

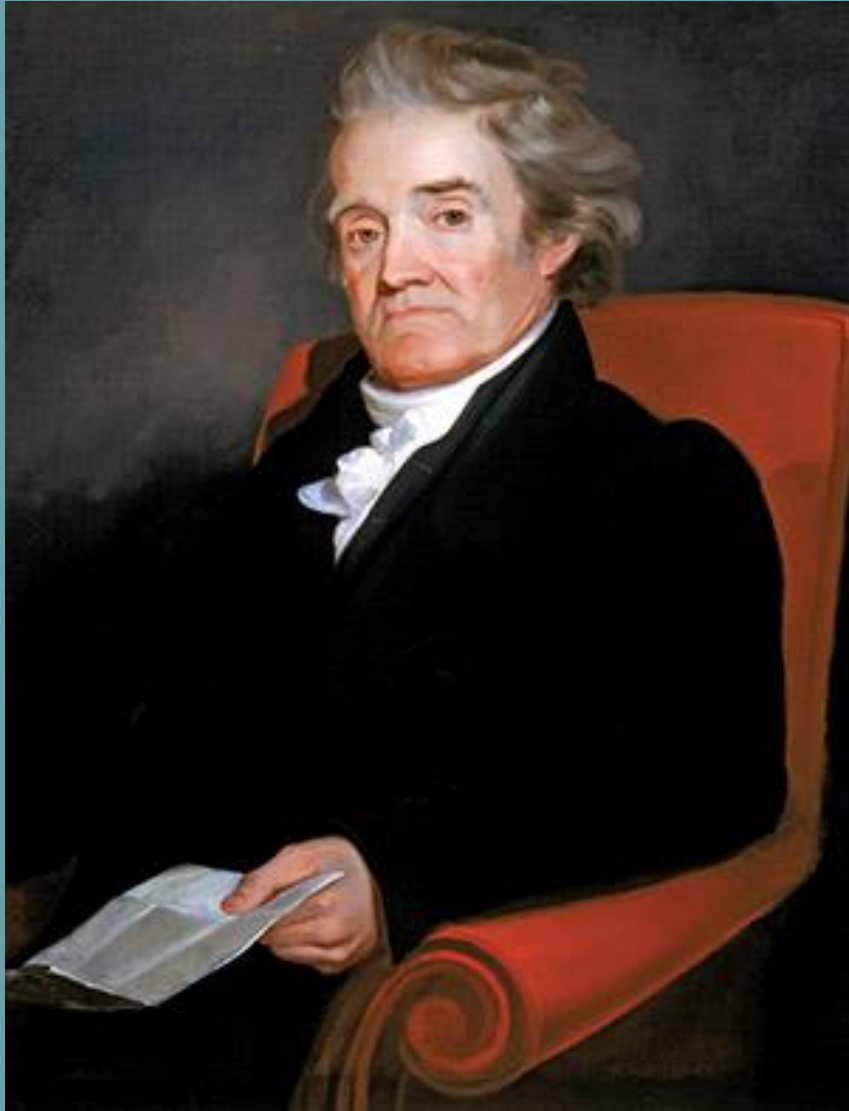


**NOW FEAR THIS**

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

Exodus 20:20 NIV84

# **DESCRIPTION & EXPLANATION**



*A painful emotion or passion excited by an expectation of evil, or the apprehension of impending danger. Fear expresses less apprehension than dread, and dread less than terror and fright. The force of this passion, beginning with the most moderate degree, may be thus expressed, fear, dread, terror, fright.*

**WHAT IT IS NOT**

Slavish fear is the effect or consequence of guilt; it is the painful apprehension of merited punishment.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Romans 8:1 NIV84

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

1 John 4:18 NIV84



Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no  
evil, for you are with me; your rod and  
your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4 NIV84

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 NIV84

**WHAT IT IS**

“a religious consciousness, a reverential awe of God, that directs the way one lives.”

Garland, D. E. (1999). 2 Corinthians (Vol. 29, pp. 269–270). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

“Holy love and hope are principles vastly more efficacious upon the heart, to make it tender, and to fill it with a dread of sin, or whatever might displease and offend God; and to engage it to watchfulness, and care, and strictness, than a slavish fear of hell.”

Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections*

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 26:3-5 NIV84

He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Amaziah had done. He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.

2 Chronicles 26:1-5 NIV84

Humility and the fear of the Lord  
bring wealth and honor and life.

Proverbs 22:4 NIV84



Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the Lord. “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

Isaiah 66:2 NIV84

- Trust
- Obedience
- Reasonableness
- Mercy
- Trustworthiness
- Honesty
- Allegiance
- Loyalty
- Walking with God

- Loving God
- Serving God
- Listening to the word
- Faithfulness
- Devotion
- Ruling or governing well
- Shunning evil

**WHY FEAR GOD**

- Murder, abusing and mistreating others
- Destruction, short life, turmoil and trouble
- Heartless, ruthless
- Leads to idolatry

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

Exodus 20:20 NIV84

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 7:1 NIV84

I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11 NIV84

But encourage one another daily,  
as long as it is called Today, so that  
none of you may be hardened by  
sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13 NIV84



The Lord delights in those who fear Him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Psalm 147:11 NIV84

The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

Deuteronomy 6:24 NIV84

- Prosperity
- Wealth
- Care
- Blessing!
- Knowledge

- Wisdom
- A fountain of life
- Abundant life
- Contentment
- Honor

**HOW DO WE GROW  
IN FEARING GOD?**

Why, O Lord, do you make us wander  
from your ways and harden our hearts  
so we do not revere you?

Isaiah 63:17 NIV84

Now, brethren, more or less these [sins] are true in us...Have we a due sense of [our failings]? or can we walk with boldness and confidence, peace and undisturbedness in our minds day and night, though these things be upon us?

John Owen

If so, we are in some measure hardened from the fear of God. The fear of God hath not its proper work upon us, which would keep us deeply sensible of these things, deeply afflict us for them, keep us in an abhorrence of them, and make us watchful against them night and day; and not suffer vain thoughts to come and go without spiritual conflicts; nor inordinate affections to the world, without wounds given to it by the Spirit of God. If it is not so with us, our hearts are hardened from the fear of God.

John Owen

I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me.

Jeremiah 32:40 NIV84



**IT IS TO BE LEARNED**

He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.

2 Chronicles 26:5 NIV84

Come, my children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Psalm 34:11 NIV84

Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 NIV84

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,

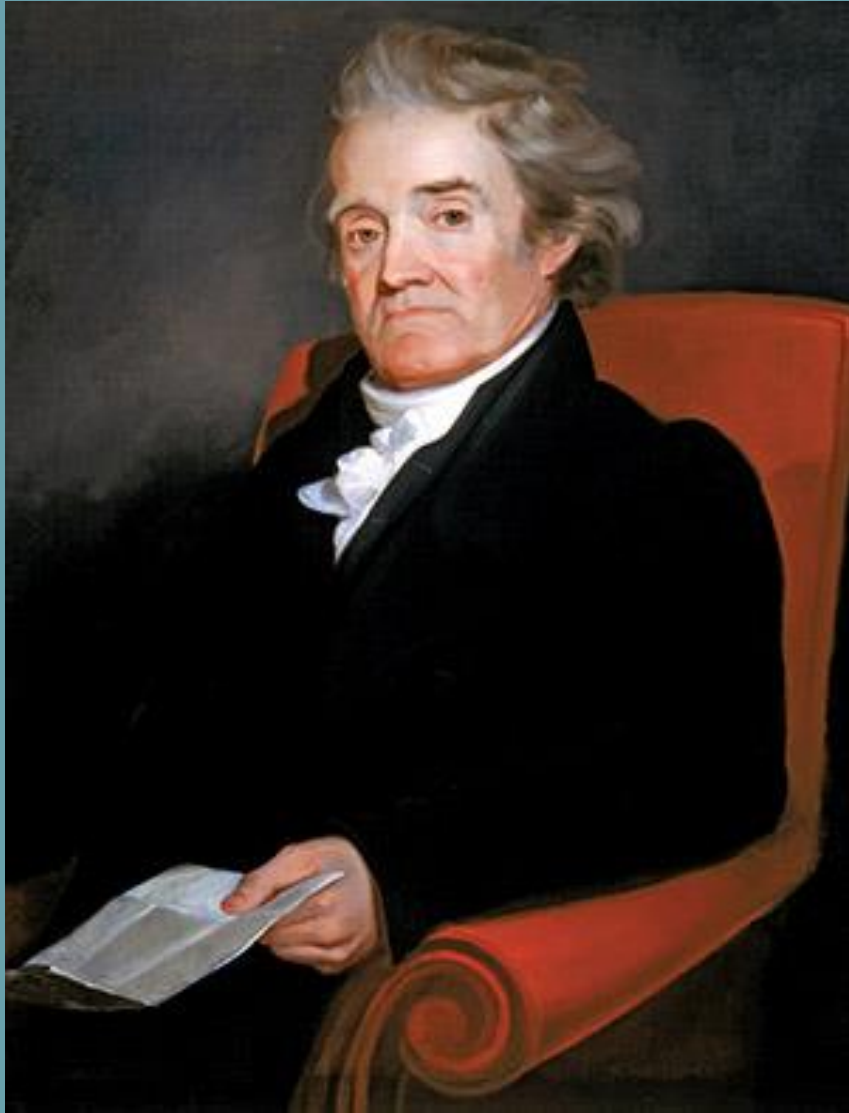
Proverbs 2:1-6 NIV84

and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:1-6 NIV84

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I  
will walk in your truth; give me an  
undivided heart, that I may fear  
your name.

Psalm 86:11 NIV84



“In good men, the *fear* of God is a holy awe or reverence of God and his laws, *which springs from a just view and real love of the divine character,* leading the subjects of it to hate and shun every thing that can offend such a holy being, and inclining them to aim at perfect obedience.”



“It is to be observed that Abraham, Moses, Isaiah and the Christians in Acts did not study, fret, or figure how to attain to the proper attitude. Their response to God was instinctive, instantaneous, unpremeditated. It was not the result of introspection; it was the result of ***seeing God***... From this it may be inferred that if we wish to have a proper attitude before God, we should cease to study attitudes and, instead, seek and study God...

Gordon H. Clark, *I and II Peter*

... that sure way of coming to know God is the study of the revelation of himself which he has made to us. Holy Scripture is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. In the scriptures, and in them alone, do we have a clear and accurate concept of God. Our duty, then, is to study them diligently, carefully noting the attributes of God, the distinctions of his persons, particularly the person of the Son, and also all God's works of Providence.

Gordon H. Clark, *I and II Peter*

When we thus come to know God, then we, like Abraham, will naturally have a proper attitude before him. It will not result from a subjective study of our emotions, but from an accurate knowledge of God himself.”

Gordon H. Clark, *I and II Peter*

“For as a man drinketh good doctrine into his soul, so he feareth God. If he drinks it in much, he feareth him greatly; if he drinketh it in but little, he feareth him but little; if he drinketh it not in at all, he feareth him not at all.”

John Bunyan, *The Fear of God*