



20 – 26 Jan, 2019

Fear of the Lord, part 2

**‘Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand’ Isaiah 41:10**

The Fear of the Lord

- † **Fear may be fearing the Lord, which is the good fear, or fearing humans, which is the bad fear**
- † ***‘There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear’ (1 Joh 4:18a).***
How can we then fear God, Who is perfect love?
- † **Fearing God is considering Him above all**

Fearing the Lord; the Good fear (Psa 34:9-14)

- † **The servant of the Lord fears only his Master**
- † **Good fear is built on putting one’s trust in the Lord**
- † **It is a different fear than the wrong fear, *‘You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!’ (Jam 2:19).***
Unbelievers carry this wrong fear (Rom 1:18; Heb 10:31)
- † **God fearing people are those Who keep His Word**
- † **They are successful because their fear of God saves them from caving into their sinful nature**
- † ***‘The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death’ (Pro 14:27)***
- † **This leads to God’s will to be fulfilled in their lives; *‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ Jer 29:11***
- † **The ultimate example of fear and perfect love working together is Jesus Christ; He warned us to fear God and not men; He never compromised (Luk 12:4-5)**

Bad fear

- † **Bad fear is**
 1. **fear of the unknown**
 2. **fear of death**
 3. **fear of the power of the evil forces**
 4. **fear of public opinion**
- † **It is the kind of fear that the Apostles felt at the time of the Crucifixion of Jesus and it kept them from following Christ in His Passion**

- † It stops us from taking risks; it encourages us to live in a timid fashion, refusing to leave our comfort zone, never able to fully trust in God's care for us
- † It is a sign of lack of faith and of lack of trust in God
- † *'For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind' 2 Tim 1:7*
- † Bad fear is the opposite of faith. God wants us to walk by faith, and Satan wants us to walk by fear so that we drown **(Mat 14:22-36)**
- † Bad fear begins with a thought and where the mind goes, one follows

Putting things into perspective (Gen 6:9-22)

- † When we fear the Lord in the first place, we will defeat the devil and his ways
- † The devil can only tempt us and frighten us but he has no power over us
- † God and the devil are not equal powers playing with humanity a chess game
- † Fear God and the devil will fear you; *'Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you' (Jam 4:7)*
- † Jesus said, *'Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you' (Luk 10:19)*

Faith in Christ tells us not to fear the future, the circumstances, people, or death

Fear of God

- † is the beginning of wisdom *(Pro 9:10)*
- † keeps you from doing wrong *(Exo 20:20)*
- † is for your good and your survival *(Deu 6:24)*
- † enables you to consider and declare what God has done for you *(Psa 64:9)*
- † is rewarded with mercy *(Luk 1:50)*
- † gives you courage *(2 Cor 5:6-11)*
- † perfects you in holiness *(2 Cor 7:1)*
- † allows you to yield to others *(Eph 5:21)*
- † will be rewarded *(Rev 11:18)*

Do not fear because God

- † fights for you *(Deu 3:22)*
- † delivers you from the hand of your enemies *(2 Kin 17:39)*
- † will not fail or forsake you *(1 Chr 28:20)*
- † will save you *(Isa 35:4)*
- † is God. He will strengthen, help, and uphold you *(Isa 41:10)*
- † provides for you *(Jer 5:24)*
- † sees you as valuable *(Mat 10:31)*
- † has adopted you *(Rom 8:15)*

Fear of the Lord and Faith

- † *'By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith' (Heb 11:7)*
- † Noah had faith as the first principle, fear as the moving force and obedience as the gracious fruit
- † Many years preaching through his work, and no converts! Many years building a ship, and yet no water to float it! Many years warning people that God is about to destroy them, and yet no flood! Worldly speaking, the good man's life is a failure. No doubt wise folks of this world said of him, 'He is a good old man, but he is uncharitable, and has become an alarmist'
- † The outcome of Noah's fear (*Heb 11:7*)
 - He was saved and he saved his family
 - He condemned the world
 - He became heir of the righteousness

Bibliography

1. *Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for all Walks of Life*, by Vassilios Papavassiliou, (Indiana, Ancient Faith Publishing, 2013), Kindle Edition
2. *Ascending the Heights: A Layman's Guide to the Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by Father John Mack, (California: Conciliar Press, 1999)
3. *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by John Climacus, (New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982)
4. *Faith and the Fear of the Lord* – Charles Spurgeon;
<https://www.hopefaithprayer.com/faith-fear-lord/>

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies' 2 Kings 17:39

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him

8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Church and its unity in prayer

قانون الإيمان

نؤمن بإله واحد، الأب ضابط ال كل
خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
له الجوهر نفسه مع الأب
الذي به كان شيء
ذاك الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر
ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السموات وتجسد متأنساً
بالروح القدس من مريم العذراء
وصلب عنا في عهد بيلاطس بنطيطوس
وتألم وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث
كما في الكتب وصعد إلى السموات
وجلس عن يمين الأب ويجيء بمجد
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
ولن يكون لملكه نهاية
وبالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب
المسجود له والممجّد
مع الأب والإبن
الناطق بالأنبياء
وبكنيسة واحدة مقدسة، جامعة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة
لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الموتى
وحياة الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
لنكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
خبزنا الضروري للحياة أعطنا اليوم
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا
كما نغفر نحن أيضاً
للمذنبين إلينا
ولا ندخلنا في تجربة
لكن نجنا من الشرير
لأن لك الملك والقدرة والمجد
إلى الأبد
أمين