



Key Notes

The fear of the Lord is a major theme in both Testaments, and it is the single most important quality a father can hand down to his children. But what exactly is the “fear of the Lord” anyway?

1. It is an attitude of the heart.

“Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!” Deuteronomy 5:29

2. It is a choice.

“Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord.” Proverbs 1:29

The fear of the Lord, then, is a personal choice of respectful love that makes you want to do the things that please God. It is not cringing fear, that would be respect without love. It’s also not irreverent flippancy, that would be love without respect.

The fear of the Lord is not the opposite of love. It is real love displayed by some specific qualities in a person’s life, qualities that display that they take God seriously. They avoid evil, have a tender conscience, are eager to know what pleases God and guard themselves against temptation.

What makes persecuted believers stand strong in their faith in the face of persecution?

They take God seriously.

What makes a single mother keep bringing her children to church week after week?

She takes God seriously.

What makes a businessman refuse a promotion that would take him away from his family and his church?

He takes God seriously.

What gives teens the courage to say no?

They take God seriously.

What moves a woman to give up a lucrative medical career to serve God in Nigeria?

She takes God seriously.

What makes a man get up early to read his Bible and pray?

He takes God seriously.

I think you get the idea.

Holy living is motivated by a godly fear that does not take lightly what was purchased at so great a cost.

Pastor Mike