

Fear is not always bad

By
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"The Fear of God is the Beginning of Wisdom"

Fear is one word that should not be in the lexicon of any believer. That is fear in a negative sense as in a fearful heart that disbelieves God and the fear of the devil. That sort of fear can earn you eternity in hell (Rev. 21:8). But then, there's Biblical godly fear. That fear is so enduringly beneficial that it should never end.

Prov. 28:14 tells us, "Happy is the man that feareth always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief". In Phil. 2:12, The Apostle Paul urged the church in Philippi: "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling".

But what is godly fear and what is all the 'big deal' about it?

In the Old Testament scriptures the 'fear of Yahweh' is "used as a designation of true piety (Pro.1:7; Psa_19:9). It is a fear conjoined with love and hope, and is therefore not a slavish dread, but rather filial reverence [i.e. the reverence a son or daughter gives to their parents]. God is called "the Fear of Isaac" (Gen. 31:42, Gen. 31:53), i.e., the God whom Isaac feared.

"A holy fear is enjoined also in the New Testament as a preventive of carelessness in religion, and as an incentive to penitence" (*Easton Bible Dictionary*, Art. "Fear of the Lord").

And Godly fear is immeasurably important, because it's "the beginning of wisdom": "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" (Ps 111:10; see also Prov. 1:7). Job weighs in, quoting God's sound counsel to man: "And unto man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding'" (Job 28:28).

Think about it. Of all the 'grandiose' things that could be "the fundamental principle of wise living" (*NET Bible*), the enviable credit goes to godly fear. The fear of the Lord is the fount of all wisdom for successful living and true worship.

So, what are the things we should do in order to have the fear of God?

"Let Him be Your Fear"

The first important thing as far as "fear of the Lord" is concerned is fear of God Himself for who He is, as the great and awesome God of creation; the true *Elohim* above all deities. His Name is glorious and mighty, and His doings are wondrous and majestic. We read in Psalm 96:

"O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

"Sing unto the LORD, bless His name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.

"Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.
 "For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: HE IS TO BE FEARED above all gods.
 "For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.
 "Honour and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.
 "Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.
 "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts.
 "O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: FEAR BEFORE HIM, ALL THE EARTH.
 "Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: He shall judge the people righteously.
 "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.
 "Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice
 "Before the LORD: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth" (vv. 1-13 Capitals mine).

In Deut. 28 Moses equates obedience to God's law with fear of His "glorious and fearful Name" failure of which invites the judgment of God:

"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;
 "then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance" (Deut. 28:58-59 RV).

Yahweh, the I AM, alone deserves our reverence; He should be the object of our fear.

When all Judah stood in fear of the military alliance forged between Rezin King of Syria and Pekah King of the northern kingdom of Israel against Ahaz, the king of Judah (Isa. 7:1-2; 2 Kings 16:5), the LORD God instructed Isaiah with "a strong hand":

"For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying,
 "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" (Isa. 8:11-13).

This should be our attitude all the time: God Almighty should be our "fear" and our "dread". Deut. 13:4 actually commands us: "Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him".

But in fearing the Lord what specific things should we do?

Fear and Do, Fear and Avoid

While broadly speaking the fear of God is all about the keeping of God's commandments, that fear expresses itself in two main 'fears':

1. Things we do to show fear of God.
2. Things we avoid because of fear of God.

The first category generally concerns obedience to God and service to Him out of a sense of duty to a Father or Master who deserves to be feared (reverenced). In Ecclesiastes chapter 12, the wise Preacher concludes his message thus:

"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" (vv. 13-14).

Straightaway, the point is established that the fear of God is the motive for keeping of God's commandments. The same idea is found in Deut. 6:1-2, as in many other passages of scripture:

"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: "That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged".

Given the correlation between the fear of God and the keeping of His commandments, it stands to reason that the wicked are lawless because they have no fear of God. And indeed that is the case. David said of the wicked: "Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes" (Ps 36:1 *NASB*; see also Prov. 1:29, Rom. 3:18).

If you truly fear God, then you will keep His commandments as a matter of course. You will see it as a duty you owe Him because He deserves to be reverenced as the Lord of your life. Indeed, you will see yourself as accountable to God for your actions. You will not be easily tempted to do anything to show disrespect to God and thereby breach the relationship of trust between the two of you--you to love and obey Him and He to bless and save you.

It was this overwhelming sense of reverence for God and accountability to Him that motivated Joseph, a 'mere' slave, to resist the amorous advances of his master's wife at great peril to himself:

"... Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

"And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

"But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

"He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:6-9 *ESV*).

Although Joseph's righteous stand cost him a time in prison because of the false charge of attempted rape his master's wife levelled against him (vv. 10-20), his fear of God paid off in a big way. The LORD, who "takes pleasure in those who fear Him" (Ps 147:11), never deserted him (Gen. 39:21-23). He had Joseph promoted from prison to the royal court of Pharaoh as the second highest authority in Egypt, next to the Pharaoh himself (41:1-46).

Godly fear is a rare treasure in this end-time in which lawlessness abound (Matt. 24:12). Left, right and centre people are committing heinous crimes, swindling others, and promoting and engaging in all sorts of sexual perversions without any scruples, because "They have no fear of God before their eyes". They owe God no respect, and certainly no duty to obey and honour

Him. Like the ancient people of Sodom, they are totally godless: " Now the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners against the LORD exceedingly" (Gen. 13:13 RV). No wonder, the world is in such a mess.

The fear of the Lord is necessary for sanity and discipline to prevail in society; without it people tend to lose all moral restraint, and anything goes. It's the fear of God that acts as an effective check on the lure of evil and the evil inclinations of the human heart. Without godly fear, a vicious cycle of evil sets in—as evil begets more evil. The Apostle Paul puts together a collection of OT scriptures which describes the behaviours of people who lack the fear of God in the third chapter of his Epistle to the Romans:

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

"Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

"Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

"Their feet are swift to shed blood:

"Destruction and misery are in their ways:

"And the way of peace have they not known:

"There is no fear of God before their eyes" (vv. 10-18).

Note the progression from the 'lesser' verbal sins of slander and deceit to the full-blown wicked acts of murder and destruction. All because "There is no fear of God before their eyes"!

To date, the people who make a difference for God in their generation are those who fear Him. You can be one too by eschewing evil: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil" (Prov. 16:6).

Job was such. He was so renowned for his fear of God that the devil took notice:

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one who feared God and eschewed evil.

"And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

"His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household, so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the East.

"And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day, and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

"And it was so, that when the days of their feasting were ended, Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus did Job continually.

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

"And the LORD said unto Satan, "From whence comest thou?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down upon it."

"And the LORD said unto Satan, "Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one who feareth God and escheweth evil?"

"Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Doth Job fear God for nought?" (Job 1:1-9 KJ21).

Job couldn't bear to offend God. He couldn't bear the very thought of it, whether the offence was committed directly by him or his children and whether intentionally or unintentionally. He revered God so much so that, on mere suspicion that his children might have sinned against God in their merrymaking, he took immediate remedial action to atone for their 'sins'. He couldn't afford to offend God by committing evil, nor could he afford that for his children—even if done in their hearts! This was a man the devil would watch intently with rage and envy!

Job "feared God". The LORD knew it, and the devil knew it. That was the secret of his success. Hence the devil's reply: "'Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not Thou made a hedge about him and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance hath increased in the land'" (vv. 10-11).

As we all know, God allowed Satan to put Job's godly fear put to the test to prove to the devil that Job's godly fear was not shallow, but real and sincere. Eventually, Job emerged from that crucible of satanic trial and persecution with his integrity intact—and more blessed than ever before! The reward of godliness cannot be stopped.

But the more important thing is, is the fear of God so deeply ingrained in you that you will maintain it at all costs with unflagging tenacity as Job exhibited? This was the man who, despite the excruciating pains he felt from the boils afflicted on his body from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet, sternly rebuked his wife when she urged him to "curse God and die": "... Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips" (Job 2:6-10).

In every generation God seeks people who genuinely fear Him like Job. People who so reverence Him that they are deeply hurt by the possibility that they might have hurt God unawares! God hates people who pretend to fear Him. Will you commit yourself to being a Job from today with God's gracious help? Will you stand up for what is right and godly no matter the costs?

As Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai overwhelmed and terrified by the thunder and lightning and trumpet blasts that accompanied the voice of the LORD as He spoke the Ten Commandments "out of the midst of fire" from the summit of the mount, "the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die'" (Ex. 20:18-19 ESV). Moses' reassuring reply to the people was, "'Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin" (v. 20; see also Deut. 4:10).

The fear of God leads to the avoidance of sin. To truly fear God therefore means to fear to do the things which offend Him. You don't associate with those things; you steer clear of them. What are some of those things?

The flesh is one. If you don't fear to indulge its passions, you can never please God: "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Rom. 8:8 *ESV*). Why? The reason is that the flesh is hostile to God and cannot submit to His will expressed in His law (v. 7). So, what do you do to the flesh?

You hate it (Luke 14:26); you put it to death:

"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (which is idolatry)" (Col. 3:5).

"... if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live" (Rom. 8:13).

The same Apostle Paul uses another strong word— "buffet"—to describe the harsh treatment that should be given to the flesh for fear of doing its bidding:

"But I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected" (I Cor. 9:27 *RV*).

Closely allied to the fear of pleasing the flesh is fear of ungodly women. Job wrote:

"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?

"What would be my portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high?

"Is not calamity for the unrighteous [such as the promiscuous], and disaster for the workers of iniquity?" (Job 31:1-3 *ESV*).

King Lemuel's mother counseled him: "Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings" (Prov. 31:3).

Although I will caution Christian ladies to be equally wary of worldly men, I believe worldly women pose a greater danger to Christian men. That danger is in the devious nature of women's seduction. While men are more direct in their approach, women tend to be more subtle in their efforts to attract men, and a man may not know what a lady is up to until later. A coy smile or a furtive glance might be all that a woman may employ to send 'the message' at the first attempt. Subsequently, she may flash him a coquettish look or walk mincingly past him dressed provocatively. In this age of information technology, the mobile phone and the Internet (email) are a boon. She only has to get the man's number or email address, and she sends him loads of suggestive messages almost on a daily basis. I am not saying men don't do something similar, but their more direct approach means that a committed sister can see through his intentions and tell him off pretty quickly! But if a brother is not extra vigilant, he's likely to fall for her charms and fall into temptation. Wise King Solomon shares a word with young men:

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

"Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

"When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

"To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

"Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

"For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life" (Prov. 6:20-26).

The story of Samson and Delilah has an enduring lesson to teach all young men: A man endued with exceptional strength by the special anointing of God was reduced to a prisoner in the hands of his enemies—humiliated and blinded—because he found the charms and sweet words of Delilah irresistible! Fear the worldly woman; she can imperil your integrity before God.

Another group of people to avoid for fear of the damage they can inflict on your spiritual life are false brethren. Paul warned of them, identifying two of their hallmarks: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17).

In a strongly worded exhortation, the Apostle John issued a similar warning against accommodating false brethren in his second epistle:

"Look to yourselves, that ye lose not the things which we have wrought, but that ye receive a full reward.

"Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.

"If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting:

"for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works" (2 John 1:8-11).

The veritable danger from false brethren is that they look like you and are unsuspected, but their mouths are full of spiritual poison. So you had better give them a wide berth as the apostles command, or they will subvert your faith and shipwreck your godly life. Take no chances. Jealously guard the truth you have, as Apostle Paul again instructs in Galatians:

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

"Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

"As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:6-9).

The fear of God is a lifestyle to live each day of our lives. So did the early church live:

Acts 2:41-43

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

"And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

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".

Greater Fear in the New Testament

There's a misconception out there that the OT worship was basically a religion of fear in which God bent people to His will by means of uncountable religious laws and instant judgment on transgressors. But there's a puzzle: If the people truly lived in the fear of God, why then was there so much disobedience among them?

The truth of the matter is that it's the NT spiritual worship which insists on greater fear because of the New Covenant internal mechanisms meant to ensure that we receive greater grace to obey God. The law of God is written in our hearts and minds by the Spirit of God, and presto, our way of thinking and behaving is God's law being lived in our everyday life. Nobody teaches or pressurizes us to know God's will; we know it as if by intuition! (Heb. 8:10-12; 2 Cor. 3:5-6; Ezek. 36:26-27).

Such is a fertile ground for greater fear of the Lord. In several passages of the Book of Hebrews, the case is made for greater obedience and greater fear of God because of the superior position of Christ to all the divine agents who operated in the OT era (2:1-4; 3:7-4:1) but more explicitly so in Hebrews 12:18-29:

"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,
"And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:
"(For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:
"And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)
"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.
"See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven:
"Whose voice then shook the earth: but now He hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.
"And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.
"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".

The New Covenant inspires greater awe. It calls for greater godly fear not because the message has changed (since the same "gospel" preached to Israel has been preached to us and the same Law now comes from Zion, instead of Sinai, Heb. 4:2; Isa. 2:2-3) but because of where the message is coming from. Christ, the only Law-giver (Jam. 4:12), the One whose blood "speaketh better things than that of Abel", speaks from the heavenly mount Zion (the abode of God, the holy angels and the spirits of departed saints), unlike in the past when His voice shook the earth from the summit of mount Sinai as He proclaimed the Ten Commandments to Israel.

If the earth (people, Jer. 22:29) couldn't stand the voice that shook the earth from the earthly mount Sinai, who will survive when He shakes the heaven (the universe) as well at His second coming?

Those who will remain unshaken are those will confidently stand before Christ at His coming because they were not disobedient to Him:

1 John 2:28

"And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming".

1 John 4:17

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world".

Because we destined to become an ever abiding Kingdom of priests ("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".

The consequence of failure to "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear", because we rejected grace, is that we will be consumed with fire!

However, that is far from God's will for you. Your destiny is to be blessed beyond measure. That's His treat for those who fear Him.

Blessings of Godly Fear

The blessings are too numerous to catalogue. Virtually all the promises of God belong to those who fear Him. But here are a few highlights:

- The eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him (Ps. 33:18).
- The LORD blesses those who fear Him, both small and great, with "great goodness" (Ps 31:19, 115:13, 112:1).
- The LORD pities those who fear Him: "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him" (Ps 103:13).
- The LORD extends "great mercy", even "everlasting mercy" to those who fear Him: "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him" (Ps 103:11). "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them" (vv. 17-18; Luke 1:50).
- The LORD accepts those who demonstrate their fear of Him by doing righteousness: "But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:35).
- The LORD is a "shield" and "refuge" to those who fear Him: "Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield" (Ps 115:11). "In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge" (Prov. 14:26).
- The angels of the LORD protect those who fear Him: "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them" (Ps 34:7).
- The LORD gives a banner (of victory, success, etc) to those who fear Him: "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah" (Ps. 60:4).
- The LORD grants the desires of those who fear Him: "He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them" (Ps 145:19).
- Those who fear God have no lack: "O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him" (Ps 34:9).
- Those who fear God enjoy long life: "The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened" (Prov. 10:27). "The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that

hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil" (Prov. 19:23). "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death" (Prov. 14:27).

- It shall be well with the one who fears God even if his earthly life is short: "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: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God" (Eccl.8:12-13).
- The salvation of God is near those who fear Him: "Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land" (Ps 85:9).
- God's ultimate reward of eternal life and glory is for those who fear Him: "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:18).

Surely, to fear the LORD is to enjoy a fountain of blessings from Him both in this life and in the eternity to come. So persevere in godly fear. Serve Him with fear, and rejoice before Him with trembling (Ps 2:11). "Stand in awe of His word" (Ps 119:161) and worship Him in His fear (Ps. 5:7, 89:7); He cannot ignore you: "For all those things [the heaven and the earth, v. 1] hath mine hand made, and 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" (Isa. 66:2).

If you need help to live in the fear of the Lord at this end-time of great ungodliness, there's no one better placed to help you than the LORD Himself. David prayed in Ps 86:11: "Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name". While His Word contains teachings meant to instil His fear in us (Ps 34:11), under the New Covenant God Himself has committed Himself to doing so:

"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: 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" (Jer. 32:39-40).

The LORD seeks a permanent relationship with you, even an everlasting relationship. His fear in you—your reverence for Him—is what you need to stay in the relationship formalized with "an everlasting covenant". Will you ask Him today to put His fear in your heart?