

LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

a 31-day devotional



BOYD BYERLY

LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD Introduction

*Come, O children,
Listen to me:
I will teach you
the fear of the Lord.*

Psalm 34:11

The fear of Lord causes us to recognize the sovereignty and judgment of God. But deeper it is to be soberly aware of the divine authority of the Lord and not to mock or trivialize HIS judgment or wrath upon deliberate sin.

The fear of the Lord is a work of grace, whereby God, makes us aware, sobered by being in the presence of a holy, just, and all-powerful God. As Almighty God, HE will hold us accountable for our motives, thoughts, words, and actions.

To fear the Lord is to desire to live in harmony with His righteous standards and to honor Him in all that we do.

Not one of us naturally seeks to honor God. Our sinful nature causes us to pursue selfish pleasures and our own ideas. Therefore, we need help. We need a guide. We need to be

DAY 1 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:23-24 “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*”

For the next 30 days we will look into God’s Word and allow the Word to be a search light into our heart. Our specific focus will be looking to see how we are doing personally on fearing the Lord. Specifically on learning more of the fear of the Lord as we develop as followers of Christ.

Depending on which version of the Bible we are looking at the Fear of God is found at least 150 times. The phrase “Fear of the Lord” is found 27 times. The Love of God is found 12 times. God is Love, but HIS Love is because HE is Holy! If the fear of God is that important in scripture, God is trying to tell us something about our relationship with HIM.

Fear is defined as **to revere, stand in awe, fearful dread, cause astonishment, respect, admiration.**

Dr. Doug Small says, “*Heaven does not cry Love, Love, Love but Holy, Holy, Holy. Why is recognizing God as Holy so important? You cannot love a God you do not deeply reverence or fear. Respect is the root of Love.*”

We have come to another time in history where humanity has lost the fear of God. If we are saying it

is lost, then we must define what we mean by it is lost.

When we look at the actions of most of humanity, we see proof that they have no reverence for God. Little or no honoring of HIS commands for living. They want HIS love and HIS blessings, but they refuse to honor HIS ways and precepts. However, it is not the world that is the concern for these devotionals because the world cannot know the ways of God. It is the people who claim to know the ways of God that is most concerning. A lack of honor is wickedness in us!

CHALLENGE: Spend some time alone with God and ask, “Do I really fear YOU?”. Ask HIM to show you any wickedness, specifically if I have lost my reverence for Your ways and commands. Go to Exodus 20 and review the Ten Commandments.

DAY 2 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 17:18-20 “*When he is seated on his royal throne, he must write for himself a copy of this instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. 19 It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by carefully observing all the words of this instruction and these statutes. 20 Then his heart will not be exalted above his countrymen, and he will not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or to the left, in order that he and his sons may reign many years over his kingdom in Israel.*”

To learn is to gain knowledge or skill in through study, instruction or experience. To become aware or informed of, to find out.

We are called to be lifelong learners. People that try to gain knowledge by studying, being instructed or by experience. Albert Einstein said, “*Once you stop learning you start dying.*”

The writer of Ecclesiastes states, “*...for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol (the nether world, the place of the dead) where you are going.*” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Those that are dead do not gain knowledge. They do not learn.

Are we learning... are we in the continuing education class of the fear of the Lord or have we become dead to learning how to honor God more?

The Fear of the Lord has been lost by many because they refused to “LEARN” and continue to “LEARN” what it means to fear HIM; honor HIM; respect HIM with our lives and actions. Like signing up for continuing education...we must choose to go to the classroom of learning the Fear of the Lord.

David prayed, *“Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.”* (Psalm 86:11).

CHALLENGE: In your time with the Lord, would you be willing to ask HIM to teach you how to honor HIM today? Ask HIM to unite or to “make your heart one” with HIS in learning to fear HIS name. Ask HIM to help you not to be divided and no longer attracted by things that dishonor HIM.

DAY 3 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: 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.”*

The fear of the Lord affects how we approach God in prayer.

Dr. Doug Small in his book *Fear of God & Prayer* has a chapter on “Approaching A Regal & Judicial God.” (chapter 3, page 39). He writes: “The customary Hebrew term word for “worship” is *chavah* which infers the action of bowing or prostration in deference to God as an act of honor and reverence. The Greek term *proskyneo* is from *pros*, meaning towards, and *kuneo*, to kiss. It is understood as meaning “to prostrate” and is the most common word in the New Testament rendered “to worship.” It recalls the ancient practice of kissing the hand or even the feet of the king. It is the idea of deep reverence, expressed in some impressive manner.

In ancient times, approaching a king was a serious matter, one the common man was rarely, if ever, afforded.

Likewise, the Hebrew term for bless, *barak*, implies the knee, thus kneeling before God in prayer. The posture of prostration and kneeling reveals reverence. To kneel, to pray reverently, evidencing awe and respect by attitude and action, is to put

DAY 5 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 20:9-11 *“Then Abimelech called Abraham and asked, ‘What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you, that you have brought such tremendous guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done.’”* 10 *Abimelech also asked Abraham, ‘What prompted you to do such a thing?’”* 11 *Abraham replied, ‘I thought to myself, ‘Surely there is no fear of God in this place. They will kill me on account of my wife.’”*

This is the first time that the phrase “fear of God” is found in the Bible. The concept that God should be feared is found throughout scripture. But here, Abraham is aware that the actions of others who have no fear of God could be a problem for him. This causes him to be afraid for his life.

Where others have lost a healthy respect for God is a concerning issue. We live in a world that does not naturally fear God. The sinful nature causes us to pursue selfish pleasures and our own ideas about truth.

Because we now live in a nation that many of its leaders no longer honor or respect the ways of God, our very lives are in danger of their actions. During COVID we saw firsthand what leaders will do to law abiding citizens. They were not afraid to arrest them; they developed a hotline to snitch on each other. They said gathering in the church building was more dangerous than the liquor store. However, these are

minor to what Christians experience in other parts of the world. They must hide to worship because there is no fear of God among their leaders. They live with the very real reality that they may go to jail for their respect of God or may lose their life for honoring God.

But even with this reality, we cannot afford to lose our respect of God. I fear jumping off a high building for several reasons. One I am terrified of what might happen to my body. The other is I have a healthy respect for gravity. So too with God. We should have a healthy respect because of who HE is. But we should also fear God because of what HE can do to us. Jesus said we should not fear those that can destroy the body but fear the ONE that has the power and authority to destroy both body and soul. (Luke 12:5)

CHALLENGE: Spend time with God acknowledging any fear you have of man. Ask God to grant you the boldness to fear HIM and not to be afraid in this time of uncertainty. The leaders in our nation may not fear God but ask God to help you to live a life that honors and respects HIM.

DAY 6 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE:

- Proverbs 1:7 *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”*
- Psalm 111:10 *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.”*

Beginning means **first phase, step or element in course of events**. It is not the only step, but it is to be the first one!

Larry Lane stated, *“The fear of God is central to the gaining of knowledge and wisdom. In this sense, fear is a positive quality and something to be pursued in the life of the believer.”*

Godly wisdom is not the accumulation of facts. From birth we have an ability to gather facts and learn. But Godly wisdom is applied truth. The fear of the Lord is where we begin to apply HIS truths to our lives. The fear of the Lord is the catalyst, the motivation for intimate engagement with the Lord’s knowledge and wisdom.

Again, we find that the fear of the Lord, produces something that is beneficial to us. But sadly, too many times we get this backward. We pursue knowledge and wisdom of the world, instead of what produces truth.

In America people are quick to jump at a pill that is said to help them do something that otherwise would

be difficult. An example of this would be losing weight. When pills are offered many immediately buy it hoping for a shortcut.

In Proverbs 23:23 we are implored to buy truth & wisdom: *“Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”* The scripture teaches us that the currency to purchase truth & wisdom is the fear of the Lord. No shortcut!

We don’t go to the grocery store to get things that will sustain us without some means of purchasing them. I need the spiritual nutritional value of wisdom & knowledge. They are helpful to my spiritual and physical walk. But I need the fear of the Lord to acquire them.

CHALLENGE: How are you applying God’s truths? Do you have the process backward? Spend time today asking God to assist you in respecting HIS name & nature that will produce more wisdom and knowledge in your life.

DAY 7 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34:7 *“The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him.”*

Literally an encamping angel or one that sets up his tent. The Fear of the Lord is an invitation to an angel to set up his tent in your domain.

Some say the angel is there for our protection; at times that is true. However, we are not always protected... Paul describes us as being regarded as sheep to the slaughter...so it does not always represent protection from pain, but it does mean that we don't go to the slaughterhouse alone.

When Hurricane Helene came through Western NC we saw devastation of historical proportions. Nothing could prepare the mind for the destruction. It was more of a war zone than a disaster zone. So many lives lost and so many homes, businesses, farms, roads, and bridges completely wiped out.

One heartbreaking yet profound story was of Micah Drye, a 7-year-old boy that was on top of a house that was being washed away. His mom shared that in the last moments he wasn't screaming for her, he was screaming, “Jesus, Jesus save me”; “Jesus, I'm calling upon you.” (Interview with Fox Weather). His mom said that “her son was her hero because he reached for something past flesh, past human, past anything that even grown adults, I think, would reach for. My son called out to the one God Almighty. And I think at that moment, he was rescued.”

We do not ask for the angel to come; it is our Fear of the Lord that gives the angel the right to set up his tent in our circumstances. The angels of the Lord have assignments, but the lack of the Fear of the Lord places a barrier to them being able to encamp with us. The lack of the Fear of the Lord even creates an atmosphere of the angels being adversaries because they must respect God. James 4:4 *“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*

CHALLENGE: Look at the camp of your life. Is it welcoming to the angels of the Lord? Would you take time today to allow the Holy Spirit to show you where angels can't encamp in your life because you need to have more respect for God in that area of your life. Finances, children, home, job, business, entertainment... are they places for angels to encamp?

DAY 8 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 14:26 *“In the fear of the Lord, there is strong confidence.”*

Confidence: we all know what it is when we see it. We understand the difference between being cocky and confident. Yet knowing how to develop confidence alludes most people.

Many are confident because they do something well; mechanic, musician, chef, farmer, teacher, athletics, truck driver, business, etc... they have a certain level of confidence because they have developed a level of proficiency that produces positive results. Most of the time... but what happens when the circumstances do not allow you to be proficient; when your skills can't produce positive outcomes?

General William Westmoreland took charge of the U.S. military effort in Vietnam in March of 1964. He was a highly decorated veteran of WWII & the Korean War. He was the image of a great soldier. Time Magazine named him Man of the Year in 1965. In 1967 he famously stated that the end of the war was in view.

But in 1968 he was removed from overseeing the military because his strategy was not working and as the body count mounted American's no longer supported the war. The saddest part is that the American Soldier is the one that paid the greatest price for the political war. As General Westmoreland

stated, “The military does not start wars. Politicians start wars.”

Proverbs 25:19 *“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”* That sounds painful... and so does confidence in our abilities and gifts. They all have their limits and let us down.

Respect for God and HIS ways produce a confidence regardless of what we are facing. HE can be trusted for the outcome at all times and in all places. It is not a confidence in the outcome we want, but confidence in HIM doing what is best!

Americans are conditioned to trust in money. We live in a place of abundance, and the love of money is a snare to so many. Yet the Hebrew writer implores us: Hebrews 13:5-6 *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said: ‘Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”*

When we respect God, when we honor HIM, when we revere HIM, our confidence is in HIM. We are confident in HIS promise not to leave us. The economy will change; our ability to earn will change; inflation and price increases will affect us greatly. But the fear of the Lord gives us confidence that God will help us!

let him come to ME and drink. 38 Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said: 'Streams of living water will flow from within him.' 39 HE was speaking about the Spirit, whom those who believed in HIM were later to receive. For the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not been glorified."

We must come to Jesus in respect and honor. That gives us the source to life! Gives us what is necessary for eternal life. John 4:14 *"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."*

CHALLENGE: How thirsty are you? Are you more thirsty for the things of the world or the things of God? Take time today to remind yourself that you don't have the ability to produce what sustains life. Focus on drawing near to Christ that has the well that springs into everlasting life.

DAY 10 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:20 *"Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.'"*

The Fear of the Lord keeps us from sinning!

Remember these devotions are directed at those who say they have accepted Christ as Lord. That means that this person has been transformed from darkness to light. They walk in the light as HE is in the light. They are a new creation in Christ. Now the Holy Spirit empowers them to live a new life in Christ.

A person that has not laid down their life and accepted Christ as Lord does not have this power to live the life of an overcomer through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here in Exodus God has come down and given Moses the Ten Commandments. As God comes down, nature reacts. Lightnings, thunder, smoke, and the sound like a trumpet... it was a fearful thing to see how just the presence of God impacted nature. The people are afraid for their lives and rightfully so.

As a child I remember being at my grandmother's when a thunderstorm came up. As it began, she made all of us go the couch and sit quietly. There was to be no movement, no radio, no TV, no lights until the storm passed.

DAY 11 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 5:27-29 The people speak to Moses: *“Go thou near, and hear all that that the Lord our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the Lord our God shall speak unto thee and we will hear it and do it.”*

Moses responds: *28 “And the Lord heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the Lord said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken. 29 O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!”*

The fear of the Lord causes things to be well with us and our children!

God has invited the people to come up into HIS presence on the mountain. But the people are afraid to draw near to God. They ask Moses to be their spokesman. They say whatever God says we will do. But here is a sad reality... God has just asked them to come up into HIS presence and they refused. God's response... saying you will do what I say is a great thing... BUT... I wish you had a heart to do what I say. Oh, that you fear ME in such a way that you would follow my commands.

Too many say they will honor God but when God shows HIS commands, they quickly do what they

want. They miss a great reality... Fearing God causes us to keep HIS commandments, ALWAYS!

Could we just be honest with ourselves? When we choose to break God's commandments it is simply because we do not respect HIM. We think we can do what we want, and HE is obligated to bless us in spite of our disobedience.

But the God who knows all (the past, the present, the future) has given us a better path... by fearing HIM we obey HIS commands, and we are not in an adversarial position with God. It goes well with us!

CHALLENGE: Are you quick to obey God and HIS commands? Take time today to think about the commands of God. Recommit to following God's commands. Take time to listen to the Holy Spirit and as HE speaks ask for HIS help and guidance to obey.

DAY 12 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 12:25-28 *“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall we not escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: 26 Whose voice shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this words, Yet once more, signifeth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 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.”*

The Hebrew writer has contrasted Mount Sinai and Mount Zion. We are to look back at what happened on Mount Sinai and learn a very valuable lesson. In yesterday’s devotions we saw how the Children of Israel responded. The Hebrew writer tells us not to refuse the ONE that speaks, reminding us that Israel declined when God spoke on Mount Sinai and did not escape. We have come to a greater mountain... Mount Zion where God speaks! Through Christ there is a better covenant... the blood of Jesus... we are called not to refuse but to remember... this is my beloved Son, HEAR HIM!

It is a dangerous thing to ignore the voice of Christ. Yet our nature is to do exactly that. However, there is grace available to serve God in an acceptable way; in reverence, awe, respect and Godly fear.

They declined to hear God’s voice and died in the wilderness.

Many times we will get an invitation to an event. We are given the option to accept or to decline. Most of the time declining doesn’t cost us a lot. We may miss some special moment or an opportunity, but we can recover from it. We may live in regret for declining but with time we move on. Not so with this invitation from heaven. To decline is to separate ourselves from God for eternity.

See that you refuse not! But don’t lose sight that God will give you grace to serve HIM in an acceptable way. Grace to fear the Lord and honor HIM!

CHALLENGE: Are you quick to obey God and HIS commands? Take time today to think about the commands of God. Recommit to following God’s commands. Take time to listen to the Holy Spirit and as HE speaks ask for HIS help and guidance to obey. Be grateful for the grace that allows you to serve HIM in ways HE accepts.

DAY 13: LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 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.”*

The fear of God gives us the assistance to allow holiness to work in us and to do the work of consecrating ourselves daily.

Remember as God that called us is holy, we are to be holy... be holy as I am holy... (1 Peter 1:15-16). This is not a suggestion but a command. But we live in the flesh... we can't do this alone. We must have incredible help to perfect holiness or to allow the work of holiness to do its complete work.

Paul reminds us that we have some great promises that give us assistance in God's demand to be holy. Go back one verse to 2 Corinthians 6:18 *“I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”* What a promise... I have to show HIM respect and honor in order to be what HE wants me to be, yet HE promises to be a Father in the process... a good Father guides HIS children; a good Father corrects HIS children; a good Father gives assistance to HIS children... our Heavenly Father is a good, good Father!

As children we now have a choice to make. Will we on a daily basis fear our God so we can perfect holiness? Make no mistake, perfection is the goal! Not the

worlds view of perfection but maturity and completion. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

CHALLENGE: Read what the Apostle John writes to us and evaluate how you work to perfect holiness in your own life.

1 John 3:1-8 *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”*

DAY 14: LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 *“To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. 3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. 4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. 6 Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. 9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. 11 For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. 12 **Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. 13 His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. 14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. 15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. 17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. 18 Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. 19 Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me. 20 Oh, guard my***

soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. 21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. 22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.”

We do not know the occasion in which David wrote this Psalm, but we do know that David had multiple troubles in his life. Some were from enemies of other countries, other enemies in his own nation and most painful, enemies in his own household. But there was another problem... his own sins.

With all these issues David leans into the mercies of God and reminds himself that the man who will fear the Lord, even in times of trouble, will be instructed by the Lord. That man will be God’s friend, and God will show him HIS covenant.

CHALLENGE: Read back through Psalm 25 again. Allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you and encourage you. If you are in a season of trouble begin with respecting your Lord. Let HIM instruct you. If you have experienced days of trouble in the past remind yourself of HIS great mercy and show your respect to your Lord.

DAY 15 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25:12-14 *“Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. 13 His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. 14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.”*

Let’s look at these verses again today. The fear of the Lord causes God to instruct us and puts us in a position of friendship.

In the Bible there are several people that are referred to as God’s friend.

- Abraham (James 2:23) – he had confidence/faith in God and that put him in a special place of friendship
- Moses (Exodus 33:11) – he communicated with God and was known as God’s friend
- John the Baptist (John 3:26-30) – he celebrated that Jesus was the Christ; that’s what friends do!

Jesus tells us that there is another group that are HIS friends. It is what HE told HIS disciples in John 15:14 *“You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.”*

Do you see the connection; friendship and keeping the commands; God’s friends fear HIM and the evidence is that we keep HIS commands. But once again we see an incredible theme with the nature and

character of God. For those who will be HIS friend HE instructs us.

Note the instruction God gives: *“in the way we should choose.”* We have multiple choices every day. All choices are not equal. All do not give us the same return, and not all are good for our lives. But as God’s friend HE honors our respect of HIM by showing us, instructing us in making the best choices. Oh HALLEJUAH!

Proverbs 16:9 *“A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”*

CHALLENGE: Spend some time celebrating that you are one of God’s friends. Express your belief that Jesus is the Christ and commit that you will follow HIS commands today. Take time to listen to what this Great Friend wants to instruct you on today.

DAY 16 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 147:11 *“The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.”*

The fear of the Lord brings God’s pleasure, delight, acceptance and HIS favor.

Good earthly parents respond in positive ways to respectful children. When their children honor them and respect the boundaries they set, they tend to show them favor in multiple ways. On the other hand, disrespectful children tend to find themselves in an adversarial position with their parents. It is not that they are not loved but the parents understand that their disrespect will play itself out in other areas of life and that will have huge negative ramifications for their children. Respect begins at home.

For the Disciple of Christ, respect must begin in our relationship with our Lord. Jesus taught us to pray, *“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.”* We treat even HIS name with respect... we revere and honor.

1 Corinthians 5:1-6; 11-12 *“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5*

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did... 11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”

NOTE: God was not pleased. We can please God, or we can also displease HIM.

NOTE: This is not for us to live scared, but this is an example for us to learn from.

It is possible to please God, and it all begins with honoring and respecting our Heavenly Father.

CHALLENGE: Take time today to look for ways in how you show respect for God. In what way today will you hope in HIS mercies?

DAY 17 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 8:13 *“To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”* [NIV]

When we fear the Lord, it causes us to hate what God hates; to hate what is contrary to wisdom and truth.

The rising tide of secularism now pushes that there are many ways to God. This idea declares Jesus a liar. HE said HE is the way, the truth and the life and there is no other way, yet many professing Christians say there are many ways to God. We should hate this loss of reverence for Christ and what HE said.

Sexual immorality among professing Christians is at an all-time high. Ministers openly cast away their wives and announce their love for another woman. The pews of churches are filled with fornication and adultery. We have lost our fear of a Holy God that declares we are to flee sexual immorality.

The exploitation, mutilation, abuse and aborting of our children is a plague in our nation and around our world. The exploitation of children is now viewed as just another commercial endeavor. What are the views of most profession Christians? The percentage grows higher yearly of those who say that abortion needs to be legal. We have lost our fear of what is sacred and holy. A child should be viewed as a gift not an option from God.

We struggle with the idea of hating because as Disciples of Christ we are taught to love; love our neighbor as ourselves; to do good to our enemies. Yet we are also taught to hate what God hates. We don't hate the people that God loves but we are to hate the false things they push; we are to hate the pride they carry around; we are to hate all evil behavior!

What gives us the power to hate evil behavior and love a person at the same time? The fear of the Lord! Real respect for God allows me to live in the tension between Godly love and Godly hate. Both are part of HIS nature, and we are to submit to the nature of God. We have been called to be like HIM.

CHALLENGE: Take a few moments to consider what is going on in your life or around you that God hates. Commit to hating all evil behavior, whether in your own life or the life of those around you.

DAY 18 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:7-11 *“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”*

The fear of the Lord is clean, or it is sincere; not mixed with anything that is false, selfish or prideful; not allowing anything that is unholy.

Note that God’s law (precepts, commands) is perfect, sure, right, pure, righteous.

Note the effects of God’s law – reviving, making wise, rejoicing the heart, enlightening to the eyes.

The laws of God, the commands of God are to be desired!

But what do I do when my desires run counter to the ways of God? How can I overcome in this great battle of the lust of the flesh. Paul helps us with that in Romans 7:21-25 *“So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; 23 but I see*

another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

We have help! What an awesome truth that we have this enduring promise of help. Help that will keeps us being sincere in fearing the Lord.

CHALLENGE: Make the next verses in Psalm 19 your prayer today. Meditate on these. 12 *“Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

DAY 19 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 12:12-25 *“But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites had come against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us’ — although the LORD your God was your King. 13 Now therefore, here is [Saul] the king whom you have chosen, and for whom you asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you. 14 If you will fear the LORD [with awe and profound reverence] and serve Him and listen to His voice and not rebel against His commandment, then both you and your king will follow the LORD your God [and it will be well]. 15 But if you do not listen to the LORD’S voice, but rebel against His command, then the hand of the LORD will be against you [to punish you], as it was against your fathers... 24 Above all, fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you. 25 But if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be swept away.”* [AMP]

The fear of the Lord will cause us to follow God and it will be well.

Israel has decided that they prefer a King like other nations than the way God was leading them. They wanted to choose their own leader. Even in this arrogance and rejection of God’s leadership, God shows them mercy. Samuel tells them the conditions that God sets.

Although they think they are setting the conditions of who will lead, they quickly find out that God will not relinquish HIS authority.

God’s condition... fear ME, show respect by serving ME and listening to what I say.

What HE says next is intriguing. If they do this then they will continue to follow God. They will continue to walk after God; they will continue to go after the Lord. Fear of the Lord causes us to go after the Lord!

Samuel reminds us all that we should consider all that HE has done for us, then respect HIM more and serve HIM faithfully. However, there is a warning. If we persist in doing evil God’s hand will be against us.

James 4:8 *“Draw near to God and HE will draw near to you...”*

CHALLENGE: Think about all the great things God has done and is doing for you. Think of how you could draw closer to God today.

DAY 20 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 17:7-11 *“In the third year of his [Jehoshaphat’s] reign he sent his officials... 9 They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the Lord; they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people. 10 The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not go to war against Jehoshaphat. 11 Some Philistines brought Jehoshaphat gifts...”*

Our obedience causes the fear of the Lord to fall on people around us.

The Philistines and other nations around Israel had been great enemies of the people of God. War was just a part of their lives and no doubt everyone was war weary. Just think of how Israel today must be on alert 24/7 because of their enemies... so too then. The enemy was always looking for an opportunity to destroy them.

When Jehoshaphat came to the throne, he did something unusual. He sent a delegation to all the cities of Judah to teach the Laws of God. But note where the fear of the Lord fell. On all the kingdoms surrounding Judah. WOW!

Because of this fear they would not attack Israel, and they even brought gifts to King Jehoshaphat.

We have enemies all around us. Enemies of the ways of God; enemies of the commands of God. They are

looking for ways to destroy us and our testimony. We don’t have the time or capacity to fight every enemy that is within our nation or community. It is weary year after year doing battle with the forces of evil. Whether that is sexual immorality, gender confusion, child exploitation, trafficking of women and children, abortion, the removal of every tenant of faith in our nation, etc.

Although fighting these enemies is a worthy fight to protect our families, it is exhausting fighting these enemies year after year. But could there be a better way? It would seem that King Jehoshaphat had found it by simply being committed to following God and HIS Word even when others would not.

Proverbs 16:7 *“When a man’s ways please the Lord, HE makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*

CHALLENGE: What enemies are you warring against today? Think of how your life would be simpler if the fear of the Lord fell on your enemies. What will you do today to open up the area around you to the fear of the Lord?

DAY 22 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE:

- Psalm 112:1 *“Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighted greatly in HIS commandments.”*
- Psalm 115:13 *“HE will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great.”*
- Psalm 128:1-2 *“Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.”*

The fear of the Lord makes us blessed people.

But what does it really mean to be blessed. A search of Christian books, articles and social media seems to show an idea of success.

Great family, blessed. Financial success, blessed. Children that stay out of trouble, blessed. A better job with higher pay, blessed. Church with good attendance, blessed. A business with an awesome bottom line, blessed. Living the good life now, blessed. A great doctors report, blessed.

But is success as defined as things going our way the meaning of blessed? What happens when everything that was just listed has a different outcome?

When Jesus said blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted, it implies they have something to mourn over. Some sin or sinful action

that causes them to weep. Or when HE stated blessed are they which are persecuted for my name's sake... that doesn't sound like the successful life now, but one that is painful.

According to the Key-Word Study Bible, “The Greek word translated *blessed* in the New Testament means to be fully satisfied. It refers to those receiving God's favor, *regardless of the circumstances.*”

Here is where we differ from the world on being blessed. Yes, we are fully satisfied when the doctor's report is good, and we are also fully satisfied when it is not, because our satisfaction is in God. The God who we fear, respect and honor does all things well! We honor HIM no matter the circumstances and we believe in HIS favor.

CHALLENGE: Go back to the passages today. Read them again and ask yourself if you are a person that is satisfied with God? Do you praise HIM regardless of the circumstances? What needs to change in you today?

DAY 23 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 9:31 *“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”*

The fear of the Lord brings growth in our lives.

Paul (Saul) had been persecuting the church. Men, women, and children were not safe from his evil hand. But HE met God and was so transformed that HE began to preach Christ! The result was a time of peace and being built up.

We all prefer growth in our lives, especially in our churches. In the 1970's & 1980's America saw the rise of Church Growth Conferences. Certain individuals who had “success” in Church attendance began to write books telling all of us how growth could happen. Just follow this formula...just do these things...make sure your music is appealing to the culture...make the sinner comfortable. What was the result of all this new approach to church... church attendance is at an all-time low in America. To be clear, I do not lay the full blame at the feet of Church Growth “experts”. There was also a major shift in the moral culture of our nation.

But there was a few things that we did not hear at the conferences. One of those, “walking in the fear of the Lord.” What was the early Church’s growth strategy? Respecting and honoring God!

But it is not just for church. We all want to see growth in some area of our lives. If we are not careful, we will only seek the counsel of the culture experts of our day and try their formulas for success. But be reminded, you are not of the world. Always begin with God’s principles. And one of the first, Fear the Lord! There may be other principles to apply but not applying this one puts us on a trajectory of failure.

There is peace and comfort in having growth by fearing the Lord!

CHALLENGE: Is there an area of your life that you want to see growth? Would you like to see your church reach more people for Christ? Would you like to see more people delivered? Does the way you respect God open your church or your life up for this growth?

DAY 24 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE:

- Proverbs 15:16 *“Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.”*
- Proverbs 22:4 *“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life.”*

The fear of the Lord brings riches, honor, and life.

As American’s we like abundance. We like things being easily accessible. We love the ability to choose between multiple options on any item because we have the resources to do so. Cars, clothes, vacations, houses, land, jobs, entertainment, etc.

When I typed “why do people come to America?”, AI generated this – “America is considered the most sought-after country for immigration primarily due to its reputation for offering significant economic opportunities, including a robust job market, high potential for career advancement, and access to quality education, which many people see as a pathway to a better life for themselves and their families; additionally, the country's diverse culture and reputation for political stability are also major draws for immigrants.” (I don’t suggest trusting AI but this was a true response.)

From the Bible passages above and others like them, it is obvious that America’s respect for God in its founding principles & laws has brought wealth, honor, and life. But we are beginning to see the

evidence of decline; for the first time in our history children are doing worse than their parents in economic success. Stagnant wages, and rising prices in housing, health care, fuel, food, etc. and higher educational cost have all contributed. Rising government debt, increasing cost of social programs, and an overburdened prison system. The signs are not good. Could it be that the loss of respecting God is an attributing factor?

Yet God has given us great and mighty promises. Respect of HIM opens the door to wealth, honor, and life. Keeping in mind that the pursuit of riches is a snare. (1 Timothy 6:9). We are not pursuing them, they come to us as we honor God and HIS principles.

CHALLENGE: Do you think you better off with respecting God than having great wealth? Do you trust God to bring you the resources you need simply because you respect and honor HIM? How can you show greater honor to God today?

DAY 25 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 10:27 *“The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.”*

The Fear of the Lord prolongs one’s life.

One of the things that people who have respect for God do is attend worship services, Bible studies and small groups.

Jesus was our example of this in Luke 4:16 *“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”*

The Hebrew writer tells us Hebrew 10:23-25 *“Let us hold resolutely to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. 25 Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

What does this have to do with long life. There have been several studies that have shown that attending church regularly extends one’s life on earth. One study shows that only about 20% of how long one lives is dictated by your genes. A healthy lifestyle gives the average person 12 more years. But an active faith in God, including weekly church attendance had the biggest impact on extending life.

The healthiest elderly had a common characteristic: Having a faith in God.

Obedience to God’s command to obey parents extends one’s life. Ephesians 6:1-3 *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth.”*

Remember the fear of the Lord implies that we obey HIS commands. Proverbs 9:11 *“For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.”* Jesus has been made unto us wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:30). By adhering to the words and example of Jesus we prolong our life.

CHALLENGE: Do you want a long healthy life? Once again it begins with the fear of the Lord... how is your obedience? How is your church attendance? How is your commitment to gathering with those of faith?

DAY 27 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33:8 *“Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”*

We have something to declare to the world with our actions...the fear of the Lord!

Should we expect the world to be in awe of our God when we are not?

We use the word awesome to express that something or someone is very impressive or great. But the word “awe” has the meaning of profound wonder, something worthy of reverence. Even to the point of being afraid because of the overwhelming power and grandeur of the encounter.

The Psalmist implores us to stand in awe of the Lord. But how to do this?

It would be easy to try to give some limited list, but God is so magnificent and mighty that there is no way to come to the end of HIS majesty and power. But there might be a few things to get us started in becoming lifelong learners of being “awed” by God.

Psalm 19:1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”* See the glory of God as you look at HIS creation each day. They speak to HIS glory and HIS incredible ability.

Psalm 119:161 *“Rulers persecute me without cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your words.”* Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world in John 14:30. He persecutes us for no reason. There may be other authorities in this life that persecute us with their laws and restrictions. Yet, we stand in awe of God’s Word. So daily as we get in HIS Word we are reminded of it’s great power.

Acts 2:42-43 *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 A sense of awe came over everyone, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs.”* As we gather, when we take communion and when we hear the testimonies of what God has done, it should inspire us to wonder and amazement.

CHALLENGE: Be intentional in looking to increase your wonder and amazement of God. Then be bold in declaring the awesomeness of your God!

DAY 28 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:12-13 *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

The fear of the Lord assists us in working out our salvation.

Don't miss what Paul DID NOT say. He did not say for us to work for our salvation.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:8-10 *“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.”*

We are to work out what God has put in us. We are to participate with the Holy Spirit working in us. Although the work of Christ is a perfect work in our spirit, the war between flesh and spirit begins. Therefore, I have some work to do.

We are called to follow the guidance of Holy Spirit, implying that we can follow our flesh. We are called to abstain from certain things and run from others. We are told to walk by faith and not by sight. One is spiritual, the other fleshly. We are called to discern

between good and evil. We are told to be faithful, watchful, diligent, careful, sober. We are to focus on Christ and things that are above.

None of these things save us. Only the work of Christ does that. But these are just a few of the things that we do. We not only believe we work. We work from the position of salvation not to salvation.

Look again at Ephesians 2. Paul says that there are works that were prepared for us to do in advance. Before we ever came to Christ, God established some works for us to do. We must work out what God has put in.

But HE demands that we do it with reverence. This is the work that HE has given, and we are to honor that work.

CHALLENGE: How would you evaluate how you are working out what Christ has put inside of you? Evaluate your participation with what Christ has given you? Ask am I aimlessly coasting spiritually doing what I desire to do?

DAY 29 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Malachi 4:2 *“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in HIS wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”*

The fear of the Lord causes God to arise with healing on our behalf.

“In the aftermath of World War II, European cities were a pile of rubble. People made makeshift homes among the ruins. The streets remained littered with bricks and debris. Children, who had lost both parents and grandparents during the war, roamed the streets, rummaging for food and clothing. An American soldier drove through the debris laden streets of London on a crisp morning. A small boy of no more than six or seven years of age was standing outside a bakery with his nose pressed to the cold window. The smell of donuts and pastries waffled through the morning air. The baker could be seen kneading the dough, but the chance of the boy tasting the finished delight was abysmal. He could only dream. The soldier's heart was touched. He stopped his Jeep. Amazingly the boy did not run - where could he go? What did he have to lose? For a moment, he stood silently next to the small boy whose gaze was fixed on the baker inside. "Son," the soldier asked, breaking the silence, "would you like one of those?" The little boy looked up, as if he was being teased, as if in disbelief, but his reply was direct and sincere. "Yes, Sir, I would!" The soldier stepped inside and exited with a bag of treats. He handed it to the child,

"Here you are." And then he turned and walked toward his jeep. The boy trotted along behind him, tugging at his jacket. "Mister" the boy asked, 'are you God?" (from *Fear of God and Prayer*, p. 169)

We all are broken and in need of healing. Spiritually, emotionally, and yes, even physically.

Verse 1 speaks of a day when the proud and wicked will be destroyed. They do not trust in God's righteousness. They pridefully trust their own righteousness. But for us that fear the Lord, the Great Physician arises and shines on our lives.

Calves in the stall represent growing in strength, energy and enthusiasm. The fear of the Lord gives us access to our Lord's power and assistance to grow in HIM.

CHALLENGE: Where do you need healing today? In your mind; in your will; in your emotions; in your spirit; in your body? Learn more about fearing the Lord and watch HIM arise with the healing you need.

DAY 30 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 11:18 *“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto they servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear they name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.”*

There are rewards at the end of the age for those that fear the Lord.

We all love being rewarded. There are studies of employees that have shown that rewards result in greater worker efforts and higher quality of work. It improves workers morale and productivity. However, if the worker is rewarded frequently then the workers grow used to them and the rewards don't have much impact. The worker just expects that they are going to get them. But rewards tend to be reserved for those that do the greatest things in the world.

Jesus has given John incredible insight into the end of the world. One of the great themes in Revelation is Christ right, power and authority to rule. But the nations of the world rebel and resist HIS rulership. As a result, God's wrath comes upon the earth. It is time for judgement of the dead and the living.

But here John is told that there were several groups that would be rewarded. The prophets that were rejected and many killed. The saints of all ages. Those that served God even when it was not popular

to do so. Then God specifically points out those that fear HIS name. Those that show respect and honor; that stand in awe and amazement at who HE is. They obey HIS commands and HIS precepts.

But note the incredible justice of our God. The small and the great will be rewarded. HE does not discriminate based on earthly status. HE is just and righteous and holy! All will be rewarded that fear HIS name!

1 Corinthians 15:58 *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

We do not work for the Lord because we will be rewarded, we work for HIM because we fear HIM. We respect HIM. We honor HIM.

CHALLENGE: Spend time reminding yourself that what you are doing for the Lord is not in vain. Remind yourself that you do what you do because you love your Lord.

DAY 31 : LEARNING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 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.”*

Fearing God applies to everyone.

As we come to the end of our 31 days of devotions, we end with the beginning in mind. All the wisdom that Solomon has tried to convey boils down to one simple truth. FEAR GOD!

No one gets a pass on this. No one has an excuse. No one can reason their way out of it or define it in some other way that suits their choices. Fearing God applies to all of us!

Since this is true, we need to be intentional about learning the fear of the Lord. We must ask God to help us in doing what is our duty.

We don't do this well. We struggle with growing in our respect for God. Most of the time it is not some intentional act, but rather the lack of intention. We drift. We come to Christ convinced that we are sinful and need a Savior. For some it is the fear of hell that drives us to Christ. But then we are tempted to coast. Just aimlessly move through life with no focus on growing in fearing God.

But what could be different if we chose another path? What are the incredible possibilities if we were more

intentional every day on growing in the fear of the Lord?

We all know what it is like to learn. A skill, a trade, a hobby... it didn't happen with us just saying I want to learn _____. No, we were intentional. We took lessons. We went to school. We had someone with that skill teach us. We spent time and resources to learn. We could do the same with fearing the Lord. We can learn from each other, and the greatest teacher would be the Holy Spirit.

Malachi 3:16 *“Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before HIM for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon HIS name.”*

CHALLENGE: Spend some time alone and commit to staying in the school of fearing the Lord.
