

How does this Tim Keller quote illuminate Proverbs 20:9 for you?

How could “the fear of the Lord” impact an action you’re struggling with recently?

What encourages you about changing your motivation from just fear (which is usually wrapped up in legalism) to “fear of the Lord”?

Thank God today that His way is a path of true salvation and hope. Ask God for the strength to shift your focus from fear (of failure, getting caught, stopping . . .) to a proper fear of Him. Pray for the faith to rest in His grace and love today.

Saturday

Please read Proverbs 23:17. Spend some time meditating today on the idea of “continuing to fear the Lord.” What would a life that “continues to fear the Lord” look like?

How can you move towards that life in the next week?

Also, please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that our church will a faithful example of what it means to fear the Lord and live in His love.



TWIN LAKES CHURCH
www.tlc.org



PART 13

The Perspective that Changes Everything

MAY 18 & 19, 2013 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

Happy is the man that **feareth always** . . . *Proverbs 28:14a KJV*

The **fear of the LORD** leads to life; then one **rests content**, untouched by trouble. *Proverbs 19:23 NIV*

The **fear of the LORD** is a **life-giving fountain** . . . *Proverbs 14:27*

The Riddle of the Fear of God

We are told to “fear God” 100 times in the Bible!

Yet God keeps telling people to “fear not” when He appears to them
(*Genesis 15:1; 26:24; 46:3; Joshua 8:1; Judges 6:23; Luke 2:10; Revelation 1:17, and more*)

So what does it mean to “fear the Lord”?

1. It’s about living in _____

Blessed is the one who **fears the LORD** always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity. *Proverbs 28:14 ESV*

Blessed is the one who always **trembles before God**, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble. *Proverbs 28:14 NIV (See Ecclesiastes 5:1–3)*

“To fear the Lord is to be overwhelmed with wonder before the greatness of God and his love. It means that, because of his bright holiness and magnificent love, you find him ‘fearfully beautiful.’ Fearing him means bowing before him out of amazement at his glory and beauty.” – Tim Keller

Then why use the word “fear”?

- Fear is _____
- Fear is _____

2. It's about choosing a _____

The **fear of the LORD** is the **beginning** of **wisdom**, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. *Proverbs 9:10 ESV*

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

3. It's about learning to _____

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. *Proverbs 3:5–6 NIV*

4. It's about being _____ at His _____

Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?" *Proverbs 20:9 NIV*

By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by **the fear of the LORD** one turns away from evil. *Proverbs 16:6 ESV*

"...the more we experience God's grace and forgiveness, the more we experience a trembling awe and wonder before the greatness of all that he is and has done for us." — Tim Keller

KEY:

_____ **to remind myself of this perspective!**
Don't envy sinners, but **always continue to fear the LORD.** *Proverbs 23:17 NLT*

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Proverbs 14:27 & 19:23. What were your thoughts about fearing God prior to last weekend's sermon?

What is one thing that you learned in last weekend's sermon that impacted your understanding of what it means to "fear the Lord"?

How could what you have learned impact your relationship with God?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study His word. Thank Him for His love for you. Pray that as you study what it means to "fear the Lord" this week, you will grow closer to Him.

Tuesday

Please read Proverbs 28:14, if you have access to different translations (www.biblegateway.com is a great resource) read the verse in a few different translations.

In what way have your recent fears been humbling?

What have they revealed to you about yourself?

Read Ecclesiastes 5:1–3. What do these verses tell you about living in awe of God?

How do you fall into the trap these verses warn about? How can you apply these verses to shift your attitude toward God in the direction of awe?

Thank God today that He is awe-worthy. Thank Him for wanting to reveal Himself to you. Ask Him to help you live in a state of awe of Him today.

Wednesday

Please read Proverbs 1:7 & 9:10. Do you live your life beginning with the fear of God – in other words, do you consistently remind yourself that God exists, that God regards those who seek Him, that he is a God of sovereign grace?

What impact would such a worldview have on you?

Thank God today that He is all-consuming, that He doesn't want to just be your God for an hour at church each week. Talk to Him about the lens through which you're viewing the world and making choices. Pray for the courage to live His worldview.

Thursday

Please read Proverbs 3:5–6. It's easier to love God or believe in God than to trust Him. Write down at least one area of your life where you are currently struggling with trusting God.

How could a more accurate understanding of fearing the Lord help you trust Him more?

Thank God today for His patience with you. Talk to Him about your struggles to trust Him. Ask Him to give you the grace to trust Him more. Pray that your trust in Him will be contagious and encouraging to those around you.

Friday

Please read Proverbs 16:6 & 20:9.

"...the more we experience God's grace and forgiveness, the more we experience a trembling awe and wonder before the greatness of all that he is and has done for us."
— Tim Keller

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