

## The Fear of the Lord!

FBCG – March 21, 2021 – Pastor Carl Harris

**Genesis 3:8-10 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was naked; so I hid."

Hebrew word for afraid is Yare' - affright, be made afraid, dreadful, put in fearful reverence, terrible act, frighten, to be afraid, dread.

**Isaiah 8:13 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread..

**Psalms 33:8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth **fear** the LORD; let all the people of the world **revere** him.

Hebrew word is "guwr" and it means to abide, assemble, turn aside from, to shrink, to be in awe, revere.

What are some benefits and promises that the fear of the Lord brings?

### Knowledge and Wisdom

- **Proverbs 1:7a (NIV)** <sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge..
- **Psalms 111:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

### Life, Rest and Reward

- **Proverbs 19:23 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup> The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.
- **Psalms 34:9-10 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. <sup>10</sup> The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

### Blessings for your Family

- **Proverbs 14:26-27 (NIV)** <sup>26</sup> He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. <sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.
- **Luke 1:50 (NIV)** <sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.
- **Psalms 128:1-6 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. <sup>2</sup> You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. <sup>3</sup> Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. <sup>4</sup> Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD..

## Growth, expansion and holiness

- **Acts 9:31 (NIV)** <sup>31</sup> Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.
- **2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

## Fear is Commanded for the Lord's followers

- **Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup> And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?
- **Jeremiah 10:6-7 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> No one is like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. <sup>7</sup> Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ask yourself this question: Do my behaviors and attitudes reflect that I have a healthy fear/reverence and esteem for the Lord? What would the Lord say about your response?

Do the fears that I have reflect that I am fearing and loving the Lord above all?

A good prayer to pray if seeking a healthy fear:

**Psalms 86:11-13 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. <sup>12</sup> I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. <sup>13</sup> For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.