

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil." Proverbs 16:6 KJV



Men will avoid what frightens them. Most would not face a lion unarmed. It is good to teach your children of the invisible omnipotent God. Jesus said, *"Suffer the little children to come unto me."* There is no all-knowing Santa, but there is an omniscient God. *"Thou knowest my downsitteing and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, Thou knowest it altogether."* Men do not fear God, because they have not been taught of Him. To "see" Him one must view Him through the lens of faith. *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen. Faith cometh by...the Word of God."* We will fear God if we see all that He is in His Word through faith. His mercy, grace, love, and wrath, no one greater than the other, because each is a perfect attribute of a perfect God! Those who do not live in reverent fear of God do not see Him. *"Our God is a consuming fire. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God."* Sin does not frighten us, because God does not frighten us. A child may know and believe their father loves them, but will cower in fear if disobedient! (Been there, done that!) Dad's wrath eclipsed my fear of an eleven foot caiman when I was twelve. I got Dad's new frog gig stuck in its neck trying to spear it. (Saving ammo) I wasn't letting go! Not an option! Fear was non-existent! The caiman was just an irritating obstacle! (A pretty lively one!) Dad told me not to lose that gig! It was my only thought! I did not lose the gig or the caiman. (Went for a wild ride, though!) I found strength (and yells) I didn't know I had! Dad ended up cutting it out of his neck after "we" (Dad) killed it. We would not find it so hard to obey God if we feared Him more. Satan convinces us our hard knocks are "just a part of life" when the Word of God says, *"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief."* Most of our "hard knocks" are a direct result of ignorance or disobedience. Either God's Word is ALL true or He is a liar. Which is it? We affirm our faith with our lips, but our life demonstrates that *"our heart is far from Him. We...know that we know Him, IF we keep (obey) His commandments."* We would *"abstain from all appearance of evil"* if *"the fear of the LORD"* was continually before our eyes through faith!

Oh, let me ne'er forget, Thy wrath in negligence,
That I may oft find joy, in Thy deliverance;
By grace my spirit lives, Thy love preserves my soul,
And let Thy fear protect, direct, and make me whole! -CGP

Sin holds no allure for those who truly fear the LORD. We do not fear sin's "dark," because we do not fear the invisible God. Children fear the dark, because their imagination conjures up all kinds of horrific monsters. The fear of the LORD eclipses all other fears through fearless obedience. If I fear God, I will fear nothing else! *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear NO evil for Thou art with me."* Even the fear of death vanishes in His presence!

"Yea, if thou criest (study) after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice (pray) for understanding; If thou seekest (meditate) her as silver, and searchest (diligent) for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of His mouth (His Word) cometh knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:3-6 KJV