The Fear of the Lord

Uncontested unrivaled unmatched – Power first and then goodness

It’s not being afraid of God -

-beginning of wisdom – not just first and then you move on but rather the foundation or the ground or ongoing root of wisdom

Fear of the Lord is clean and pure and cultivates holiness –

Attentiveness – set our minds on things above, take God seriously always have an eye on what he is doing – God centered focus wherever we may be circumstance we are living in – mindful of God and his presence, attentive to his word and his purposes –

The right fear of God is, quite explicitly, a blessing of the new covenant. Speaking of the new covenant, the Lord promised through Jeremiah: “I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me” ([Jer. 32:39–40](https://www.esv.org/verses/Jer.%2032%3A39%E2%80%9340/)). In [Jeremiah 33](https://www.esv.org/verses/Jeremiah%2033/), the Lord goes on to explain the nature of this new covenant fear in words so striking they overturn all our expectations. He promises: “I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it” ([Jer. 33:8–9](https://www.esv.org/verses/Jer.%2033%3A8%E2%80%939/), emphasis added).

This is not a fear of punishment—of what God might do if His people turn away from Him. Quite the opposite: in [Jeremiah 33](https://www.esv.org/verses/Jeremiah%2033/), the Lord reeled off a catalog of pure blessing. He would cleanse them, forgive them, and do great good for them. And they fear and tremble precisely because of all the good He does for them.

It is the sort of fear Hosea describes when he prophesies how “the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days” ([Hos. 3:5](https://www.esv.org/verses/Hos.%203%3A5/), emphasis added). It is a fear “to the Lord and to his goodness.”

Son’s pleasurable adoration of His Father; indeed, it is the very emotional extremity of that wonder.

“The fear of the Lord is enjoined throughout Scripture, demanding that God’s people stand always in awe of him, appreciate his supremacy and greatness, fear the consequences of disobeying his will, and not treat lightly any aspect of their covenant relationship with him, lest the consequences be severe or even fatal. Attempts on the part of some in modern times to define fearing the Lord as merely respecting him distort the biblical evidence.”[1]

Jesus seems to commend the fear of the Lord in [Matthew 10:28](https://www.esv.org/verses/Matthew%2010%3A28/):

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” ([Matthew 10:28](https://www.esv.org/verses/Matthew%2010%3A28/) ESV)