

## Doctrine of Fearing God

1. The *Bible* speaks of those who possessed a fear of God.
  - Joseph feared God. *Genesis 42:18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:*
  - The leaders of Israel feared God. *Exodus 18:21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:*
  - Job feared God. *Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?*
  - Wise believers fear God. *Psalms 66:16 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.*
  - A dying thief feared God. *Luke 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?*
  - Devout Jews feared God. *Acts 13:16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.*
  
2. Life will turn out well for those who fear God.
  - *Ecclesiastes 8:12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:*
  
3. Cultivating a fear of God is part of the duty of every person.
  - *Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*
  - *1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*
  
4. Why individuals should fear God is revealed: there is coming an hour of ultimate judgment.
  - *Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

5. The heart that has become gospel hardened in sin must learn to fear God. This can be done in the following manner.

- Pray for the new birth. Ask God to convert the heart, and give a new heart of flesh that quivers to the divine touch, and responds to the divine will, because the holy laws are written on the conscience.
- Ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit who has been promised upon request. *Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*
- Reflect upon the biblical judgments on nations, and individuals. *Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
- Read gospel sermons on this topic, such as Jonathan Edwards' *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*.

*"Your wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead, and to tend downwards with great weight and pressure towards hell; and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of hell, than a spider's web would have to stop a falling rock. Were it not for the sovereign pleasure of God, the earth would not bear you one moment; for you are a burden to it; the creation groans with you; the creature is made subject to the bondage of your corruption, not willingly; the sun does not willingly shine upon you to give you light to serve sin and Satan; the earth does not willingly yield her increase to satisfy your lusts; nor is it willingly a stage for your wickedness to be acted upon; the air does not willingly serve you for breath to maintain the flame of life in your vitals, while you spend your life in the service of God's enemies"* (from *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*).

6. Remember that by fear of the Lord the soul will become separated from sin. This becomes a great motive to cultivate fear of God.