

Introduction: When I was a young boy I remember hearing a group of older men talking about visiting a younger man and putting the "fear of the Lord in him" (Psalm 36:1; Romans 3:18). Today society and even the church in general knows very little about the "fear of the Lord." We need to know and experience the "fear of the Lord." Isaiah 33:6 reveals the Lord's treasure which is the "fear of the Lord.". Do you want the Lord's treasure? Let us look at God's Word and learn about the "fear of the Lord."

1. DEFINING THE "FEAR OF THE LORD" (What is "fear of the Lord")

The book of Proverbs defines the "fear of the Lord" in two ways:

- A. Proverbs 8:13 = to hate evil
- B. Proverbs 1:7 (9:10; 15:33; Psalms 111:10) = instruction in wisdom and knowledge

Job 28:28 supports this very idea.

There are three essential ingredients behind the "fear of the Lord":

- 1. knowing who God is (His character i.e. "holiness" Isa. 2:10,19,21; 2 Cor. 7:1),
- 2. realizing God's position over your life (His authority, Eph. 5:21), and
- 3. following the directives of God for your life (His will and desire for your life Nehemiah 5:15; Acts 9:31, 2 Cor. 7:1).

2. DODGING THE "FEAR OF THE LORD" (Why should I fear the Lord?)

The consequences for not possessing the "fear of the Lord" is fourfold.

- A. Proverbs 14:27 = you will encounter the snares of death
- B. Proverbs 15:16 = you will experience trouble
- C. Proverbs 16:6 = you will not depart from evil
- D. Proverbs 23:17 = you will envy sinners

3. DEVELOPING THE "FEAR OF THE LORD" (How do I get "fear of the Lord?")

The "fear of the Lord" may be achieved by understanding the following points.

- A. Proverbs 1:29 (15:16; 2 Chron. 19:7; Eph. 5:21) = it is a choice
- B. Proverbs 2:4-5 = it must be diligently sought out
- C. Proverbs 15:33 (Psalms 34:11) = it is taught
- D. 1 Sam. 11:7 (2 Chron. 17:10; 20:29; 2 Cor. 7:1) = it is a conviction within the heart
- E. Isaiah 11:2 = it is produced by the Holy Spirit

4. DELIGHTING IN THE "FEAR OF THE LORD" (What benefits are associated with it?)

There are at least eight benefits.

A. Proverbs 1:7 (9:10) = introduces you to greater truth ("beginning")

B. Proverbs 10:27 = prolongs your days

C. Proverbs 14:26 = gives strong confidence

D. Proverbs 14:27 = is a foundation of life

E. Proverbs 16:6 = causes you to depart from evil

F. Proverbs 19:23 = brings satisfaction

G. Proverbs 24:4 = gives riches, honor, and life

H. 1 Sam. 11:7 = causes unity ("one consent")

Conclusion: "Fear of the Lord" is so important not only to daily life but also to ministry.

In regard to Proverbs 16:6 as applied to counseling, we help the individual take care of cleansing his or her sins, but do we ever actually get the individual to depart from the repeated temptation to sin again? The consequences of sin and keeping the individual from sinning again are equally important.