

Choosing to Fear The Lord

Scripture References (ESV)

Proverbs 14:26-27 | Roman 8:31 | Psalm 118:6 | Isaiah 29:13

Today's Central Theme

Choosing to fear the Lord grants you divine security and access to divine resources.

Proverbs 14:26-27

26 In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.

"As in the way of the world fear gives rise to weakness, so in the way of God fear produces strength. In truth, our mind so much the more valorously sets at naught all the terrors of temporal vicissitudes, the more thoroughly that it submits itself in fear to the Author of those same temporal things. And being established in the fear of the Lord, it encounters nothing without it to fill it with alarm, in that whereas it is united to the Creator of all things by a righteous fear, it is by a certain powerful influence raised high above them all."

- St. Gregory the Great (540-604)

And if the previous quote was too professorial, heed then the words of the Apostle Paul: **"...If God is for us, who can be against us?" - Romans 8:31**

Key Truths to Remember

- **Ultimately, fear is a choice.** We can either fear man and his actions within his limited time, or fear God and His infinite grace, submitting to His authority over everything in the universe and for eternity.
- **When we fear God, we are freed.** When the believer chooses to fear God, they engage in a lifelong dissent from the fear of man. As one goes deeper in reverence for the Almighty, they are progressively freed from the anxiety of this life and the terror of the unknown.
- **The Lord is on our side:** David puts it this way: **"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" - Psalm 118:6**

So as we gather around our central theme, let us revisit the words of David's son, Solomon, who, over 14 times in the collection of Proverbs alone, referenced the fear of the Lord.

- **Love for the Lord is a choice.** As we approach our text, Solomon's grammatical structure and literary focus suggest that the fear of the Lord is a choice. In other words, loving the Lord does not automatically mean fearing the Lord. We see countless examples of how the children of Israel, who were the very apple of God's eye, his chosen people, consistently made the choice to disobey, dishonor, and disregard the Lord and his commandments in order to cater to their own lesser desires, along with the prevailing cultures that surrounded them.

Reflection & Application

- **Listen to the Prophet:** Isaiah's commentary on this matter: **And the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far**

from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men...” - Isaiah 29:13

- **Engage in Reconditioning:** Last month, Pastor Karen challenged us to engage in conscious conditioning, and I believe that is the very impetus of choosing to fear the Lord. When we become conscious of God's realities, including the depth of his sovereignty, we must recondition every facet of our lives to submit to that truth.
- **God Ushers Us Into Security:** And the beauty of this movement is that when we do so, not only does the Lord usher us into a place of his Divine security and confidence, but he lends that same security and confidence to our children and those under our authority.

In other words: **When you fear the Lord, those under your rule reap the benefits.**

The Benefits of Fearing the Lord

Solomon concludes his statement by declaring that the fear of the Lord is literally a fountain of life. *H. D. M. Spence-Jones comments that “[this fountain] nourishes the flowers and fruits of faith, produces graces and virtues, and prepares the soul for immortality.”*

When You Choose To Fear the Lord

- When you choose to fear the Lord, the fear of man will fade away.
- When you choose to fear the Lord, you will have strong confidence day by day.
- When you choose to fear the Lord, you won't be hindered by the fray.
- When you choose to fear the Lord, your children will know the way.
- When you choose to fear the Lord, nourishment will not delay.
- When you choose to fear the Lord, your soul won't stray.
- When you choose to fear the Lord, you'll be prepared for the great, glorious Day.