

## Fear and Love

**1 John 4:15-18** “*Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 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. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*”

**Psalms 111:9 - 10** “*He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. (10) 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.*”

**Proverbs 1:7** “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

When Christians hold true to these two words, fear and love, we are in the will of God. God is a God of love and therefore love should be a natural action with Christians. God said in **1 John 4:16** “*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*” If God is in a persons heart, then God’s nature is in them (i.e. the Holy Spirit) and therefore, our love should be rich.

Fear on the other hand is also something that all Believers should possess. Not fear of Satan, or people, or governments, or anything else, but we should only fear God. A lack of fear of God shows our love is also not perfect. “*He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*” 1 John 4:18 The reason for this is because God also said in verse 18a “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear...*”. Our fear of anything or anyone outside of God shows that our love for God lacks because we are not loving God enough to trust Him with our whole heart.

Jesus said it this way, **Matthew 10:28** “*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*” While our fear of things outside of God shows our lack of love and fear of God, when we only fear God then it shows our perfect love to God. God is over everything, we have nothing to fear but God.

- A. Christians have no reason to be scared of anything in existence outside of God.
1. The Lord said in 1 John 4:18b *“because fear hath torment.”* The Webster's 1828 dictionary defines the word torment this way – “the utmost degree of misery, either of body or mind.”
  2. Albert Barnes said, *“It is a painful and distressing emotion.”*
  3. Jesus said back in Matthew 10:28 *“And fear not them...but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Our fear of any other than God shows our imperfect love toward God.
  4. We need to remember **Romans 8:1** *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* The word “condemnation” means per Vines is “to give judgment against, pass sentence upon”. Who is allowed to judge a believer but God, we are God’s children. Who can hurt a believer except God?
- B. Therefore, our only fear is God.
1. God said in Proverbs 1:7a *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...”* And it is the perfection of our love. While perfect love cast out fear, our great fear of God makes that perfection of love complete.
  2. The world does not fear God; therefore, they show no love to God.
  3. But for Christians the Lord said, **Psalms 112:1** *“Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.”*
  4. Remember what God said in **Psalms 111:10** *“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.”* – Our fear shows our love to God, our trust in God, and it shows our Reverence toward God.
  5. **Proverbs 8:13** *“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”*
  6. **Proverbs 14:16** *“A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.”*
- C. The mercy of God is to those that fear Him.
1. **Psalms 103:11 - 17** *“For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. (12) As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he*

*removed our transgressions from us. (13) Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. (14) For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. (15) As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. (16) For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. (17) But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;"*

2. **Luke 1:49 - 50** *"For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. (50) And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation."*

What does generation to generation mean? **Albert Barnes said** *"It is on those who have such fear of God that his mercy descends. This is the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. From generation to generation - From one age to another - that is, it is unceasing; it continues and abounds. But it means also more than this. It means that God's mercy will descend on the children and children's children of those that fear him and keep his commandments."*

D. In Conclusion, all will soon fear Him.

1. In judgment, all will Reverence God, as they will His Son, who is our Judge.
2. To the lost that hate God, despise Him, and laugh at Him, they will bow to Him with Reverence.
3. The wise on earth fear God because they love Him. **Philippians 2:12** *"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."* – "to work out means - "to carry out to the goal, to carry to its ultimate conclusion." the word "trembling" means - quaking with fear, because you fear not to.
4. Remember Abraham went as far to offer His son because he loved but feared God not to.
5. **Hebrews 12:28 - 29** *"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (29) For our God is a consuming fire."*