

1



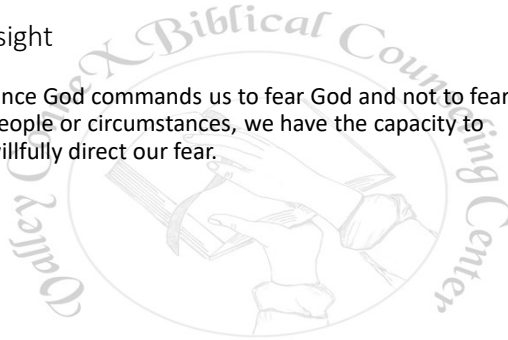
2

- The primary reason God has given us the capacity to fear is to direct our fear toward Him.
 - Over 200 times scripture commands us to fear God or commends a person for fearing God.
- Perversion of this gift is to direct our fear toward people or circumstances.
 - Around 150 times the Bible tells us not to fear with the subject of that fear being people or circumstances.

3

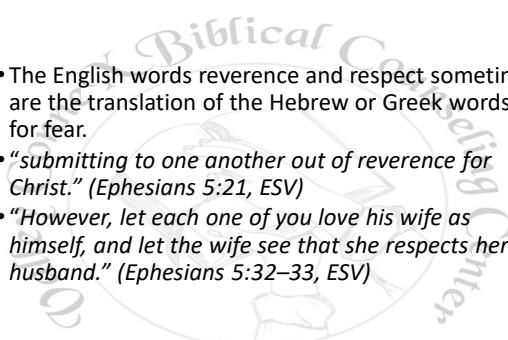
Insight

- Since God commands us to fear God and not to fear people or circumstances, we have the capacity to willfully direct our fear.



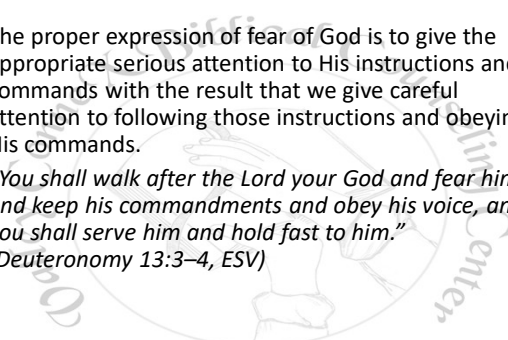
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- The English words reverence and respect sometime are the translation of the Hebrew or Greek words for fear.
- *“submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21, ESV)*
- *“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” (Ephesians 5:32–33, ESV)*



5

- The proper expression of fear of God is to give the appropriate serious attention to His instructions and commands with the result that we give careful attention to following those instructions and obeying His commands.
- *“You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.” (Deuteronomy 13:3–4, ESV)*



6

• The fear of the LORD results in all the blessings that come from obedience.

• *“If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.” (1 Samuel 12:14, ESV)*

7

Fear of the LORD

• *“Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes.” (2 Chronicles 19:7, ESV)*

• *“the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.” (Psalm 19:9, ESV)*

• *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!” (Psalm 111:10, ESV)*

8

Fear of the LORD

• *““The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7, ESV)*

• *“The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.” (Proverbs 8:13, ESV)*

9

Fear of the LORD

- *“In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.” (Proverbs 14:26–27, ESV)*
- *“By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil.” (Proverbs 16:6, ESV)*

10

Fear of the LORD is not only an Old Testament reality.

- *“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.” (Acts 9:31, ESV)*
- *“Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.” (2 Corinthians 5:11, ESV)*

11

Fear of the LORD is not only an Old Testament reality.

- *“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, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12–13, ESV)*

12

Do not fear

- *“Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”” (Exodus 20:20, ESV)*
- *“Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.”” (Numbers 14:9, ESV)*

13

Do not fear

- *“Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the Lord, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand.” (Jeremiah 42:11, ESV)*
- *“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, ESV)*

14

Do not fear

- *“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10, ESV)*

15

Fear of people and/or circumstances clouds our minds and paralyzes our obedience to God.

- The life of King Saul is a good case study of the hazards of the fear of people and circumstances.
- *“Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.” (1 Samuel 15:24, ESV)*

16

We can be free from the mind-clouding and paralyzing fear of people and circumstances.

- *“By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 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. We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:17–19, ESV)*

17

We can be free from the mind-clouding and paralyzing fear of people and circumstances.

- *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:5–7, ESV)*

18

The proper fear of God frees us to live the fulfilling life of submission to His lordship.

- *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.” (2 Corinthians 5:10–11, ESV)*

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Case study

- Counselor is a male in his 60's. He professes to be a Christ follower. He has been actively involved in churches for most of his adult life and has continued to be involved in his current church until recently.
- The counselee has, over the past few years become increasingly critical of other believers and quite vocal about their perceived transgressions. His criticisms are especially keen toward those who faithfully teach and preach God's Word.
- He has recently begun to back away from the fellowship of the church asserting that no one there is properly following God. He becomes increasingly bitter.

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Case study

- The counselee's wife has a solid walk with Christ but is becoming increasingly alarmed at her husband's behavior. She tearfully shares with him that she cannot go on like this and urges him to seek counseling.
- After a couple of sessions, the counselee reveals that he views God as a harsh judge. As a result, the counselee lives with cowering fear of this harsh judge.

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