***The Fear of God***

***Rom 8:15*** *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

The spirit of bondage is associated with a slave mentality. A slave was never allowed to call the master of the house Abba. At any moment a slave could be cast out of the house. His right to stay in the house was conditional to his performance. A slave mentality toward God makes a man dread God because he is always surrounded with a sense of uneasiness. What if I displease the master?

Abba is the word framed by the lips of infants. It signifies or indicates the unreasoning sense of trust that a child has in his Father that is based on relationship.

The word fear has been translated from three principle words in the New Testament. The first one comes from the Greek word “*deilia.”* It is never used in a good way. It is associated with the spirit of fear and is connected to the spirit of bondage in **Romans 8:15**

* **The spirit of fear that brings bondage –** That which is caused by intimidation of the adversary-produces torment-bondage-based on law and punishment that comes with not measuring up-It is based on a sense of “awe”-we stand in awe of a tyrant-this fear is not mingled with love or affection, but is instead mixed with accusation. There is no way to meet the requirements of this kind of fear. It is connected to the Old Testament concept of God.

**It is used in the following scriptures:**

* + **2 Tim 1:7** God has not given us a spirit of fear [cowardice, timidity] but of power [miraculous power] love and a sound mind [self control]
	+ **John 14:27** Let not your heart be troubled, **[stirred up, agitated]** neither let it be afraid

If you are experiencing fear that brings agitation, it is not from God.

There two other words that have been translated fear. These two words, *“phobos”* and *“eulabia”* are similar in that their definitions include opposites. They can mean anything from extreme terror and alarm to reverence. When we hear the words “*greatly fear the Lord,”* we almost always think of the kind of fear that makes us want to shrink back in alarm. The scriptures have to be carefully scrutinized in order for us to get a clear picture of what the fear of the Lord means.

* + **1 Pet 1:17-19,** Pass your time here in fear if you believe that God judges according to every man’s work. None of us will measure up. This is based on the Old Testament concept of meeting the requirements of the law in order to please God.
	+ **Luke 13:1-5** If you believe that bad things happened to people

because they were sinners, all of us need to walk in fear!

Then we have scriptures that lead us to the opposite definition, fear that is based on reverence or an “*unreasoning sense of trust”* that comes with the relationship that we have with our Father.

* **Spirit of Adoption-Godly fear-that cries Abba Father** This kind of fear is motivated by reverence. Reverence is having respect for one that is motivated by love. It produces an unreasonable sense of security and trust that is free from fear. As powerful as God is, His one desire is to set man free and make provision for him. It has its roots in the grace of God.
* ***1 John 4:18*** *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love*

 ***Torment*** penal infliction, punishment based on not meeting a set of requirements

 If torment is connected to your fear, it is not of God.

* ***Isaiah 54:14*** *In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror;**for it shall not come near thee.*

 **oppression** a sense of heaviness caused by the imposition of unreasonable burdens

 **terror** a sense of ruin or doom

* + **1 Peter 2:17** Fear God

 **21-23** follow the example of Jesus who committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.

Judgment is another word that has opposite definitions and when we read this word, we almost always assume that it means we will be rewarded, or punished by God based on our actions.

 The definitions for judgment based on Strong’s Concordance: (Subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension a *tribunal*; by implication *justice* (specifically divine *law*): - accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment.

**Psalms 9:7-9** God judges us in righteousness according to divine law. He hides our weakness under the shadow of his strength.

**Psalms 9:16** It is not God that causes us to experience bad things when we don’t measure up. We are snared by the work of our own hands.

* + ***Philippians 2:12-13*** *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**for it is God that works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure.*

 ***NIV V 13*** *[Not in your own strength] for it is God who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.*

This verse sounds like opposites if our understanding of the fear of the Lord is wrong. He is saying, work out your salvation out of your unreasonable sense of trust in your Father. Place your confidence in Him.

* + ***Acts 9:31*** …walking in the fear of God and the comfort of the Holy Ghost…

The Holy Ghost exactly represents the Father. **John 16:13-15** It sounds like this verse is saying opposite things unless we interpret the fear of God to mean having an unreasonable sense of confidence in the Father.

Next we have several examples where people were filled with fear and amazement towards God:

* + **Luke 5:18-26** They were all amazed and filled with fear when Jesus said, which is easier, thy sins be forgiven, or take up your bed and walk.
	+ **Luke 7:14-16** There came a fear on all and they glorified God.
	+ **Luke 1:30** Fear not, you have found favor with God.
	+ **Psalms 8:4** Who is man that thou art mindful of him?

God is capable of everything. He could be a sovereign God who controls our lives and punishes us with sickness and disasters when we don’t measure up. But, as powerful as he is, he chooses to want a personal relationship with man**.** He chooses to share His glory with man. He chooses to set man free from his limitations by filling him with himself. Isn’t that amazing!

Godly fear is initiated by God and it involves coming to an understanding of God’s character and nature and how he sees things.

* **Psalms 19:1-11** The fear of the Lord is clean and the judgments **[divine law]** righteous altogether
* **Isaiah 11:1-5** The Spirit of the Lord will make us of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. God sees everything through His righteousness.

Before Jesus could have compassion on people and represent his father, he had to have an understanding of that unreasonable sense of confidence that his father wanted him to have in him. Before we can correctly represent the father, we must have that same sense of trust and reverence. **Isaiah 50:4**

* **2 Peter 1:3** God has given man everything that pertains to life and Godliness. Man realizes these things when he begins to see that God has called him to a position of glory and honor.

Those who lack an understanding of God’s ways and nature have un-godly fear.

* **Romans 3:17-20,28** There is no fear of God, they don’t know his way of peace
* **Isaiah 29:13** Their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men

We filter the scriptures according to the understanding we have of God’s character. Upon first glance, it Hebrews 3: seems to be saying that God is angry and full of wrath because the people do not know His ways.

***Heb 3:8*** *Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*

***Heb 3:9*** *When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.*

***Heb 3:10*** *Wherefore I was grieved* ***[suffer mental anquish, sorrowed]*** *with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.*

***Heb 3:11*** *So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)*

***Heb 3:12*** *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*

If we break it down and supply the definitions of key words, a different picture comes into view.

**Hebrews 3:10**They err **[roam from safety or truth, or virtue, to wander]** in their hearts, they have not known my ways

When people do not know God’s ways, they roam from a position of truth and they begin to experience God through condemnation and fear. They lose their sense of confidence that God will take care of them. God’s desire is that His sons and daughters walk in the safety of the truth. When they stray from this position of safety, God is grieved [suffers sorrow] because as a “Daddy,” He hates to see his children suffer and He knows that they will not enter into “His rest” when they do not know His ways. God can’t go against divine law. God’s ways work, man’s ways don’t.

**Heb 3:11 wrath** *desire, a longing for* (as a *reaching* forth or *excitement* of the mind), that is, violent *passion* (*ire*, or [justifiable] *abhorrence*); by implication *punishment:* - anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath.

**3:17 grieved** (to *be* *vexed* with something irksome); to *feel* *indignant* *at:* - be grieved with. **Dictionary** pained, suffering sorrow

***Heb 4:9*** *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

***Heb 4:10*** *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

***Heb 4:11*** *Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief*.

**Hebrews 4:12-15** God sent Jesus to pave the way for us to have a “Daddy, Father” relationship **[reverence]**, not a servant, slave relationship that is subject to terror.

***Heb 4:15*** *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

***Heb 4:16*** *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Daddy wants us to run to Him because He wants to help us. No matter where we find ourselves, if we run boldly to him, we can expect him to act with mercy and compassion.

The “*fear of the Lord”* is his treasure. The true wealth of God lies in his character and nature.

***Isa 33:6*** *And wisdom* ***{Holy Ghost inspired}*** *and knowledge* ***{Holy Ghost revelation knowledge}*** *shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.*

The fear of the Lord is our treasure because we are God’s most treasured possession. We are His inheritance.

**1 Kings 8:51** We are his interitance-He is building himself a house with the lively stones of man

**Jesus went about Doing Good**

**And Healing all that were Oppressed of the Devil**

 **Acts 10:38**  How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing **[cure, heal, make whole]** all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

 **Oppress**

1. To load or burden with unreasonable impositions; to treat with unjust severity, rigor or hardship; to oppress one by compelling him to perform unreasonable service. 2. To overpower; to overburden; as, to be oppressed with grief. 3. to sit or lie heavy on; to exercise dominion against

 **Joh 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

 Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn **[call into question, point out faults and assess guilt]** the world; but that the world through him might be saved **[deliver, protect, heal, make whole]**.

 **Isa 14:24** The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, *so* shall it stand:

 Isa 14:25 That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke **[mark of servitude, bondage, slavery]** depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.

 **Isa 14:26** This *is* the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this *is* the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

 **Isa 14:27** For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? and his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

 Jesus came to reverse the oppression that came from the devil. That is the same as salvation. Salvation is to be set free from the oppression of the enemy.

 The enemy corrupted the tree-divided the component parts from the source-and caused a sense of nakedness and shame so that man felt unworthy in God’s presence-he undressed man-separated him from his covering-Psalms 91-

 Jesus spoiled principalities. He exposed them for what they were. He exposed the nakedness of principalities.

***Colossians 2:15*** *And having spoiled* ***[to undress or strip, to deprive of authority, to take away rights]*** *principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

**Isaiah 61:1-3** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me…to proclaim libery to the captives

**1 John 4:17** As Jesus is so are we in this world

We have been called to do the same. **2 Timothy 2:25-26** Instructing those that oppose **[to set oneself opposite]** themselves that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil

We were created in His image to bring forth after His kind. The devil distorts God’s kind by causing us to be self conscious rather than God conscious.