

The Fear of the Lord

November 2, 2003

Ps. 34:7-16

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. ⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! ⁹O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him, there is no want. ¹⁰The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

¹¹Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹²Who is the man who desires life, And loves *length of days* that he may see good? ¹³Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it. ¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And His ears are *open* to their cry. ¹⁶The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.

Central Truth: Living in the fear of the Lord will result in God's positive involvement in your life.

Definition: The fear of the Lord is "not a mere fear of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him ..." (Vine's)

Luke 12:4 And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

12:4 Λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν τοῖς φίλοις μου, μὴ φοβηθῆτε ἀπὸ τῶν ἀποκτεινόντων τὸ σῶμα καὶ μετὰ ταῦτα μὴ ἔχόντων περισσώτερόν τι ποιῆσαι. ⁵ὑποδείξω δὲ ὑμῖν τίνα φοβηθῆτε· φοβήθητε τὸν μετὰ τὸ ἀποκτείνειν ἔχοντα ἐξουσίαν ἐμβαλεῖν εἰς τὴν γέενναν. ναί λέγω ὑμῖν, τοῦτον φοβήθητε.

Benefits:

1. Protection and deliverance from danger. (Ps. 34:7, Pr 14:27)
2. No lacking, of any good thing. (Ps. 34:9)
3. Life, long life, good. (Quality of life) (Ps. 34:12, Pr 10:27, Pr 14:27, Pr 19:23, Pr. 22:4)
4. God's constant attention to meet your needs. (Ps. 34:15)
5. Beginning of wisdom. (Ps 111:10, Pr 9:10)
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
6. Confidence. (Pr. 14:26)
In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.
7. Depart from evil. (Pr. 16:6)
By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.
8. Direction (Ps. 25:12)
Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose.

Dangers:

1. Enmity with God. (Ps. 34:16)
2. Shortened life. (Pr. 10:27)
The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

How does a person fear the Lord?

1. Keep tongue from evil. (Ps. 34:13)
2. Keep lips from lying. (Ps. 34:13)
3. Depart from evil. (Ps. 34:14)
4. Do good. (Ps. 34:14)
5. Seek peace. (Ps. 34:14)
6. Obey God's Word. (Ps. 112:1)
Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments.
7. Hate evil, pride, arrogance, the evil way, perverse mouth. (Pr. 8:13)
The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.