

GODLY FEAR IS NEEDED TODAY

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"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire." Heb. 12:28:& 29.

There are many verses in the Bible that teach the wisdom of Godly fear. The world in general thinks nothing of thumbing their nose at God. Many evil organizations are working to stamp out our designation as a Christian nation. Today's clergy has become top heavy on the idea of God's love. Our heavenly Father is not a push over who is dwelling way off yonder, before whom man can act like a spoiled teen, and do their own thing. We are accountable, and every one on earth will face the record of their actions. The sinning world uses God's name in cursing, while true believers should use it in hushed and obedient reverence. God is not like the many idols of religions modern followers, but a great, creating, person to whom all must give complete account of their lives. The final judgment will be a time of terror to the unsaved, and a time of reckoning to we who are saved. God and His will are the reason we are here and we better not take Him for granted, but serve Him with Godly fear. **(1). Fearing God Was Important In Old Testament Days:** *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."* Prov. 1:7. *"Oh fear the Lord ye his saints, for there is no want to them that fear him."* Psm. 34:9. If you want to be wise then you must fear God. The children of Israel repeatedly strayed, and disobeyed and God dealt very seriously with their sinning. His fire would fall and disease would spread, and snakes did bite, and known sin was not tolerated by God. It is very clear that even in our day God will not allow a believer to sin

without consequences now or ever. He is a loving father, yet can take us to the wood shed. I am not talking about a trembling panic today, but a holy respect, knowing we too can be punished for our earthly transgressions. Many of our problems are brought on by our own stubborn disobedience. Remember Old Testament saints did not get away with sin and neither will we. **(2). The New Testament Teaches Godly Fear:** *"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."* Phil. 2:12. (Webb translation), "As you behave yourself when preacher is there, even more watch your step when he is absent." New Testament saints are accountable for our actions now, but must build a record of obedience for which we will not be ashamed at the judgment. Our salvation is a gift from God, but the responsibility to serve Him is huge as our redeemed life develops. God will not tolerate our deliberate disobedience, or dishonesty in any area. Remember Ananias and Sapphira? God took both of their lives because they schemed and lied about money to the Holy Ghost. Salvation is by faith alone, but God will not tolerate sin that we sneak into developing years of our Christian experience. We are accountable for every action as our years pass by. We must work out that which has been given. God demands obedient performance of duty, and we should tremble if we deliberately disobey His will for us. **(3) The Attitude Of Reverence Demands Godly Fear:** *"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear."* Heb. 12:28. Even the heathen respect their idols with quiet worship. We certainly should have holy, adoring awe, in our worship of our Holy God. I am not talking about the funeral atmosphere of dead churches' but we serve a great God who controls us as we serve and

respect Him Why, *"For our God is a consuming fire."* Heb. 12:29. I suggest you stop the "God is my buddy" thoughts, and realize how serious it is to be a child of God. He is not a high = fiving God, but a mighty Creator who expects great things from His servants. We must live our lives with reverential fear, trying not to stir His displeasure, but gain His "well done" for our faithfulness. **(4). Even Jesus Had Godly Fear:** *"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared."* Heb. 5:7. Jesus though in the flesh, and already the Son of God, wept in submission, willing to face the sin of the world on His cross. He learned obedience by the things He suffered, and was willing to pay the price for our salvation. As a Son, He did not want to fail to carry out every part of the plan which the Father required for our redemption. Step by step He walked to fulfill every part of the will of the Father for Him. He could finally say it is finished, and so will we, but not yet. We must live our remaining days, and concentrate on His will for our lifetime actions. The Son of God feared His Father, and so should we as we seek to please Him, and carry out His will for each of us. **(5). Future Judgment Requires It:** *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad."* II Cor. 5:10. Every human that has walked on this earth, will be judged by Jesus Christ before God's throne. Every faithful deed will be rewarded, but every deception and disobedience will be revealed. This is a very sobering thought, and nothing in life can be hidden at the judgment. No lawyer will be there to argue away the guilt of your sins and the penalty for committing them. Believers have forgiveness for sins now, but sinners will face them later. For true saints there will be

reward, but we will face loss for disobedience. Anyway, we all need to remember we will have an accounting before God at the judgment. **(6). All Must Fear God:** *"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: Because it is written, be ye Holy: for I am Holy."* I Peter 1: 16&17. There is great reason as Christians to live under His control, and be faithful in His will for us. Life's hours should not be wasted, and time should be spent in doing eternal things. Any failures now can be forgiven, so put wrong things under the blood, and walk with diligence. Suffer the wrongs that come, and concentrate on what is right and pleasing to God. We who are saved must live our lives to the fullest, and rejoice in the many provisions of our dear heavenly Father. If we disappoint Him now I am sure we will be sorry when we kneel at His feet. *"And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."* I John 2:28. Oh, dear believer, may God help us so to live that when He comes for us, we will not be like an erring child run and hide. Keep faithful church attendance and daily reading of His Word, and a daily witness to others. Be holy and love not the world, and seek to be busy now in things that count for eternity. The judgment for the faithful will be glorious, but for worldiness one will suffer loss. For you dear unsaved friends who know not Christ, the judgment will be fearful, as bony fingers of your sin accuse you. It will be too late then to ask for forgiveness. Oh, raise up your heart and accept Christ as your Saviour now while there is yet time. Remember, *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* Heb. 10:31. You dare not continue to be an unbeliever for *"he that believeth not shall be damned."* Mark 16:16b. *"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."* Psa. 25:14.