

## The fear of the LORD

1. It is **wisdom** - Job 28:28
  - Where on earth can man find wisdom? The fear of the LORD is where he finds it. Without it, man has NO real wisdom or understanding.
2. It is **clean enduring for ever** - Psalm 19:9
  - Nothing that defiles will enter into the kingdom of God. God requires us to be clean. The fear of the LORD IS clean, and is essential for us to be clean.
3. It is a **spirit** - Isaiah 11:2-3
  - This is a spirit that the Lord Jesus himself had and is what made him of QUICK understanding and gave him sound judgment.
4. It leads to **departing from evil** - Proverbs 16:6
  - The only way to approach God is to FIRST depart from evil (God is light and in him is NO darkness at all). The F.O.T.L. enables us to depart from evil.
5. It is a **fountain of life** - Proverbs 14:27
  - It not only helps us depart from evil, but it helps us depart from the SNARES of death. Not just death itself, but death's snares that trap us and hold us.
6. It **tends to life** - Proverbs 19:23
  - It leads to life (Jesus Christ). It brings SATISFACTION (abundant life). It keeps us safe from evil's visitation.
7. It is to **hate evil** - Proverbs 8:13
  - The fear of the Lord here is defined as HATING evil. We must hate evil in order to want to depart from it.
8. It allows us to **perfect holiness** - 2 Corinthians 7:1
  - In order to see God we must be holy, and the FOTL literally allows us to cleanse ourselves from ALL filthiness of the flesh and spirit!
9. Is is something you **must be taught** - Psalm 34:11
10. It is something you **choose** or **reject** - Proverbs 1:29

**Summary:** To listen to God, do his will, obey him, and serve him. - Deut 6:2,13

**Definition:** The fear of the LORD is when God and what he says is the MOST IMPORTANT thing to you! (More important than anyone else's thoughts)

**Illustration:** When you are a kid, if you fear your parents, whenever they call your name to come or do something, you do what they say immediately because their word/command is FAR more important than anything else you are doing (playing a game, drawing, hanging out with friends). Fearing your parents doesn't keep you from them, it actually draws you to them quickly!

**Conclusion:** Why should we fear God? Because this is HIS creation. He made it, and he will judge it. He will either reward or destroy. - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14