



**31 DAYS**  
a 31-day challenge  
THE 31 DAY CHALLENGE



Proverbs 1:7 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline

Fear serves as an important alarm system, warning or preparing us for impending danger. Yet fear can also paralyze us, causing us to freeze when we should fight or flee. There are 2 categories of fear> beneficial and harmful. In other words, fear can be friend or foe!

There is one kind of fear God wants us to have. In Deuteronomy 5:29 the Lord exclaims: "O that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commandments".

The fear of God has been grossly misunderstood by many...

Before his conversion, Martin Luther was so petrified by God; he nearly grew to hate Him. Luther had a picture of God that was distorted—he could only envision God as the wrathful Judge; he later saw God as the loving, merciful Father as well.

Jonathan Edwards' famous fire & brimstone sermon, "Sinners in the hands of an angry God" had his congregation trembling, grasping the pews lest they tumble into the very pit of hell itself. Some appraise Edwards solely on the basis of this sermon and fail to see that he also preached on God's grace.

To say we "fear" God does not mean we're afraid of Him...

II Timothy 1:7 clarifies this, explaining that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline".

**Definition** The fear of God is an awesome respect or reverence growing out of the greatness and power of God. To revere God as we ought, it is critical that we understand His nature. In Job 37 we learn a basic reason why God is held in reverence--because of Who He is: "God is clothed with awesome splendor and majesty. The Almighty--we cannot imagine His power. He is great in justice and abundant righteousness in His dealings with men. No wonder men everywhere fear Him!"

1. The fear of God gets us through hard times. Job was asked, "Is not the fear of God your confidence?" God, who has limitless might, welcomes our prayers, and cares about our hurts. We need not fear the future, for we know the One who holds the future. The awesomeness of God is our confidence.

2. The fear of God affects life itself! In Proverbs we're told that "The fear of the Lord prolongs life" (10:27); is a "fountain of life" (14:27); and "leads to life" (22:4). David sings in Psalm 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them."

3. The fear of God is essential for leaders. In Exodus 18 Moses gives a prerequisite for leaders that they should fear God. Those entrusted with governmental authority are warned in Psalm 2:

"O kings, be wise; show discernment; and be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling. Do homage to the Son, lest He becomes angry, and you perish in the way" (2:10-12).

God appraises our service. If you have been given a position of leadership, remember the counsel of Jesus, "To whom much has been given, much will be required" (Lk 12:48).

4. Finally, the fear of God results in answered prayer. Psalm 145:19, "He fulfills the desire of all who fear Him." Are your prayers characterized by reverence for the Almighty? If ever fear was beneficial, this one is. The fear of God is the one fear that removes all others. As we cast our cares upon Him, we can become fearless. David wrote while his life was being threatened, "I fear no evil, for Thou art with me" (Ps 23:4). The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the fearsome Lord of Lord has this to say to us: "Fear not, for I am with you. I will never leave you nor forsake .Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (Jn 14)