

FEARING GOD

What does it mean to "fear" God? The words translated fear mean to honor, to respect, to stand in awe. One commentator defined as "loving reverence for God that includes submission to His lordship and the commands of His word".

Following are some biblical teachings about fearing God:

- 1) We should fear God because He is worthy!!** (Rev 4 & 5)
 - a) He is worthy because of who He is (holy, etc.)
 - b) He is worthy because of what He has done (created life, sustains life, saved us!)

- 2) We should also fear God because ...**
 - a) Commanded/encouraged to (Duet 6:13, 10:12-13, 31:12-13; Joshua 24:14; Ps 33:8).
 - b) Biblical role models like Job & Paul and others feared God (Job 1;1; 2 Cor 5:10-11).
 - c) A wise person fears the Lord (Pv 14:16)
 - d) We face a future judgment (2 Cor 5:10-11; Eccl 12:13-14).
 - e) Fearing God and keeping His commands is the whole duty of man (Eccl 12:13).

- 3) Benefits come from fearing God**
 - a) Blessed (Psalms 112:1, 128:1-2).
 - b) Lord delights in those who fear God (Ps 147:11).
 - c) Beginning of wisdom; learn wisdom (Prov 1;7, 9:10, 15:33; Is 33:5-6).
 - d) Lack nothing (Psalms 34:9).

Benefits (cont.)

 - e) Secure home for our children (Prov 14:26).
 - f) Helps us avoid evil (Prov 16:6).

g) Fountain of life (Prov 14:27).

h) Leads to life, honor & prosperity (Prov 19:23, 22:4; Psalms 25:12-13).

4) Characteristics of a person who fears God

a) Hate and shun evil (Pv 3:7, 8:13; Job 1:1; Pv 14:6).

b) Obey His commands (Eccl 12:13).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) How can we increase our fear of the Lord?

2) What are some practical ways to practice fear of the Lord?