The Fear of The Lord

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**Foundational Scripture:** Deut. 10:12-13

**Intro**:

* The bible speaks quite a bit concerning the **Fear of the Lord** or fearing the Lord. The biblical narrative asserts that it is man’s fundamental obligation to practice this attitude towards His Creator and it is expected of God’s followers that they embody this mindset each day of their lives as evidenced by the Mosaic statements in Deuteronomy. The idea of fearing the Lord relates to having the utmost respect for Him or the showing the reverence which is duly deserved by Him as the Creator and sustainer of the world and its entities. There are many aspects to the **Fear of the Lord** which the bible illustrates but they can ultimately be grouped into two categories.
1. **The Fear of the Lord: The Beginning of Wisdom**
	1. The bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psa. 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10). We all seek a sense of higher learning and understanding but ultimately we cannot achieve this without coming to God in reverence and keeping His commandments with respect and seriousness.
	2. Knowing God and fearing the Lord, however, has the information we need to make it to Heaven and to avoid Hell. (Job 28:28; Prov. 1:7; 15:33). The most important and most influential bible characters are said to be full of wisdom implying their constant application of fearing the Lord (Solomon, Job, Jesus etc.).
	3. True knowledge and intelligence can never be reflected in an IQ test or any other worldly standard from man. Fearing God equips us with the wisdom to deal with the daily aspects of life but more importantly it equips us with the moral capability to do right and not wrong.
2. **The Fear of the Lord: Leads to Life**
	1. The wisdom we acquire from fearing God goes a long way. The proverbs of Solomon state that fearing the Lord is a fountain of life. It grants the insecure confidence. The unstable obtain protection. The dead/dying are rejuvenated with life.
	2. The average life expectancy of a human being is typically between 70-80 years. There are a variety of factors that affect that statistic and fearing the Lord is one of them (Prov. 10:27; 14:27). Those who are faithful disciples generally won’t be found perilous environments that breed high risk and death and thus life expectancy increases (16:6; 19:23).
	3. But even if God’s people should die younger than one would like or expect, they will achieve spiritual life, comfort and safety the likes of which are far more valuable than what we get on this side of eternity. There are benefits now and greater dividends to come.
	4. The children who fear the Lord will be protected by Him. He is our refuge and our strength and God knows there are times when we need Him so desperately but if our fear of Him is not where it’s supposed to be, we may be disappointed at the outcomes. (Prov. 14:26; 15:16; 23:17).

**Conclusion:** Everybody desires the need for wisdom. We like knowing things and how to maneuver through life. Everyone likes the idea of living and having more time with family, friends and other things. But none of these things are enjoyable and fulfilling without the Fear of the Lord. Life on earth is not always what we would like it to be but life in Heaven is everything this physical life will never be.. God’s word longs to be opened and learned from. Wisdom shouts in the streets but who will choose to answer? (Prov. 1:27-29).