when God's people ceased to fear God they walked in rebellion towards Him. Moses in Numbers 20:7-12 was asked by God to speak to the rock that it might pour out its water, but because Moses rebelled at God's command and struck the rock twice, (lacking the fear of God), he paid the penalty and was not allowed to go into the Promised Land (Canaan).

On the other hand, walking in the fear of the Lord, opens the door to God's blessings as we observe in the life of Abraham. Because of his fear of God, and subsequent obedience, God promised him a nation. "From one man's obedience," came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. (Hebrews 11:12)

The lessons we can learn from our Biblical heritage will help us in our walk today. God's Word never changes so every commandment concerning the need for the fear of God to be operative in our lives should be a signal to us to examine the promises concerning walking in the fear of God.

In Proverbs we read of the benefits of fearing God:

10:27 we will have long life

14:26 we will have confidence

16:6 we will depart from and avoid evil

19:23 we will find life and satisfaction

22:4 we will have riches and honor and life

In addition we read in Luke 1:50 that His mercy is on those who fear Him.

We also see that Jesus Himself was heard by God the Father because of His godly fear. (Hebrews 5:7)

Fearing man rather than God can cause us to be ensnared by that fear rather than being kept safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

We must strive to achieve a healthy response to the fear of the Lord. Failure to do so will cause us to walk in defeat and will keep us from coming to the place of consistently pleasing God with our lives which then opens the door for God to bless us.

Psalms 112:1-3 - "Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever."