

# Developing a healthy fear - Fear that's good! Part 1

*"So you must live in reverent fear of him (God) during your time here as "temporary residents." 1 Peter 1:17b*

*"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul." Deut 10:12*

*"Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom." Prov 9:10*

*"They have no fear of God at all." Romans 3:18*

## I. What does to fear God look like?

- i. More than respect – awe

*"Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king." 1 Peter 2:17*

- ii. More like a son or daughter's high regard for parent

- a. Appreciation for protection, provision, wisdom & care

- b. Receive discipline/correction, knowing it is for our good

- iii. Acknowledge he is the judge

*"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt 10:28*

## II. How do we develop a healthy fear of God?

1. Gain a deeper understanding of who He is

- a. **Knowledge – think about him**

*"God the Father knew you and chose you **long ago**" 1 Peter 1:2*

*"Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth...To whom can you compare God?...God sits above the circle of the earth. The people below seem like grasshoppers to him!...Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding." Isaiah 40:12-28*

- b. **Experience – draw near to him**

*"Come close to God and God will come close to you." James 4:8*

2. Increasingly appreciate what he has done for you

- a. He chose you

*"God the Father knew you and chose you..." 1 Peter 1:2a*

- b. Given you salvation – saved you

- i. **Made you holy** *"...his Spirit has made you holy." 1 Peter 1:2*

*"Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. You were cleansed from your sins..." 1 Peter 1:21-22a*

- ii. **Keeping an inheritance for you** *"...we have a priceless inheritance - an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you..." 1 Peter 1:4*

- iii. **Keeping you** *"And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see." 1 Peter 1:5*

- iv. **New life lasts forever** *"For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God." 1 Pet 1:23*

- c. Made you the envy of prophets *"This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you." 1 Peter 1:10*

- d. Given you an audience of angels

*"It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen." 1 Peter 1:12b*

- e. Remember the great cost to God

*"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. <sup>19</sup> It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." 1 Peter 1:18-19*