

THE FEAR OF GOD

We all know that in order to accomplish a certain thing we must concentrate. It is of the utmost value to learn how to concentrate. To make a success of anything you must be able to concentrate your entire thought upon the idea you are working out. King Solomon spent his entire life pursuing happiness in every form. In the end he concluded that the most important aspects of a man's life was to, "***Fear God, and keep His commandments...***" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

The fear of the Lord is an attentive obedience to the LORD. A person who fears the Lord is aware of the importance of His commands and desires and so conforms his life to them. A person who fears the Lord allows God's thoughts and purpose to influence what he thinks, does and says. The absence of the fear of the Lord means he does not let those things shape his life

The proper fear of God is almost non-existent in today's society in particular in Celestial Church of Christ. Because of this lack of Awe and respect for their Creator, people's lives are filled with all kinds of fears, Anxieties and phobias. God desires us to experience a life of peace, not one filled with irrational fear.

This message is delivered in much love. I am deeply concerned for so many who are not ready for the soon return of **Jesus Christ**. Most will be caught as a thief in the night.

Our hearts overflow with grief for those who have turned away from God's Word. We are also concerned for those who have not turned away, yet will not incline their heart to understand and obey God's Word.

By **God's mercy**, this message is presented in the fear of the Lord and **with much love for our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as those who are lost.**

To love you, **is to tell you the truth.** To love you, is to teach the uncompromised Word. We hope you will receive this message and understand that it is given in the love of Christ.

Celestials "What does it mean to have the fear of God?"

For the unbeliever, the fear of God is to fear the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God ([Luke 12:5](#); [Hebrews 10:31](#)). For the believer, the fear of God is something much different. The believer's fear is reverence of God.

[Hebrews 12:28-29](#) is a good description of this

[Proverbs 1:7](#) declares, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge..." Until we understand who God is, and develop a reverential fear of Him, we cannot have true wisdom. True wisdom comes only from understanding who God is – that He is holy, just, and righteous. [Deuteronomy 10:12,20-21](#) records, "Now, Israel, Now Celestials what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him. He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen." The fear of God is the basis for our walking in His ways, serving Him, and yes, loving Him.

WHAT THEN IS THE FEAR OF THE LORD?

It is written, THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS *THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE*: BUT FOOLS DESPISE WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION-Proverb 1:7. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS *THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM*: AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY

IS UNDERSTANDING-Proverb 9:10. Few people these days really seem to comprehend the "holiness of God" and His perfect and equal justice. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE *BEGINNING* OF WISDOM: A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS: HIS PRAISE ENDURETH FOR EVER-Ps 111:10. This verse seems to be telling us several things, including—those who obey His commandments will have a good understanding of the Scriptures. Could this be saying, we might know a person understands of the Scriptures according to his obedience to the Word? Certainly, we know that those who do not know Jesus (the unsaved) have very little understanding, and that they do not obey the Gospel.

So far, God's Word has told us that the "FEAR OF THE LORD" is the "BEGINNING of KNOWLEDGE," also the "BEGINNING" of WISDOM." Note, it is the "BEGINNING" of these things. Many these days may think they have a good understanding of the Scriptures, but upon closer examination, we find they do not. **Could it be because they do not "FEAR THE LORD" as they should? Could it be because they do not obey the Scriptures? Or that their understanding is darkened? Could it be that they do not even know this is true? AND UNTO MAN HE SAID, BEHOLD, THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THAT IS WISDOM; AND TO DEPART FROM EVIL IS UNDERSTANDING**-Job 28:28. God's Word is telling us that the "fear of the Lord" is not only the beginning of wisdom—it is wisdom. Then the verse tells us that "to depart from evil is understanding." This is very much in harmony with Ps 111:10, which says, A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS. For surely, departing from evil is doing His commandments.

Proverbs further tells us, THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE INSTRUCTION OF WISDOM; AND BEFORE HONOR IS HUMILITY-Proverb 15:33. Thus, we have covered, the "FEAR OF LORD" is the BEGINNING OF WISDOM, it is WISDOM, and here it is the INSTRUCTION OF WISDOM. The verse concludes with BEFORE HONOUR IS HUMILITY. Indeed, we cannot be saved unless we humble ourselves before God and become as little children before Him. **It seems very few people will do this, and only a few shall enter heaven.**

AND WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE THE STABILITY OF THY TIMES, AND STRENGTH OF SALVATION: THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS HIS TREASURE-Isaiah 33:6. Note the words "WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE THE....STRENGTH OF SALVATION." We are reminded that God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge-Ref **Hosea 4:6**. And where is wisdom? It is in the fear of the Lord. Indeed, THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS HIS TREASURE. Because of the fear the Lord, we depart from evil. Repentance is departing from evil. Could we not say that fearing the Lord may be a key to repentance? THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS *CLEAN*, ENDURING FOR EVER: THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS ALTOGETHER-Ps 19:9. That bears repeating: THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN, ENDURING FOR EVER.

The Bible also tells us, THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TO HATE EVIL: PRIDE, AND ARROGANCY, AND THE EVIL WAY, AND THE FROWARD MOUTH, and DO I HATE-Proverb 8:13. We have seen that TO DEPART FROM EVIL IS UNDERSTANDING, and here, THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TO HATE EVIL.

God's wonderful Word tells us, that *IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS STRONG CONFIDENCE*: AND HIS CHILDREN SHALL HAVE A PLACE OF REFUGE-Proverb 14:26. Thus, may we also say that without the fear of the Lord, there is no strong confidence?

Learn to "**fear the Lord.**" The Bible assures us that in doing so, your wisdom and understanding of the Scriptures should increase. We have found that God's dealings with Israel in the Old Testament certainly cause one to "fear the Lord." We see through the Scriptures, how God deals with sin, how God deals with rebellion, and how righteous and equal His judgments are. Study the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

CELESTIANS, HOW CAN WE LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD?

This is a Question that needs an urgent answer. We may ask, "How can we learn to fear God?" MY SON,MY PEOPLE,CELESTIANS, IF THOU WILT RECEIVE MY WORDS (thus, a condition, you are to receive God's Word), AND HIDE MY COMMANDMENTS WITH THEE (so there is a second condition, hide His commandments with thee); SO THAT THOU INCLINE THINE EAR UNTO WISDOM (note, a third condition, incline your ear to wisdom), AND APPLY THINE HEART TO UNDERSTANDING (thus, a fourth condition, you are to apply your heart to understanding); YEA, IF THOU CRIEST AFTER KNOWLEDGE (Do you cry after knowledge, yet do not spend much time reading the Bible? If you cry after knowledge, put away the television, newspaper, and other books, and study God's Word), AND LIFTEST UP THY VOICE FOR UNDERSTANDING; IF THOU SEEKEST HER AS SILVER, AND SEARCHEST FOR HER AS FOR HID TREASURES; *THEN* SHALT THOU UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF THE LORD, AND FIND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD-Proverb 2:1-5. Perhaps, you believe you know the Bible; yet are we not all in various stages of learning? For THE LORD GIVETH WISDOM: OUT OF HIS MOUTH COMETH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING-Proverb 2:6. We are to cry after knowledge and search for her. Apply your heart to understanding as you search the Scriptures, and incline your ear to receive God's Word and obey Him. Surely then you will understand the fear of the Lord. Forget the party, turn off the television, put away the newspaper and other books, and open your Bible; study it day and night so that you may obey God's Word.

When you obey God, the Bible says, HAPPY IS THE MAN THAT FEARETH ALWAYS:

AS I BEGIN TO CLOSE THIS MESSAGE

It is written, **WHO AMONG YOU (LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS) THAT FEARETH THE LORD, THAT OBEYETH THE VOICE OF HIS SERVANT, THAT WALKETH IN DARKNESS, and HATH NO LIGHT? LET HIM TRUST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, AND STAY UPON HIS GOD-Isaiah 50:10.** Do you obey the voice of someone that is unsaved? O LORD, I BESEECH THEE, LET NOW THINE EAR BE ATTENTIVE TO THE PRAYER OF THY...SERVANTS WHO DESIRE TO FEAR THY NAME-Neh 1:11. STABLISH THY WORD UNTO THY SERVANT, WHO IS DEVOTED TO THY FEAR-Ps 119:38. THEN THEY THAT FEARED THE LORD SPAKE OFTEN ONE TO ANOTHER...AND THEY SHALL BE MINE, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS-Mal 3:16, 17. Do you fear the Lord? Are you really His? MOREOVER THOU SHALT PROVIDE OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE ABLE MEN, SUCH AS FEAR GOD....TO BE RULERS OF THOUSANDS, AND RULERS OF HUNDREDS, RULERS OF FIFTIES, AND RULERS OF TENS-Ex 18:21.

In conclusion, Celestials let us Dedicate our life to learning to have a proper fear God. Study His word, explore His creation, meditate on His instructions, learn to hate evil, and live a life founded on the reverence, awe, and respect for this Great Being who created and sustains the universe.

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