

THE BIBLE WORD SERIES

A Brief Study of those Important Words found in the Bible that we need to understand, not just skip over.

FEAR OF THE LORD

There are two meanings for "fear". One is "reverence"; one is "to be afraid".

BEING AFRAID *(Not the focus of this lesson)*

1. *The Bible is full of "fear nots" so we know two things here:*
 - a. *First, some of the meanings definitely has to do being scared.*
 - b. *Second, God understands that we are afraid sometimes.*

BEING REVERENT *(This is the focus of this lesson)*

1. Write out the following verses.

a. Psalm 119:38 _____

b. Proverbs 9:10 _____

c. Exodus 20:20 _____

2. The Bible, God's Word, is very important in supporting our condition & behavior to "Fear the Lord". Do you agree? (See Psalm 119:38) ___Yes ___No
3. To "Fear the Lord" is the first step in our Christian journey. "Fearing the Lord" the first time would be when you accepted God into your life? (9:10) ___Yes ___No
4. Is it safe to assume that a person who wants God in their life at salvation and through the rest of your life would have to be a believer? (20:20) ___Yes ___No

**** It appears that after a person becomes a believer, he needs God's presence and help all the time. When we ask for that help, we are "Fearing the Lord".**

**** It appears that when we are living our lives the way God's wants us to, we are "Fearing the Lord."**

**** People who are not believers and who do not seek after God do not know God personally and cannot respect God to do anything good in their lives - so, unbelievers cannot "Fear the Lord."**

5. What has been your understanding of "Fearing the Lord" through the years?

6. Have you accepted God into your life? ___Yes ___No When?

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom & instruction.
 Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
 Job 28:28 Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.

7. The "fear of the Lord" is compared or equated with what in these verses?

To "fear the Lord" is to start the path to knowledge.
 "Knowledge" is what is gathered over time through study of the Scriptures.
 "Wisdom" is the proper application of knowledge. It decides how to use it.

Examples: **Knowledge** understands that the traffic light has turned red.
 Wisdom prompts the person to apply the car brakes.
 Knowledge sees the quicksand coming up.
 Wisdom prompts the person to walk around it.
 Knowledge memorizes the Ten Commandments.
 Wisdom prompts the person to obey them.
 Knowledge learns about Who God is.
 Wisdom prompts the person to love God.

Fearing the Lord = Wisdom using knowledge to live a life pleasing to God.

8. Match the verse with the fact about "Fearing the Lord".

Remember that "fearing" = honoring, respecting, obeying, and loving your God.

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|----------------------|-------|---|
| a. Psalm 34:11 | _____ | The wicked do not have the "fear of the Lord". |
| b. Psalm 36:1 | _____ | We can have the "fear of the Lord" from our youth. |
| c. 1 Kings 18:12 | _____ | The "fear of the Lord" leads to a fruitful life. |
| d. Proverbs 19:23 | _____ | "Fearing the Lord" demonstrates a life of purity. |
| e. Psalm 19:9 | _____ | Kids can be taught to "fear the Lord". |
| f. Deuteronomy 17:19 | _____ | Through our lives, we can learn to "fear the Lord". |

Summary of "Fearing the Lord"

- a. To acknowledge God's good intentions and plans for my life
- b. To welcome God's presence so that I will not sin
- c. To honestly dread disappointing or displeasing the Lord with my life

WE ARE TO FOCUS ON GOD'S PLAN - GOD'S PRESENCE - GOD'S PLEASURE
We are to respect God and properly respond to Him.

9. People who "Fear the Lord": (Match the verse with the fact)

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|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Leviticus 19:14 | _____ | They submit to one another |
| b. 2 Chronicles 14:14 | _____ | They do not mistreat people |
| c. Ephesians 5:21 | _____ | God's eye is focused on them |
| d. Proverbs 22:14 | _____ | They are seasoned with humility |
| e. Proverbs 3:7 | _____ | They have strong confidence |
| f. Psalm 115:11 | _____ | They choose to avoid evil |
| g. Psalm 33:18 | _____ | They are able to win life's battles |
| h. Proverbs 14:26 | _____ | They trust in the Lord |