Let Us Fear God

Intro: *Prairie Overcomer* writes, “There are four great impelling motives that move men to action: Fear, Hope, Faith, and Love—these four, but the greatest of these is Fear. Fear is first in order, first in force, first in fruit. Indeed, fear is ‘the beginning of wisdom.’ Scripture summarizes the chief cause of sin and crime: ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes.’”

I. Our Need to Fear God

A. The Scriptures affirm this need. Consider just a few:

1. Deu. 13:4 “Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.”
2. Pro. 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
3. Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
4. Isa. 8:13 “Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself, and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.”
5. Jer. 32:39-40 “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.”
6. Mat. 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.”
7. 2 Cor. 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
8. Heb. 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.”

B. Defining fear:

1. Fear, in relation to God, has two applications in the Scriptures.
   a. Vine’s says: “(a) fear, dread, terror... (b) reverential fear.”
   b. TDNT says: “a. God can be a threat...b. Fear of God takes the form of reverent and submissive recognition in trust and obedience.”
   c. The *Dictionary Of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains* says, “1. fear, state of terror...3. reverence, worshiping respect.”
   d. ISBE says, “It is apparent that the notion of fear ranges from terror, which may be evidenced by shaking or trembling, to awe or reverence, which induces love or worship rather than terror.”

2. Dread or Terror.
   a. Isa. 8:12-13 “Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. 13 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.”
   b. Mat. 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.”
   c. Heb. 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

3. Reverence.
   a. Psa. 33:8 “Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”
   b. Psa. 89:7 “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.”
c. 2 Cor. 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

4. This is why fearing God is often equated with obeying God.
   a. Psa. 36:1 “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.” The New Living Translation has “Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts. They have no fear of God to restrain them.”
   b. Deu. 5:29 “O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!”
   c. Deu. 6:24 “And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.”

C. Reasons to Fear Him.

1. Who He is.
   a. Creator
      (1) Gen. 1
      (2) Rev. 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”
      (3) He is omnipotent; Jer. 32:17 “Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.”
      (4) He is omniscient; Job 42:2 “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”
      (5) He is omnivisual; Pro. 15:3 “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”
   b. Holy
      (1) Isa. 6:3, 5 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory....Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”
      (2) Exo. 15:11 “Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”
      (3) Rev. 15:4 “Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

2. What He has done.
   a. Creating us; Gen. 1
   b. Sustaining us; Col. 1:17 “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist [all things hold together—NASV and RSV].”
   c. Saving us; Eph. 2:8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”

3. What He can do.
   a. Destroy one in hell.
   b. Mat. 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.”
   c. 2 Cor. 5:10-11 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”
II. FEAR OF GOD WILL BE SEEN IN OUR LIVES

A. In our worship.
   1. Rev. 14:7 “Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”
   2. Rev. 19:5 “And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.”

B. In our speech.
   1. Exo. 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”
   2. Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
   3. Col. 3:8-9 “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”
   4. Mat. 12:36-37 “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

C. In our clothing.
   1. Our clothing says something about us.
      a. Tamar; Gen. 38:14-15, 19 “And she put her widow’s garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which is by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife. 15When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face.... 19And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.”
      b. Pro. 7:10 “And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.”
   2. God commanded Moses to take his shoes off because he was in the presence of deity; Exo. 3:4 “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”
   3. We need to be careful what we wear in our worship to God.

Conclusion: We need to have a proper fear of God in our lives. This will lead to living the proper type of life before Him. Solomon’s conclusion to life includes fearing God; Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”