

Fear of the Lord in the Old Testament

These studies are designed for believers in Jesus Christ only. If you have exercised faith in Christ, then you are in the right place. If you have not, then you need to heed the words of our Lord, Who said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son, so that every [one] believing [or, trusting] in Him shall not perish, but shall be have eternal life! For God did not send His Son into the world so that He should judge the world, but so that the world shall be saved through Him. The one believing [or, trusting] in Him is not judged, but the one not believing has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son of God.” (John 3:16–18). “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through [or, by means of] Me!” (John 14:6).

Every study of the Word of God ought to be preceded by a naming of your sins to God. This restores you to fellowship with God (1John 1:8–10). If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9). If there are people around, you would name these sins silently. If there is no one around, then it does not matter if you name them silently or whether you speak aloud.

This doctrine was taken from **Job 1** ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)) **Gen. 20** ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)).

Topics, Graphics and Short Doctrines		
Quotations	John Witherspoon Quotation/Graphic	Fear of the Lord Graphic
	Definition of Fear of the Lord	
Job and the Fear of the Lord	Lot and the Fear of the Lord	Is there a contradiction between “fearing God” and “perfect love casts out all fear”?
Psalms 46:1–2a (graphic)	Proverbs 9:10 (Graphic)	Spiritual Maturity is a Synonym for Fear of the Lord
Prov. 14:27 Graphic	The Client Nation and Spiritually Mature Believers	Fear of the Lord Acronym Graphic
Addendum to Fear of Yehowah by Robert J. Morgan	The Abbreviated Doctrine of <i>Fear of the Lord</i>	Psalms 11:10 (Graphic)
	Samuel Johnson Quotation/Graphic	

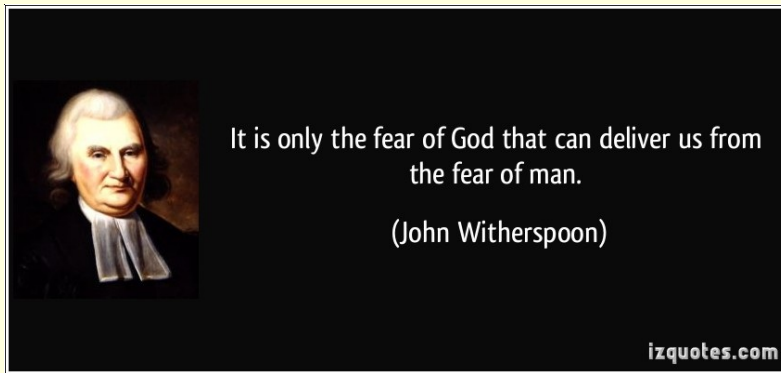
Mark Batterson, *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day: How to Survive and Thrive When Opportunity Roars: The only God-ordained fear is the fear of God, and if we fear Him, we don't have to fear anyone or anything else.*¹

Ray Comfort: *When men don't fear God, they give themselves to evil.*²

Saadi: *I fear God and next to God I mostly fear them that fear him not.*³

Lech Walesa: *I'm a man of faith. I only fear God, and my wife - sometimes.*⁴

From Dr. Thomas Constable's commentary: *"In the Old Testament the fear of God is more than awe or reverence though it includes both. Fearing God is becoming so acutely aware of His moral purity and omnipotence that one is genuinely afraid to disobey Him. Fearing God also includes responding to Him in worship, service, trust, obedience, and commitment."* [Note: Deere, p. 269].⁵



From [Izquotes](#); accessed August 23, 2014.

Prov. 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (NIV)

Prov. 1:7 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. (NLT)

Prov. 22:4 The result of humility is fear of the LORD, along with wealth, honor, and life. (HCSB)

Preface: Over and over again, in the Old Testament, we have the phrase *fear of the Lord*; this is what that means:

Fear of the Lord Graphic; from [Global Men's Group](#); accessed November 7, 2015.

1. Definition: the fear of the Lord (or a fear of God) means:
 - 1) A person believes in God.
 - 2) A person believes in both the power of God and the involvement of God in our lives.



¹ From <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/fear-of-god> accessed August 23, 2014.

² From http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/fear_god.html accessed August 23, 2014.

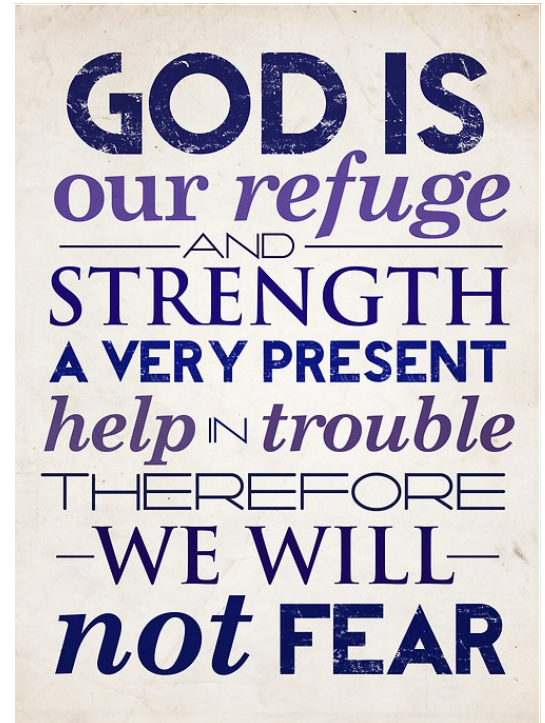
³ From http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/fear_god.html accessed August 23, 2014.

⁴ From http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/fear_god.html accessed August 23, 2014.

⁵ From <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/dcc/view.cgi?bk=4&ch=4> accessed May 15, 2015.

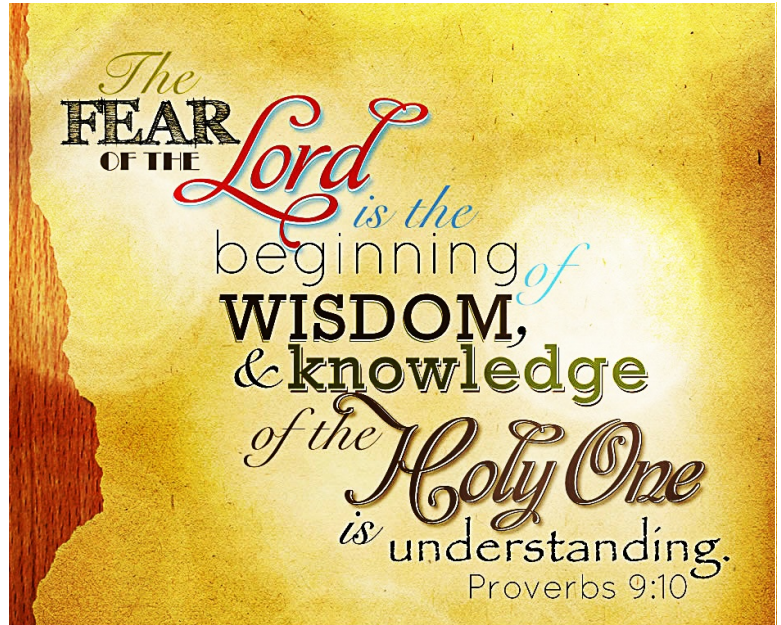
- 3) A person believes that there are divine consequences for behavior, whether or not there is a governmental entity to punish wrongdoing.
 - 4) A person who fears God concentrates upon Him; thinks about Him.
 - 5) One of Solomon's conclusions of a futile examination of what the world has to offer, is [The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man](#) (Eccles. 12:13). Fearing God is reaching spiritual maturity. Keeping God's commandments during the Jewish Age was not a means of salvation, but a means of preserving nation Israel and teaching God's Word to subsequent generations.
 - 6) Therefore, *fear of the Lord* indicates spiritual maturity in the Old Testament.
2. Let's first focus on two individuals, which might help us to understand what *fear of Y^ehowah* means. The first is Job.
- 1) Job is so described by the Bible in this way: [There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.](#) (Job 1:1; ESV) Therefore, fearing God is associated with ethical and moral behavior.
 - 2) Early on in the book of Job, he is twice said to be one who *fears the Lord*. This does not mean that every time Job heard thunder, he jumped; he was not looking around over his shoulder all the time; and if given the opportunity to speak with God, he would not run and hide (like Adam and the woman after they sinned).
 - 3) Let's say you are trapped in a confined geographical space with something that you fear: a spider, a snake, a mouse. All of your concentration is focused upon whatever it is that you fear. The idea of that intense concentration conveys to us, in part, what it means to *fear the Lord*.
 - 4) So far, we have seen that Job and his family lead wonderful lives; everyone is greatly blessed, but Job thinks about God and he offers up sacrifices on behalf of his children, in case they sin. Job 1:5
 - 5) At the end of this chapter, Job will have all of his blessings taken from him, and yet he will say, ["Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."](#) (Job 1:21). This is concentration upon God.
 - 6) In other words, no matter what the situation—blessing or difficulties—Job thinks about God.
3. A good example of someone who believes in the Revealed Lord but does not fear Him is Lot.
- 1) Although many foreigners recognized Abraham's unique relationship with the Revealed God (Gen. 20:7–9 and believed that they were best served by being associated with Abraham (Gen. 21:22), Lot, when given the chance, struck out on his own and separated from Abraham, who was the reason for his blessing. Lot was blessed because of his association with Abraham. Gen. 13:2–13
 - 2) Abraham rescued Lot, when Lot has associated himself with a bunch of reprobates (Gen. 13:13 14:1–16), yet Lot makes no effort to realign himself with Abraham again. He stays in Sodom. Gen. 19:1
 - 3) Because of Abraham's intercessory prayer at the end of Gen. 18, angels travel to Sodom, both to destroy it and to rescue Lot and his family. Even though the lives of Lot and his family are threatened by most of the city's population, when the angels tell Lot and company to get up and get going, they dawdle; when they tell Lot where to go for deliverance, Lot argues with them, and suggests where he wants to go instead. All of this indicates just the opposite of fear of God. Gen. 19
 - 4) Even though Lot has a reasonably large family, there are not even ten people in his family (or of his in-laws) who have even believed in the Revealed God. This is all it would have taken for God to have delivered Sodom from destruction. Gen. 18:32 19:12

- 5) When faced with the destruction of Sodom, and the angels were right there trying to get Lot to move along, Lot first tarries, and then argues with the angels about where he should go. Gen. 19:16–20
4. In the Old Testament, *fear of the LORD* is always closely associated with obedience. Gen. 20:11 42:18 2Kings 4:1 Job 1:1, 8 Proverbs 1:7 Isaiah 11:2
5. What about the statement, **There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.** (1John 4:18; ESV) If we are encouraged to *fear God*, on the one hand; but told that *perfect love casts out all fear* on the other; then isn't that a contradiction?
- 1) First of all, this is not an Old Testament thing versus a New Testament thing. Isa. 41:10 reads: **Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.** (ESV; capitalized) Furthermore, in many passages, God comes upon someone and tells them right off the bat, "Don't be afraid."
 - 2) Having a fear of God does not mean that we cringe every time we hear lightning or hide whenever we hear loud noises.
 - 3) Fearing God means that we concentrate on and think about God; and that we relate all that we do to God's justice, righteousness, and love.
 - 4) Fearing life, fearing the consequences to righteous action, fearing what others may do to us is not a part of the Christian life. Perfect love (which is a reference to spiritual maturity) casts out all fear. Perfect love does not mean that we sit around and think about love until it becomes perfect; perfect love is a development that takes place in our souls from spiritual advance.
 - 5) A genuine agape love (which is not a feeling) is developed right along side spiritual maturity; or, if you like, the **edification complex** ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)).
 - 6) However, it is reasonable to fear God when we are involved in sins. Once we name these sins to God, then we no longer need to fear God, even if punishment or correction is on the way.
6. The phrase *fear of God* or *fear of the Lord* is only found thrice in Genesis (Gen. 20:11 22:12 42:18); and is otherwise not found in the Pentateuch (with the exceptions of Ex. 1:17, 21). We have similar number of occurrences in the book of Job (Job 1:1, 8, 9 2:3). The uses here would suggest much more than simple faith in God, as God points to Job as an exceptional man on earth (Job 1:8). Therefore, the idea of being mentally occupied with the Person of Y^ehowah is what is being referred to here, which is a result of spiritual maturity.
7. The first time that we have the phrase *fear of God* in the Bible is in Gen. 20:11, where Abraham tells Abimelech, the king of Gerar, that he believed that there was no fear of God among his people. The fact that Abraham uses this phrase here suggests that he understands what this phrase means and he expects that the king of Gerar also understandings the meaning of this phrase. Job 1:1 probably predates this passage in time.



Psalm 46:1–2a from [Quotes Wave](#), accessed August 23, 2014.

8. Abraham show great spiritual maturity when he offered up his son Isaac to God. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (Gen. 22:9–12; ESV)
9. Joseph, although hiding his identify from his brothers, confesses to them that he fears God in Gen. 42:18.
10. Fear of the Lord is knowledge of Bible doctrine. Listen, the fear of the Lord is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding (Job 28:28). See also Psalm 111:10 Prov. 1:7 2:5 9:10 16:6
11. In fact, Prov. 9:10 suggests that fear of the Lord is the first foothold in the climb to spiritual maturity. Prov. 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (ESV) **Prov. 9:10 (Graphic)**
12. Fear of the Lord is connected to understanding Bible doctrine. Prov. 2:5 9:10
13. The spiritual growth of the believer, helps him to hate evil and to turn away from evil. Prov. 8:13 16:6 Psalm 97:10
14. In fact, comparing Psalm 97:10 and Prov. 8:13 suggests that loving the Lord is equivalent to fear of the Lord. Psalm 97:10a O you who love the LORD, hate evil! Prov. 8:13a The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. (ESV)
15. Hating Bible doctrine is equivalent to rejecting spiritual maturity (= fear of the Lord). Prov. 1:29
16. Fear of the Lord (spiritual maturity) endures forever and is to be preferred over gold or other material treasures. Psalm 19:9–10 Prov. 15:16
17. Those who fear the Lord (that is, are spiritually mature) hate evil and arrogance and lying. Prov. 8:13
18. One is able to employ spiritual maturity (fear of the Lord) to turn away from evil. Prov. 16:6
 - 1) A corollary to this is, a person who does not fear the Lord has no reason to turn away from evil. They would only do so if the laws of divine establishment were embedded in their souls through parental training.
19. A man who fears God will be a just ruler. 2Sam. 23:3 2Chron. 19:7
20. An honorable and spiritually mature leader will not overtax his people. The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God (Neh. 5:15).
21. Instruction in truth is the key to spiritual maturity (= fear of the Lord). Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of Y^howah (Psalm 34:11). Prov. 15:33
22. Instruction in Bible doctrine is how a ruler becomes spiritually mature (that is, fears God). 2Chron. 26:5



Prov.9:10 (Graphic); from [JCSIO](#); accessed November 7, 2015.

23. However, the key to a nation being blessed and protected by God, is there being many believers who are mature. 2Chron. 20:29 [And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. \(ESV\)](#)
24. Spiritual maturity (fear of the Lord) leads to confidence in God and in the Word of God. Prov. 14:26–27
25. Spiritual maturity (fear of the Lord) leads to a better, more fulfilling life, with some protections guaranteed by God. [The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm \(Prov. 19:23\).](#)
26. There are, therefore, rewards for spiritual maturity in time. Prov. 22:4
27. Fearing God can increase your lifespan. Prov. 10:27
- 1) Alan Carr: *This is not a blanket promise because any number of things can happen along the road of life that can take us out of here in an instant. However, generally speaking, those who live in the fear of the Lord are more likely to live to a good old age than those who live for the flesh and the world.*
 - 2) Alan Carr: *Approximately 60% of human illnesses can be traced directly or indirectly to fear, sorrow, envy, resentment, guilt, hatred, or to any number of emotional stresses. Add to that the awful pain caused by alcohol (cirrhosis of the liver), tobacco, (emphysema, cancer, heart disease), and immorality, (venereal diseases and AIDS), we can see that a life lived in the fear of the Lord with obedience to His Word will result in a much healthier existence.*
28. Do not get your focus on people; keep your focus on God (which is also known as fear of the Lord). Prov. 23:17
29. God listens to the prayers of David, but will humble his enemies, because David fears God and they do not (Psalm 55:16–22). For this reasons, David adjures others to [Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be knocked off balance \(Psalm 55:22\).](#)
30. The fear of the Lord (spiritual maturity) gives one courage for battle. [And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them \[giving them courage for battle\]. They plundered all the cities, for there was much plunder in them \(2Chron. 14:14\).](#)
31. Those who fear God are interested in the teaching of the Word of God. Furthermore, God's effect upon man is in his soul. [Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul \(Psalm 66:16\).](#)
32. Even though there are examples, from time to time, of those who do evil, and yet live for a long time, Solomon learned from his father David that it will be well with those who fear God. Eccles. 8:12
33. There is great power to be had in spiritual maturity. Eternal rewards are passed out to those who fear the Lord. **Prov. 14:27 Graphic**; from **Unlocking the Bible**; accessed November 7, 2015.
34. In a client nation to God, there is a symbiotic relationship between government and the mature believers in the nation. 2Chron. 19:8–11
35. Jesus Christ and knowledge of Bible doctrine are the keys to personal and national stability; along with the spiritual maturity which comes from knowledge of Bible doctrine. [The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, and he will be the stability of](#)



- your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure (Isa. 33:5–6).
36. Now, there was a different kind of fear of the Lord which was found in nations which surrounded Israel. Because of this fear, we can conclude that many of them believed in the God of Israel and they were afraid to attack Israel because of their God. 2Chron. 17:10 29:20
 37. Jesus Christ would have knowledge of Bible doctrine, and therefore, be occupied in time with God the Father. Isa. 11:2–3 Luke 2:52
 38. Abraham feared the people of Gerar and lied about his wife Sarah, because he believed that there was no fear in Gerar. Gen. 20:11
 39. Those who do not fear the Lord often do evil. Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good. He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil. (Psalm 36:1–4)
 40. Those who do not fear the Lord despise wisdom. Prov. 1:7
 41. Paul uses several Old Testament quotations, including one about the lack of the fear of the Lord, to prove that all men are corrupt before God. **What then? Do we excel? Not at all! For we have charged both Jews and Greeks before, all with being under sin; according as it has been written, "There is not a righteous one, not even one!" "There is not one understanding; there is not one seeking God." "All turned away, they became worthless together, not one is doing goodness, not so much as one!"** LXX-Psa. 13:1-3 "Their throat is a tomb being opened;" "they used deceit with their tongues; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery are in their way; and they did not know a way of peace; there is no fear of God before their eyes." (Rom. 3:9–18 LXX-Psalms 5:10 139:4 9:28 Isa. 59:7, 8 Psalm 35:2 MT-Psalms 14:1-3 5:9 140:3 10:7 Isa. 59:7, 8 Psalm 36:1; Green's literal translation)

Fear of the Lord Acronym Graphic; from **Pleroma Bible Church**; accessed November 7, 2015.

FEAR of the Lord

Focus on Christ – *Hebrews 12:1-3*

Emotional Stability – *James 1:12*

Authority Orientation – *James 4:10*

Ready for service – *Romans 12:1*

[Top of the Page](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

Addendum to Fear of Y^howah by Robert J. Morgan

Scripture is ESV; capitalized:

Genesis 17:1–33 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. Abram fell facedown.

Leviticus 9:23–24: And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they

blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Ezekiel 1: 26–28: And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Matthew 17:5–8: He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

Notice two phrases here. They fell facedown on the ground in terror, but Jesus told them to not be afraid. There's a powerful spiritual principle here: We have a God who is great enough to fear-and good enough so we are not afraid of Him. He can say, "Fear Me," and "Don't be afraid" in the same passage without contradiction.

Revelation 1:14–17: The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last."

In the pages of the Bible, when someone was given a glimpse of the likeness of the glory of the Lord, it struck terror into their hearts, and it caused them to fall on their faces in awe and reverence and fear. It wasn't an unhealthy or dysfunctional fear. It was the godly fear that comes from seeing the majesty of the Eternal God.

Morgan lists Fear of the LORD passages from Proverbs:

- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline—Proverbs 1:7
- Since they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes—Proverbs 1:2–31
- Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones—Proverbs 3:7–8
- To fear the Lord is to hate evil—Proverbs 8:13
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding—Proverbs 9:10
- The fear of the Lord adds length to life—Proverbs 10:27
- He whose walk is upright fears the Lord—Proverbs 14:2
- A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless—Proverbs 14:16

- He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life—Proverbs 14:26–27
- Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil—Proverbs 15:16
- The fear of the Lord teaches a person wisdom, and humility comes before honor—Proverbs 15:33
- Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord a person avoids evil—Proverbs 16:6
- The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble—Proverbs 19:23
- Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life—Proverbs 22:4
- Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord—Proverbs 23:17
- Blessed is the person who always fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble—Proverbs 28:14
- Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised—Proverbs 31:30

So if you put all these things together, you can get a reasonably good working definition for the fear of God. The fear of God is our logical response to those aspects of God's character that are terrifying to behold. We are changed by the experience. And this fear of the Lord:

1. Determines our morality
2. Develops a clear sense of what life is about
3. Repels bad habits from our lives
4. Hates evil
5. Provides confidence and contentment
6. Leads to healthiness in body, mind, and soul
7. Enriches our lives
8. Lengthens our lives
9. Protects our children
10. Keeps us from being foolhardy and reckless
11. Gives us timeless beauty and strength.

That's why Solomon says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

This addendum is from <http://www.donelsonav.org/pocket/pp-090712.html> accessed November 8, 2014.

Alan Carr quotations from http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/Pro%201_7.htm accessed November 8, 2014.

[Top of the Page](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

This is taken from **Fear of the Lord** ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)).

The Abbreviated Doctrine of *Fear of the Lord*

1. Definition: the fear of the Lord (or a fear of God) means:
 - 1) A person believes in God.
 - 2) A person believes in both the power of God and the involvement of God in our lives.
 - 3) A person believes that there are divine consequences for behavior, whether or not there

The Abbreviated Doctrine of *Fear of the Lord*

- is a governmental entity to punish wrongdoing.
- 4) A person who fears God concentrates upon Him; thinks about Him.
 - 5) One of Solomon's conclusions of a futile examination of what the world has to offer, is [The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man](#) (Eccles. 12:13). Fearing God is reaching spiritual maturity. Keeping God's commandments during the Jewish Age was not a means of salvation, but a means of preserving nation Israel and teaching God's Word to subsequent generations.
 - 6) Therefore, *fear of the Lord* indicates spiritual maturity in the Old Testament.
2. Job is a good example of someone who fears the Lord. At the end of this Job 1, Job will have all of his blessings taken from him, and yet he will say, "[Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.](#)" (Job 1:21). This is concentration upon God. No matter what the situation—blessing or difficulties—Job thinks about God.
 3. Let's say you are trapped in a confined geographical space with something that you fear: a spider, a snake, a mouse. All of your concentration is focused upon whatever it is that you fear. The idea of that intense concentration conveys to us, in part, what it means to *fear the Lord*.
 4. In the Old Testament, *fear of the LORD* is always closely associated with obedience. Gen. 20:11 42:18 2Kings 4:1 Job 1:1, 8 Proverbs 1:7 Isaiah 11:2
 5. A good example of someone who believes in the Revealed Lord but does not fear Him is Lot.
 - 1) Although many foreigners recognized Abraham's unique relationship with the Revealed God (Gen. 20:7–9 and believed that they were best served by being associated with Abraham (Gen. 21:22), Lot, when given the chance, struck out on his own and separated from Abraham, who was the reason for his blessing. Lot was blessed because of his association with Abraham. Gen. 13:2–13
 - 2) Abraham rescued Lot, when Lot has associated himself with a bunch of reprobates (Gen. 13:13 14:1–16), yet Lot makes no effort to realign himself with Abraham again. He stays in Sodom. Gen. 19:1
 - 3) Even though Lot has a reasonably large family, there are not even ten people in his family (or of his in-laws) who have even believed in the Revealed God. This is all it would have taken for God to have delivered Sodom from destruction. Gen. 18:32 19:12
 - 4) When faced with the destruction of Sodom, and the angels were right there trying to get Lot to move along, Lot first tarries, and then argues with the angels about where he should go. Gen. 19:16–20
 6. The phrase *fear of God* or *fear of the Lord* is only found thrice in Genesis (Gen. 20:11 22:12 42:18); and is otherwise not found in the Pentateuch (with the exceptions of Ex. 1:17, 21). We have similar number of occurrences in the book of Job (Job 1:1, 8, 9 2:3). The uses here would suggest much more than simple faith in God, as God points to Job as an exceptional man on earth (Job 1:8). Therefore, the idea of being mentally occupied with the Person of Y^ehowah is what is being referred to here, which is a result of spiritual maturity.
 7. Fear of the Lord is knowledge of Bible doctrine. [Listen, the fear of the Lord is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding](#) (Job 28:28). See also Psalm 111:10 Prov. 1:7 2:5 9:10 16:6 **Psalm 11:10 (Graphic)**; from [Love this Pic](#); accessed November 7, 2015.

The Abbreviated Doctrine of *Fear of the Lord*

8. Hating Bible doctrine is equivalent to rejecting spiritual maturity (= fear of the Lord). Prov. 1:29
9. Fear of the Lord (spiritual maturity) endures forever and is to be preferred over gold or other material treasures. Psalm 19:9–10
Prov. 15:16
10. Those who fear the Lord (that is, are spiritually mature) hate evil and arrogance and lying. Prov. 8:13
11. A man who fears God will be a just ruler. 2Sam. 23:3 2Chron. 19:7
12. An honorable and spiritually mature leader will not overtax his people. **The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God** (Neh. 5:15).
13. Instruction in truth is the key to spiritual maturity (= fear of the Lord). **Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of Y^ehowah** (Psalm 34:11). Prov. 15:33
14. However, the key to a nation being blessed and protected by God, is there being many believers who are mature. 2Chron. 20:29
15. Fearing God can increase your lifespan. Prov. 10:27
 - 1) Alan Carr: *This is not a blanket promise because any number of things can happen along the road of life that can take us out of here in an instant. However, generally speaking, those who live in the fear of the Lord are more likely to live to a good old age than those who live for the flesh and the world.*
 - 2) Alan Carr: *Approximately 60% of human illnesses can be traced directly or indirectly to fear, sorrow, envy, resentment, guilt, hatred, or to any number of emotional stresses. Add to that the awful pain caused by alcohol (cirrhosis of the liver), tobacco, (emphysema, cancer, heart disease), and immorality, (venereal diseases and AIDS), we can see that a life lived in the fear of the Lord with obedience to His Word will result in a much healthier existence.*
16. Do not get your focus on people; keep your focus on God (which is also known as fear of the Lord). Prov. 23:17
17. God listens to the prayers of David, but will humble his enemies, because David fears God and they do not (Psalm 55:16–22). For this reasons, David adjures others to **Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be knocked off balance** (Psalm 55:22).
18. The fear of the Lord (spiritual maturity) gives one courage for battle. **And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them** [giving them courage for battle]. **They plundered all the cities, for there was much plunder in them** (2Chron. 14:14).
19. Those who fear God are interested in the teaching of the Word of God. Furthermore, God's



The Abbreviated Doctrine of *Fear of the Lord*

effect upon man is in his soul. **Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul** (Psalm 66:16).

20. Even though there are examples, from time to time, of those who do evil, and yet live for a long time, Solomon learned from his father David that it will be well with those who fear God. Eccles. 8:12

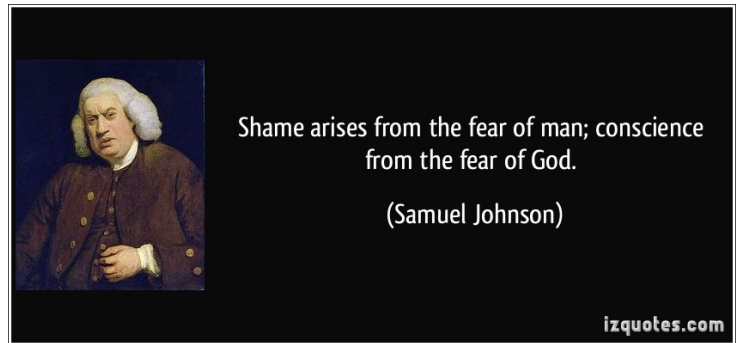
From Dr. Thomas Constable's commentary: *"The basic lesson for Israel to learn at Horeb was to fear and reverence God."* [Note: Schultz, p. 31.] *"In the Old Testament the fear of God is more than awe or reverence though it includes both. Fearing God is becoming so acutely aware of His moral purity and omnipotence that one is genuinely afraid to disobey Him. Fearing God also includes responding to Him in worship, service, trust, obedience, and commitment."* [Note: Deere, p. 269].⁶

Alan Carr quotations from http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/Pro%201_7.htm accessed November 8, 2014.

[Chapter Outline](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

And one more interesting quote from [Izquotes](#), accessed August 23, 2014.



[Top of the Page](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

[Topics](#)

[Charts, Maps and Short Doctrines](#)

[Kukis Homepage](#)

[Doctrines](#)

⁶ From <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/dcc/view.cgi?bk=4&ch=4> accessed May 15, 2015.