

The Fear of the Lord Perfects Holiness & Maturity

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (August 17, 2014)



Introduction: We live in a post-Christian world. People do not seem to have a healthy fear of the Lord. Last week we began a new series that revealed this may be happening for two reasons: 1) *We live in an age when people think God is dead.* 2) *Many Christians may see God as alive but they tend to shrink Him down to human size.* What we know from an unbiased study of Scripture is that God is worthy of fear! This morning we will notice how a healthy fear the Lord can lead us to holiness and maturity. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. The Church Needs to Fear of the Lord

A. The Prophets Feared the Lord

Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Jonah 1:9, 16, Isaiah 6:1-8

B. The Disciples Feared the Lord

Matthew 14:22-33, Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 4:35-41, Mark 5:1-20, Mark 5:25-34

C. The Church Feared the Lord

Acts 2:43, 5:5, 11, 26, 9:31, 10:2, 22, 35, 13:16, 26, 19:17, 23:10, 27:17, 29

II. The Fear of the Lord Perfects Holiness

A. The Fear of the Lord Motivates Holiness

Proverbs 3:7, Proverbs 16:6, Job 1:8, Job 28:28

B. The Fear of the Lord Activates Holiness

II Corinthians 7:1, Exodus 14:31, I Samuel 16:4-5, II Chronicles 19:7-9, Psalm 102:15

C. The Fear of the Lord Emancipates Holiness

Exodus 9:30, Deuteronomy 7:19, II Chronicles 20:29

III. The Fear of the Lord Perfects Maturity

A. The Fear of the Lord Leads to Mature Thinking

Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 9:10

B. The Fear of the Lord Leads to Mature Companionship

Genesis 3:1-19, Psalm 9:20, Deuteronomy 10:12-14

C. The Fear of the Lord Leads to Mature Living

Revelation 1:12-20, 22:17, 20

Conclusion: Would it make a difference if we prayed with fear and reverence every day? We have to remember who we serve. We bow before Him because He is GOD! Father! Creator! Judge of the living and the dead! Whom should we fear? Men or God? If you fear God, will you teach others to fear God and keep His commandments? If you do not fear God, don't wait until it's too late. One day EVERY knee will bow and EVERY tongue will confess. **Hebrews 10:30-31** says, "*The LORD will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*" May God help us to fear Him!