

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025

52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 52 - THE FEAR FACTOR Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this the whole duty of man.”

We have now come to the end of this series of Bible Study. It is entirely fitting that at this point we hear the words of Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said, **“here is the conclusion of the matter.”** And here it is: **Fear God! “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this the whole duty of man.”** But we live in what might be called a “no fear culture” today. We have raised a couple of generations with virtually no moral absolutes. Hence young people live with no fear. Unfortunately, instead of the church influencing the culture, the culture often influences the church. Thus, we discover that the subject of the “fear of the Lord” has become a forgotten concept in many places of worship. It is as though Isaiah was asking us and not simply his own culture, “Who among you fears the Lord?” (Isaiah 50:10).

A “WHY” QUESTION

Why are so many believers today living in a “no-fear culture” where the fear of the Lord is a forgotten topic? Could it be we have lost a sense of the holiness of our God? All through the Bible, there is one characteristic believers had in common: they lived in the fear of the Lord. The same is true in the gospels. The young virgin Mary sang in her song of praise we call the Magnificat, that God’s “mercy extends to those who fear Him” (Luke 1:50). Fear of the Lord is on almost every page in Acts. (see Acts 2:43 - and also Romans 11:20 - Ephesians 5:21) And then in Revelation 19:5 we read, “Then a voice came down from the throne, saying: Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, both small and great”. Thus we are confronted with a “why” question. Why, when all those Old Testament saints, all those people throughout the Gospels, all those mentioned in Acts, all the instructions in the Epistles, and finally, heaven itself, is this constant theme of all God’s people a forgotten subject today? Have we lost a sense of the holiness of God?

A “WHAT” QUESTION

What does it mean to live in the fear of God? Does it mean we have to live in constant fright that if we say something wrong, God will hit us with a big club of retribution? Nothing could be further from Biblical reality. The most common Old Testament word for fear means “to stand before God with reverence and respect.” Then in the New Testament the word for fear is closely akin to this. It speaks of reverential awe that becomes the controlling motivation of our lives. Fearing God is to live with the awareness that you do not want to do anything that might cause God to take His hand of blessing and anointing off you! Living with this conscious thought will make an incredible difference in our lifestyles as we walk in the fear of God.

A “HOW” QUESTION

Finally, how can we begin living in fear of the Lord ourselves? Where do we begin? We begin at the place where we begin everything in the Christian life: the Word of God. Solomon framed the subject best as God speaks through him directly to us: “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, and if you look for it as if for silver and search for it as hidden treasure, **then you will understand the fear of the Lord**” (Proverbs 2:1-5). In your normal pattern of devotional Bible reading, begin to circle the idea of the fear of the Lord every time you see it. You will be amazed how God will continue to bring it before you. Then you will begin walking in the fear of the Lord. It is a learned experience. Yes, when the wisest man who ever lived, inspired by God’s Spirit says, **“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter,”** it should make us really listen. **“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this the whole duty of man.”**

As you memorise this verse, meditate on all the references to the fear of God. And, along the way, remember that the fear of God is not the fear that He might put His hand of retribution on you, but the fear that He might take His hand of blessing and anointing **off** you.

“Who among you fears the Lord?” (Isaiah 50:10).