

The Biblical Concept of Fear

Introduction

- A. In the Bible we are continually exhorted to give Jesus Christ His rightful place in our lives. This is directly related to "fearing God."
- B. Some types of fear will incapacitate a person while another type of fear will preserve a person's life.

I. The Definition of Fear.

The Bible describes fear as "retreating terror" in those who are not Christians or who do not have faith.

And he (Adam) said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because was naked; and I hid myself. Genesis 3:10

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death. Revelation 21:8

For the Christian, fear is not retreating terror but "the reverence of love."

And Moses said unto the people, Fear not; for God is come to prove you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. Exodus 20:20

For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. II Timothy 1:7

II. The Provision Concerning Fear.

The Bible teaches that the fear of "retreating terror" may be changed into "the reverence of love" through coming into a right relationship with God.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. I John 4:18

III. The Importance of Fear.

O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever! Deuteronomy 5:29

There was a man in the land of Urn, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and forsook evil. Job 1:1

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear Him. Psalm 103:11

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. II Corinthians 7:1

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the Gospel preached as well as unto them; but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Hebrews 4:1,2

And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work; pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. I Peter 1:17

IV. The Warning Regarding Fear*

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master; if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of Hosts unto you, O priests, that despise My name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised Thy name? Malachi 1:6

There is no fear of God before their eyes. Romans 3:18

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Romans 8:15

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebrews 2:14,15

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. I John 4:18

Conclusion

- A. To fear God is one of the highest commendations given by the Scripture.
- B. The test of Biblical fear – is found in daily obedience!

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