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# Unclaimed Wealth

The Key to God's Treasure-House

The Fear of the Lord

# **UNCLAIMED WEALTH**

**The Key to God's Treasure House**

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To my wife Teresa and children for their love and support

## **PREFACE**

A certain man travels by ship into a foreign country. The day to journey arrived so he made his way to the shipyard. Among the things he carried was a bag that contained crackers and cheese. He was greeted by the captain of the ship as he boarded and was eventually directed to his cabin.

The man noticed that three times a day, a large number of people would gather in a luxurious dining room. There, they would enjoy each other's company and feast on a sumptuous meal that was laid before them. The poor man looked through the windows of the dining room and walked back to his cabin. There he ate his crackers and cheese.

After traveling several days, the ship finally arrived at its destination. As the poor man was leaving the ship, the captain thanked him for traveling and asked why he never joined them in the dining room while they feasted. The poor man replied, "I did not have any money to pay for the meals." The baffled captain looked at him and said, "Sir, all the meals were included in the purchase of your ticket."

This story reminds me of the wealthy Christian who lives like the pauper. Even though "an abundant life" has been included in the gift of salvation, the Christian often lives like a pauper. Too often, our abundance of ignorance robs us of the abundance of God. God has opened His treasure-house to us.

**"The Fear of the LORD is a fountain of life..."**

(Pro 14:27)

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## UNCLAIMED WEALTH

Are you aware that the Bible includes thousands of promises that remain unclaimed? God's desire is to bless us beyond belief. He has good intentions towards us. He has lavished gift upon gift, blessing upon blessing, grace upon grace, yet all this wealth remains untouched by those to whom it belongs. We must appropriate and claim what He has graciously provided.

Note some of the promises made to those who "Fear the Lord.

Fear the LORD and ...

1. You will be empowered to withstand evil and depart from it. (Exod. 20:20)
2. It will be well with you and your children. (Deut. 5:29)
3. Your days will be prolonged & you will be preserved. (Deut. 6:2)
4. You shall be delivered out of the hand of all your enemies. (2 Kings 17:39)
5. You will become established and not be moved. (1 Chron. 16:30)
6. God will honor you. (Psa. 15:4)
7. God will reveal His secrets to you. (Psa. 25:14)
8. God will show you His covenant. (Psa. 25:14)
9. Goodness will be laid up for you. (Psa. 31:19)
10. The eyes of the LORD will be upon you. (Psa. 33:18)
11. The angel of the LORD will encamp round about you. (Psa. 34:7)
12. There will not be any lack. (Psa. 34:9)
13. You will receive a banner. (Psa. 60:4)
14. You will be given an inheritance by God. (Psa. 61:5)
15. Salvation will be yours. (Psa. 85:9)
16. God's great mercy will be yours. (Psa. 103:11)
17. God's pity will be yours. (Psa. 103:13)
18. God will give you meat. (Psa. 111:5)
19. Wisdom will be yours. (Psa. 111:10)
20. You will be blessed. (Psa. 115:13)

21. Your desires will be fulfilled. (Psa. 145:19)
22. God will hear your prayers. (Psa. 145:19)
23. God will take pleasure in you. (Psa. 147:11)
24. Knowledge will be yours. (Pro. 1:7)
25. You will be confident. (Pro. 14:26)
26. You will escape the snares of death. (Pro. 14:27)
27. You will be satisfied. (Pro. 19:23)
28. You will not be visited with evil. (Pro. 19:23)
29. Riches, honor and life will be yours. (Pro. 22:4)
30. It shall be well with you. (Ecc. 8:12)
31. The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in His wings. (Mal. 4:2)

We stop here for lack of space. These are but a few promises that belong to those who practice “The Fear of the LORD.” Every one of these verses has one thing in common. They all speak about the benefits reaped by any man, woman or child who Fears the Lord.

You may ask, “How can I appropriate and make these promises mine?” The secret is in a phrase found in each of the verses mentioned. These promises belong to those who will **DEVOTE** themselves **TO** and **PRACTICE** the “**Fear of the LORD.**”

“Are you saying that if I **DEVOTE MYSELF TO AND PRACTICE** the Fear of the LORD, I can expect to experience and enjoy all these promises?”

**ABSOLUTELY!** But before you can practice the “Fear of the LORD,” it is necessary to understand its meaning and then proceed to discover how it was practiced in the Bible.

## WHAT IS THE FEAR OF THE LORD?

What does it mean to “Fear the LORD” and why is this idea so important? A careful reading of Scripture will reveal that the “Fear of the LORD” refers to an attitude that affects our dealings with both creator and creature.

Moses in his writings defines the “Fear of the LORD” by giving examples of those things that should be avoided such as cursing the deaf, putting a stumbling block before the blind, showing disrespect toward or dishonoring the elderly, oppressing others, taking usury from a brother, ruling with rigor or violating the commandments of God. According to Moses, **one who fears God does not entertain or carry out actions that are prohibited by God’s moral Law.** (Lev. 19:14, 32; 25:17, 36, 43; Deut. 5:29)

King Solomon referred to the “Fear of the LORD” as **the hatred for and a departure from evil.** (Prov. 3:7; 8:13) He provided several examples of those things that we should reject, namely, pride, arrogance, the evil way and a froward mouth. Solomon records that the whole duty of a human being is to “Fear the LORD.” (Ecc. 12:13)

It is therefore safe to say that **the “Fear of the LORD” is an attempt to live according to God’s standard and law.** Why is it important to “Fear the LORD? There is good reason. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. (Psa. 111:10; Pro. 1:7) Solomon states that it is a fountain of life. (Pro. 14:27) The prophet Isaiah calls it a treasure. (Isa. 33:6) God inquires of His people through the prophet Malachi by asking. “If I be master, where is My fear?” (Mal. 1:6) He again declares, “I will come near to you in judgment ... who fear not Me.” (Mal. 3:5) As creator, God commands his creatures to hate evil and depart from it. His warning of judgment makes clear that He expects all to “Fear” Him by avoiding any violation of or lack of conformity to His Word. The Biblical alternative to the “Fear of the LORD” is judgment. The fear of God is not an option; it is a command.

“So, the **“Fear of the LORD” is defined as the rejection of evil and the keeping of God’s revealed standard.**” We are called to depart from evil and reject it. What is evil?” Evil and sin are the same. Evil is committed when someone breaks one of the Ten Commandments.

I think it is important to remember at this point. Keeping the moral law cannot justify us before God nor can it restore our standing before Him. Salvation is a gift made available by God by means of the work accomplished by Jesus Christ. The only way to find peace with God and enjoy eternal life is through repentance of sin and the acceptance of forgiveness provided by the sacrifice of Jesus. However, keeping the Ten Commandments will protect our relationship with God and will place us under an open heaven where His presence and blessing abound. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments as follows:

1. Love God
2. Love your Neighbor

The first four commandments teach us how to love God. The last six teach us how to love our neighbor. **The Fear of the LORD” involves doing two things as a Christian?”** You and I are responsible for **loving God** and **love our neighbor.** If you want to know how to love God, you must study the first four commandments. If you want to know how to love your

neighbor, you must understand the last six. Again, the fear of the Lord deals with a negative and a positive component.

Negative Component: Those who fear the Lord hate, reject and depart from evil.

Positive Component: Those who fear the Lord seek to align themselves to God's standard as found in the Ten Commandments. The content of those commandments include two general ideas: Love God and Love your neighbor.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE WHO FEARS THE LORD

What characteristics are evident in the life of someone who practices the “Fear of the LORD?” The Fear of God becomes evident in a person’s vertical and horizontal relationships. The **first area** affected by the fear of God is ones God-ward relationship. **Those who fear God have an intimate relationship with Him.** They love, cleave to, glorify and magnify Him. (Deut. 10:12; Luke 1:65) They demonstrate their fear of God by serving Him in sincerity and truth, observing to do all the words of His law and by obeying His voice. (Josh. 4:24; Deut. 28:58; 13:4) A person who fears God worships (Psa. 5:7) and declares His works. (Psa. 64:9)

The **second area** affected by the fear of God is ones man-ward relationships. We are commanded to be a companion of all those that fear God. (Psa. 119:38, 63; Pro. 1:29) The “Fear of God” is more than the empty declaration of a phrase; **it is exhibited by the believer in his or her proper treatment of others.**

## LEARNING TO FEAR THE LORD

How can I learn to “fear” the Lord? The scripture states that historically, men, women, children, and strangers gathered to learn to fear God through the study of Scripture. (Deut. 4:10). Men who were trained in the knowledge of God’s Word were assigned the responsibility of communicating knowledge that instilled a “Fear of the LORD.” (Deut. 17:19)

Men also learn the “Fear of the Lord” by enforcing the Word of God. (Deut. 21:21) Joshua states that it is learned from watching the hand of the LORD at work. (Josh. 4:24) Several passages indicate that, the LORD caused His fear to fall upon a people. (1 Sam. 11:7) The prophet Isaiah states that one of the attributes of the Spirit is the “Fear of the LORD.” (Isa 11:2) He also indicates that at certain times God makes someone of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD. (Isa. 11:3)

God puts fear in someone’s heart that they might not depart from HIM. (Jer. 32:40). Sometimes men are moved to fear because of all the goodness and prosperity God gives. (Jer. 33:9). There is even one example of a king who passes a decree enforcing the fear of God. (Dan. 6:26).

God expects all to fear HIM and judges those who do not. (Mal 3:5). The fear of God is said to be perfected in holiness. (2 Co. 7:1). We are encouraged to serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear. (Heb. 4:1). Our conversation is to be coupled with fear. (1 Pet. 3:2). The book of Revelations states that those who fear God will be rewarded. (Rev. 11:18). The mention of the “Fear of God” is also used in reference to the hour of judgment. (Rev. 14:7)

As we review the passages above, it is evident that the “Fear of the Lord” is a divine expectation and can also be acquired through our study of Scripture. In fact, a study of the Ten Commandments will provide us with a solid foundation of how it is that we can learn to “Fear the Lord.”

Again, the Fear of the Lord requires that we do two things. First, we are to hate and shun evil/sin. Second, we are to love God and our neighbor. The Ten Commandments define evil and sin. The Ten Commandments define what it means to love God and love our neighbor. A study of the Ten Commandments is indispensable to the practice of the “Fear of Lord.”

## **REWARDS REAPED BY THOSE WHO**

### **“FEAR THE LORD”**

Again, what benefits will those that “Fear the LORD” enjoy? The Bible does not hesitate to catalogue all the blessing that will be experienced by those who “Fear the LORD.” The following list describes the benefits reaped.

#### **Benefits of the Fear the Lord?**

1. You will be empowered to depart from evil. (Exod. 20:20)
2. It will be well with you and your children. (Deut. 5:29)
3. Your days will be prolonged & you will be preserved. (Deut. 6:2)
4. You shall be deliver out of the hand of all your enemies. (2 Kings 17:39)
5. You will become stable and not be moved. (1 Ch 16:30)
6. God will honor you. (Psa. 15:4)
7. God will reveal His secrets to you. (Psa. 25:14)
8. God will show you His covenant. (Psa. 25:14)
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19. Wisdom will be yours. (Psa. 111:10)
20. You will be blessed. (Psa. 115:13)
21. Your desires will be fulfilled. (Psa. 145:19)
22. God will hear your prayers. (Psa. 145:19)

23. God will take pleasure in you. (Psa. 147:11)

24. Knowledge will be yours. (Pro. 1:7)

25. You will be confident. (Pro. 14:26)

### **Conclusion**

The Fear of the Lord includes two actions:

1. Push away sin (any violation of God's moral law.)
2. Embrace God by learning and practicing

How to love God

How to love our neighbor

This study is not comprehensive, but I hope that it will spark some interest. The whole idea of the Fear of the Lord is too important to ignore.

## **OTHER BOOKS AND QUICK READS**

### **BOOKS**

The Narratives of Christ (Gospel)  
Is God Speaking? (Minor Prophets)  
God's Life-Changing Curriculum (An Agent of Change)  
Worship (In the New Testament)

### **QUICK-READS**

The Authority of the Believer  
Transforming Power  
Redeemed from the Curse (Entitled to the Blessing)  
Emotional Intelligence (Models: A Brief Review)  
Why He Came  
The Kingdom (13 Parables)  
Divine Transition  
Divine Expectation  
Unclaimed Wealth  
Times of Refreshing  
Unlocking God's Diary  
The House of James  
The Will of God (In James)  
The Pure Gospel (Galatians)  
Paul's Vision of God (Ephesians)  
The Journey

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