

FEAR OF GOD – What does this mean? After humility, the next thing that must be acquired is the fear of God. It is through the fear of God that a life with God can begin. But what is this fear exactly? When used in the context of God, it usually means reverent fear but sometimes it can mean being plain scared to death. What we are really talking about is God's **sovereign rulership**, His power and authority. We are talking about His position as the one and only true living God. He is the King of kings and LORD of lords, the Creator God and Lord of all the hosts of heaven and earth, the all-powerful, all-present, all-knowing King of the universe and judge of every living thing. He is the one who makes all the rules, sustains all things with the power of His word, and will sit before us as judge at the time of judgment. This is why God is the sovereign ruler of all things and worthy of our fear. And even if someone refuses to acknowledge God's sovereign and universal rulership, it doesn't change the reality of who God is. Let's consider some Scripture; Biblically speaking, a fool is someone who is not only morally deficient but lives his life as though God does not exist. His behavior suggests there is no accountability in the world to come for his actions in this world. For a story that illustrates such a person, read I Samuel 25:2-39. Also read Psalm 14. More on this later.

references are from the N.I.V.

Genesis 1:1 > In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Job 1:1 > In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

Psalms 33:8 > Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere Him.

Psalms 76:7-9 > You alone are to be feared! Who can stand before You when You are angry? From Heaven You pronounced judgment, and the land feared and was quiet when You, O God, rose up to judge; to save all the afflicted of the land.

Proverbs 1:7 > The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 8:13 > To fear the LORD is to hate evil. I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 9:10 > The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 14:27 > The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

Proverbs 15:33 > The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Psalms 130:3-4 > If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O LORD who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

Psalms 103:11 > For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him.

Psalms 112:1 > Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in His commands.

Psalms 147:11 > The LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 > Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.