

The Fear of the Lord

Many times in the Bible we run into the phrase “the fear of the Lord.” At least this is how the King James Version translates it. Other translations—more modern ones—tend to use the word “reverence.” So which should it be? The two words have significantly different meanings.

Do we really understand the term “the fear of the Lord?” While many may say, “yes,” to this; they often disagree among themselves as to what it should mean. Many of these translations (if they are honest), put a note in the margin saying that its literal meaning is fear.

So why then translate it “reverence”? If it means something else, why are they translating it this way? Are they attempting to re-write scripture to make it say what is more politically correct for modern times? If the note in the margins of many Bibles says it literally means “fear” why don’t we translate it that way?

Many years ago I did not understand how we could fear God and still have a relationship with Him. Perhaps, I thought, it really did mean reverence.

It was not until the Lord began to deal with me about worldliness that I began to understand what fearing God really meant. My understanding was enlightened when the Lord rebuked me for not obeying him at one point. He pointed out that I was “in fear of man,” or feared what man thought or would say to me if I had done the Lord’s bidding.

In other words, I had a fear of man and therefore did what man thought was best. After all, what would man think of me if I did something he opposed, or thought was crazy?

The fear of God is the same. If we fear God, we will be concerned about what God thinks, and what He would say or do if we did not do His will. This is the “fear of the Lord.” We must learn to discipline ourselves to be concerned only with what He thinks and wills. Then we will be truly fearing Him, and not man.

This type of fear will not hinder our relationship with Him, but will instead produce and stronger relationship than we have ever had before.

Articles, books, prophecies, and other materials are available from the web site, The Prophetic Word: prophetic-word.org

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