

## THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD – “THE FEAR OF THE LORD”

(Victory Fellowship Mangonui - 5/5/96 - EKB)

1. Reading: “What does the Lord your God require of you, but to **fear the Lord your God.....?**” *Deut 10:12,13,20, Deut 6:1-13, Deut 13:4, Deut 5:29.*
2. As a child and teenager, my sister and I spent our school holidays on a farm near Dargaville, owned by a family friend whom we called “Mr Mac”. In age he was old enough to be our grandfather and in nature he was the essence of kindness. He involved us in all he was doing on the farm and gave us plenty of opportunities to take responsibility. We “lived” every minute of it. Because of our love and respect for “Mr Mac” we always tried our hardest to please him and did everything we could not to offend or “hurt” him. The deepest respect we had for this man is a small glimpse, a pale one, of the **fear of the Lord**. We loved him because he first loved us.
3. In the world there are various attitudes towards God. Some are hostile, others indifferent, many think “God” is a joke, while some reject Him entirely. However there is a company of people in the earth who love God deeply and with all their strength they seek to please Him and avoid offending Him.
4. Jesus calls this right attitude towards God, “**the fear of God,**” *Lk 12:3-5.*
5. There is awe, love, desire to please, making every effort not to offend, in the **fear of God**. It is seeking to put God first in all things.
6. In 1970 at Faith Bible College, some students were in a group with guitars singing songs of praise, when for some unknown reason, they started singing in a way that mocked God. Suddenly the Spirit of the **fear of the Lord** came down upon me, *Is 11:2*, and I ran from my room, down the passage to where they were, shouting at them to stop. There was the sense of God’s anger and judgment about to fall. Fortunately they quickly responded and stopped.
7. One night, in a prayer group in Kaitaia, praying until late for a very sick baby, Jesus came and stood in our midst as the “Healer”; and the awesome **fear of God** came down upon us all. No-one moved or looked up or spoke.
8. Some scriptures on the **fear of the Lord**:  
*Ps 89:7* God is greatly to be **feared** ... and to be held in reverence.  
*Ps 112:1* Blessed is the man that **fears the Lord**, who delights greatly in His commands.  
*Ps 128:1* Blessed is everyone who **fears the Lord**, who walks in His ways.  
*Pro 3:7* **Fear the Lord** and depart from evil.  
*Pro 8:13* The **fear of the Lord** is to hate evil; pride, arrogance ...  
*Pro 14:2* He who walks in His uprightness **fears the Lord**.  
*Deut 4:10, Deut 17:18,19, Deut 31:12,13.*
9. The blessings of the Lord rest on those who **fear Him**.

<i>Ps 112:1-9</i>	(lists 10 such blessings)
<i>Ps 103:17</i>	The mercy of the Lord is ..... on those who <b>fear Him</b> and His righteousness to children's children
<i>Ps 34:7</i>	The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who <b>fear Him</b> ....
<i>Ps 34:9</i>	..... there is no lack to those who <b>fear Him</b>
<i>Ps 25:12-14</i>	(to be taught in God's ways, to dwell in prosperity, His descendants shall inherit the earth, the secret of the Lord is with those who <b>fear Him</b> , and He will show them His covenant.)
<i>Pro 14:26</i>	In the <b>fear of the Lord</b> is strong confidence and His children shall have a place of refuge. The <b>fear of the Lord</b> is a fountain of life to avoid the snares of death.
<i>Pro 19:23</i>	The <b>fear of the Lord</b> leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.
<i>Pro 22:4</i>	By humility and the <b>fear of the Lord</b> are riches, honour and life.
<i>Pro 9:10,11</i>	The <b>fear of the Lord</b> is the beginning of wisdom.....for by me your days will be multiplied and years of life will be added to you.
<i>Pro 10:27</i>	The <b>fear of the Lord</b> prolongs days.
<i>Mal 4:2</i>	To you who <b>fear My Name</b> , the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings

10. How can we grow in the **fear of the Lord**?

Firstly we are to **choose the fear of the Lord**, *Pro 1:29*.

The **fear of the Lord** grows in us as we read God's Word, *Deut 31:11,12, Deut 17:18,19*.

There is an **anointing of the fear of the Lord**, *Is 11:1,2*.

The Holy Spirit imparts **the fear of the Lord**.

As we come and listen to the preaching of the Word, *Ps 34:11-14*.

God has established tithing, putting God first in our money and material possessions, as a way of **learning to fear God**, *Deut 14:22,23*.