



**(SLIDE #1) FEARING OR FACING
THE TERROR OF THE LORD!**

Introduction:

- A. Imagine You Go To The Doctor And He Tells You That You Have Two Weeks To Life! How Would You Respond?
 - 1. Terrified?
 - 2. Anticipation of eternity with loved ones who have died in Christ? Anticipation of seeing the Godhead?
 - 3. “I won’t have to clean out my house?” Ha! (Those of us whose parents have died understand this job!”

- B. Is There Anything That Causes Terror In Your Heart?
 - 1. **(Slide #2)** A VICIOUS Dog.
 - 2. **(Slide #3)** BAD dreams -- night terrors.
 - 3. **(Slide #4)** An active shooter -- a madman slaughtering innocent people.

- B. Texts:
 - 1. Ac. 9:31 “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”
 - 2. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.” II Cor. 5:11

- C. **(Slide #5) The Lord! (►) Are You FEARING The Terror Of The Lord? (►) Or Will You FACE That Terror In The Future?**

- D. Amazingly, We Are Living In A World Where People Only Want To Talk About A God Of Love And Mercy; Many Are Totally Oblivious To Thinking About A God Of Terror!

I. (Slide #6) Different Views About The Terror Of The Lord.

A. (►) Viewed With Respect And Awe.

1. I am calling this “Healthy Terror” or “Respectful Terror.”
2. It recognizes God for His Holiness, His Power, His Authority, And His hatred of sin, and His Retribution [Vengeance and Justice]!
3. Thus, it seeks to honor, respect, submit to, and obey Him!
4. One with this fear knows that he is made in the image of God; he knows that he is and will be judged by God and His Will; he seeks to live a life as consistent as he can; he seeks to please God!

B. (►) Ignored But Faced.

1. I am calling this “Insolent Terror” or “Oblivious Terror.”
2. This person goes through life either denying or ignoring God!
3. He does not recognize God for His Holiness, His Power, His Authority, And His Hatred of sin, and His Retribution [Vengeance and Justice]!
4. He has no concern about honoring, respecting, submitting to, and obeying God!
5. He lives as if HE AND HE ALONE is all that matters!
6. However, he will face God and answer for His unbelief!

II. (Slide #7) The Godly Respectfully Fear The Terror Of The Lord!

- A. At Sinai: Ex. 20:18-20 “Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹Then they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.’ ²⁰And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.’”

- B. Fear God And Keep His Commandments!

1. Dt. 5:29 “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!”
 2. Dt. 6:2 “that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.”
 3. Dt. 6:13-15 “You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. ¹⁴You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who *are* all around you ¹⁵(for the LORD your God *is* a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.”
- C. Serve Him In Fear! Ps. 2:11 “Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.”
- D. Worship Him In Fear!
1. Ps. 89:7 “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all *those* around Him.”
 2. How that should cause us great pause as we think about distractions in worship, wandering minds, watching others, reading, etc.!
 3. Be in AWE of the Godhead when you are in worship services!
- E. Walk In Fear Of God In Your Daily Life:
1. Ac. 9:31 “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And **walking in the fear of the Lord** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”
 2. Phil. 2:12 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;**”
- F. Fear Of The Lord Produces:
1. A heart that seeks and receives true knowledge! Pr. 1:7 “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge,”
 2. Hatred for evil!
 - a. Pr. 3:7 “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.”

- b. Pr. 8:13 “The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.”
 - c. Pr. 14:16 “A wise *man* fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident.”
 - d. Pr. 16:6 “by the fear of the LORD *one* departs from evil.”
 - 3. Trust Him! Ps. 115:11 “You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He *is* their help and their shield.” [“God Will Take Care Of You!”]
 - 4. MUCH GREATER FEAR of God than of ANY man!
 - a. Mt. 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
 - b. Christians understand that man may take their life; God can send them to Hell!
 - 5. Serious focus upon holiness and preparation for the Last Day and eternity in Heaven!
 - a. As Christians go through life and look toward Heaven, they continue to live in fear! Heb. 12:28,29 “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹For our God *is* a consuming fire.
 - 1. They do not want to miss Heaven!
 - 2. They do not want to turn to unbelief!
 - b. II Pet. 3:10-12 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”
- G. When Christians Have “Healthy Terror” or “Respectful Terror”, They Obey God; And Terror And Torment Are Replaced By Love!
- 1. “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.” I Jn. 4:18
 - 2. Terror brings torment; love brings peace!
- H. Is. 33:6 “The fear of the LORD *is* His treasure!”

III. (Slide #8) The Wicked Face The Terror Of The Lord (Even If They Do Not Believe In It)!

- A. Imagine A Person Convincing Himself That NOTHING BAD Is Going To Happen To Him AND THEN IT HITS HIM RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES!

- B. Those Who Do Not Love God Are Described -- “But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” I Jn. 4:18

- C. Examples Of Those Who Had NO Fear Of God!
 1. Pharaoh -- “WHO IS GOD?”
 - a. As God called and prepared Moses to lead Israel, he told him: Ex. 3:19,20 “But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. ²⁰So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.”
 - b. When Moses and Aaron first came to Pharaoh and told him that God said to let His people go, here was Pharaoh’s disrespectful response.
 1. Ex. 5:1,2 “Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’” ²And Pharaoh said, ‘Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.’”
 2. He responded like this because he had NO terror of the Lord!
 2. The unjust judge:
 - a. Jesus told about this man in the Parable Of The Unjust Judge.
 - b. A woman was being mistreated and was begging the judge for assistance.
 - c. His response: He ignored her!
 - d. Why? Lk. 18:4 “Though I do not fear God nor regard man,”

- D. BUT Those Who Ignore God Now WILL Face His Terror In Eternity!
 1. In THIS life they may have lived in “Insolent Terror” or “Oblivious Terror.”

 2. But they will come “Face To Face” with Him and His Terror!
 - a. Ask the Rich man who ignored Lazarus! Lk. 16:19-31
 - b. At His Second Coming, He will come “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,” II Thess. 1:8,9

IV. (Slide #9) Christians Who Respect The Terror Of The Lord Try To Influence The Lost So They Will Not Face It!

- A. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”
II Cor. 5:11

- B. It Is A HORRIBLE Thought To Christians That Friends And Loved Ones Would Be On A Crash Course With The TERROR Of The Lord!

- C. If We Love Them, If We Care About Them, We Will Be DRIVEN To Plead With Them To Repent And To Come To Salvation!

V. (Slide #10) The Blessings Of Fearing The Terror Of God In This Life:

- A. (▶) God’s Favor!
 - 1. Lk. 1:50 “And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him From generation to generation.”

 - 2. Ac. 10:35 “But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”
 - a. Nationality, race, ethnicity do not bring acceptance!
 - b. Obedience bring acceptance and His favor!

- B. (▶) Motivation To Obey God -- Grasped, The Terror Of The Lord Will Motivate One To Obey God.

- C. (▶) Rejection Of Sin -- Grasped, It Will Keep Christians From Flirting With And From Living In Sin!

- D. (▶) We Will Show Respect To Other Christians! Eph. 5:21 “submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

- E. (▶) Longer Life!
 - 1. Pr. 10:27 “The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.”

 - 2. Pr. 19:23 “The fear of the LORD *leads* to life, And *he who has it* will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.”

3. This is the same idea as seen in the O.T. and in the Beatitudes, “the meek shall inherit the earth.” Because they serve God, stay out of constant harassment with people, and avoid trouble, their lives are peaceful and prolonged!!!

Conclusion:

- A. **(Slide #9)** Are You Living In “Healthy Terror” Or “Respectful Terror”? Keep On Respecting God And Preparing To Step Into Eternity And To Meet Him.

- B. **(Slide #9)** Are You Living In “Insolent Terror” or “Oblivious Terror”? Do You Disrespect God Or Are You Trying To Ignore Him? You May Be Pushing His Terror Out Of Your Mind Today; BE SURE You Will Face It MUCH SOONER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!!!!!! Repent Today; Turn To God In Faith; Then You Can See His Smile, Not His Terror!!!!