

How to Fear the Lord

Scripture References (ESV)

Psalm 25:11-15 | Luke 2:19

Today's Central Theme

This week we will engage in an exegetical study of Psalm 25, exploring how David's prayer reveals a practical, step-by-step guide for learning to fear the Lord in everyday life.

Psalm 25:11-15

11 For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

12 Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. **13** His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.

14 The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

15 My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Guide Exploration

- **Verse 11(a) - Consciousness of God**

- **To fear God, we must be conscious of God.** In order to entreat God to engage in anything on our behalf, we must seek him on the basis of his character. God is not moved by feelings and emotions. He is moved by foundation and eternity, so when David says for your *"namesake, O Lord,"* he is literally acknowledging that God will only do that which brings his name glory.

- **Verse 11(b) - Recognizing Guilt & Seeking Forgiveness**

- **We must recognize the areas of guilt in our lives and seek God's forgiveness.** Self-awareness plays a crucial role in fearing God. Recognizing our guilt and its severity helps us understand where we need God's deliverance.

- **Verse 12 - Yielding Choice to God's Instruction**

- **When we fear the Lord, we yield our choice to the instruction of the Lord.** All of us have the gift of free will, and we can use it however we choose. However, when we make the choice to fear the Lord, we will yield our prerogative to the Providence of God. We do this because we recognize that, in his providence, God makes no mistakes, so the worry and fear inherent in the unknown are removed as we submit to the Lord's instruction, knowing his outcomes will always be good.

- **Verse 13 - Abiding in God's Presence**

- **When we fear the Lord, we are making the consistent decision to abide in his presence, which allows us the benefit of consistent well-being. It also gives this blessing of spiritual location to our offspring.** When David says our offspring shall inherit the land, he's not just talking about a physical location. He is referring to the spiritual place where we find our well-being in God.

- **Verse 14 - Intimacy & Revelation**

- **As we pursue greater levels of intimacy with the Lord, we will experience his companionship and revelation.**
 - The unique etymology of the words in this passage and its grammatical structure give a picture of two individuals pressed closely against each other, with one whispering into the other's ear.
 - One of the most historic photos of modern history illustrates this ancient Hebrew phrase.



In the photo, you see Chief of Staff Andy Card making President George Bush aware of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001. At the time, President Bush sat in front of a classroom full of elementary students, along with an entire press pool. The rest of the nation wouldn't have the information he had for another 90 minutes. However, he had to hold the tension and the information he was given, along with the responsibility before him.

- **Principle of Private Revelation:** The principle here is that there will be times when the Lord will reveal things to you, and that revelation is not for public distribution. It's for personal calibration.
 - ***But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. - Luke 2:19***

- **Verse 15 - Prayerful Lifestyle & Swift Deliverance**

When we have a prayerful lifestyle, the Lord will be inclined to swiftly deliver us from any traps that the enemy would set for us.