



☁ The Bible addresses the concept of the fear of God over 300 times. **When you think about that word “fear” what comes to your mind?**

To fear God isn’t as much about terror and horror as it is about encountering God as He really is and then to lovingly reverencing Him in awe and respect. **Fearing God is “the _____ of wisdom, and the _____ of the Holy One is understanding.”** (Proverbs 9:10)

AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD...

☰ **God is holy. That means He is _____.** God is in a class all to Himself. He has everything and “**needs _____.**” (Acts 17:24-25) There is “**_____ like God.**” (Psalm 86:8-10)

God is loving. The Holy God is also a Loving God. **He is a “_____”** (Acts 17:25). “**_____ good gift**” is from Him. (James 1:17)

⚙ **Why use a word like fear to describe our relationship with Him?** Because to truly know God, **we must be _____,** and that only occurs in encountering something much greater than ourselves. (Luke 5:5-11)

“The fear of God implies the constant consciousness of relation to God...The first thought of the godly man in every circumstance is God’s relation to him and it, and his and its relation to God. That is God-consciousness and that is what the fear of God entails.” - John Murray

...LEAVES US CHANGED

☁ **What does it look like to fear God?** To fear God is to see that something needs to _____. That something is us. To fear God is to recognize and reverence His greatness and make room for Him.

Recognition of greatness leads to _____. (Isaiah 6:1-5, 40:12, 25-26)

What does reverencing God look like?

Recognition and reverence of God’s greatness leads to _____ for Him. (Isaiah 57:15, Ecc. 12:13)

What are some things that can fill space in our lives that only God should fill?

...AND CHANGING

☁ **How do you know if you are fearing God? Well. Do you do what He says?** That’s what Ecclesiastes 12:13 says. This is what life is about: Fear God and “**_____ His commandments.**” A heart of fearing God leads to the act of keeping his commandments.

👁 **Here’s a simple test of the fear of God in your life:** Are you _____ in recognizing, reverencing, and making room for God such that you are growing in doing what He says?

♥ **Fearing God isn’t a one-time event.** Don’t miss that word “growing” up above. Proverbs 9:10 says that “**the fear of the Lord is the _____.**” In following Jesus, it can be tempting to look for some secret that will keep us from struggling.

Growing in the fear of God is a process. An encounter with God that leaves us changed and *changing*. We start there and never leave it behind. (2 Cor. 3:18).

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.” Martin Luther

✍ **So, what does growing in the fear of the Lord look like for you today?** How are you recognizing and reverencing His greatness? How have you had to make room for Him recently? What commands of His are you growing in keeping?