

# 119

## MINISTRIES

*“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”*

### **The Fear of the Lord**

#### **Proverbs 1:7**

The fear of the LORD (YHWH) is the beginning of knowledge;

#### **Proverbs 9:10**

The fear of the LORD (YHWH) is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

These are not just idle words, nor merely a good idea, but instead a promise.

If we fear our Creator, we will begin to gain knowledge and wisdom; and then comes understanding of who He is and of His Word; but, what does it mean to “fear YHWH”?

What is the “fear of YHWH”?

Why is it important to fear the Creator?

We want to discuss the application of the word “fear” and how it plays an important role in our lives as we pursue our Creator and His ways.

In Hebrew, the word for “fear” is “yare” (H3372) which means “*to fear, revere, be afraid*”. The word can mean different things depending upon the context in which it is being used. Fear is not always a bad, or negative thing; if it was, then YHWH would not have commanded us to “fear” Him.

Let’s look at some applications of this word in Scripture.

#### **Deuteronomy 10:12**

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD [YHWH] your God require of you, but to **fear** the LORD [YHWH] your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD [YHWH] your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

#### **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear** God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man

We need to have such a fear of God that we are afraid of the consequences of our actions, He is the judge of our souls; He determines our eternity.

YHWH gave us the Torah, which is instructions to live by. If we obey the Torah, we will receive blessings, but if we disobey, we will receive curses (Deuteronomy 28). We should be afraid of receiving a curse, shouldn't we?

We need to fear God so that we live the way He wants us to live. A couple of verses illustrate this:

**Proverbs 16:6**

By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,  
and by the **fear** of the LORD [YHWH] one turns away from evil.

**Psalms 111:10**

The **fear** of the LORD [YHWH] is the beginning of wisdom;  
A good understanding have all those who do His commandments;

**Hebrews 10:31**

It is a **fearful** thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Fearing the wrath of our God helps us to stay obedient to His law just as fearing the wrath of our parents helped motivate us as children to keep their rules. Without this "fear" we are treating God as just some deity that only lives to bless us, more of a genie than our Creator, and certainly not like a Heavenly Father who disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:6).

YHWH loves us and certainly wants to give us good things, but that's not all that He wants. He wants us to love Him back. We show Him our love through our obedience.

**1 John 5:3**

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Our obedience includes living our lives the way that HE wants us to live. It's doing things HIS way and NOT OUR way.

It is **so** easy to go our own way, to do things the way we want to do them if we have no fear of any real repercussions. What is there to keep us from sinning if we are not afraid of the consequences, not only in this world, but in eternity?

There is our love for Him. But with our love for Him should come our respect for who and what He is.

Having a healthy fear of the Creator is good for us and helps keep us on the narrow path once we find it. It can even help lead us back to the narrow path if we have strayed away. Our fear of YHWH is vitally important as it relates to how we live with one another and how we walk with our Creator; but is this the only way Scriptures mentions for us to fear God?

Let's take a look.

**Exodus 15:11**

“Who is like You among the gods, O LORD [YHWH] Who is like You, majestic in holiness, **Awesome (yare)** in praises, working wonders?”

**Leviticus 19:30**

You shall keep my Sabbaths and **reverence (yare)** my sanctuary: I am the LORD [YHWH].

**Proverbs 13:13**

Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself,  
but he who **reveres (yare)** the commandment will be rewarded.

**Psalms 65:8**

They who dwell in the ends of the earth stand in **awe (yare)** of Your signs; You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy.

**Psalms 111:9**

He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and **awesome (yare)** is His name.

**Hebrews 12:28**

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Remember, the Hebrew word for “fear” is “*yare*” (H3372) means “*to fear, revere, be afraid*”. We’ve discussed what it means to fear God, in the sense of being afraid of Him and the consequences or punishments He can place on us when we disobey.

That type of fear should give us a healthy respect for our Creator, His power, what He can do and has done. But now we are going to discuss what it means to fear God as in to **revere** Him, to hold Him in high esteem, wonder, amazement, admiration, awe or worship.

Have you ever stood at the precipice of a small part of Creation, the Grand Canyon for instance or a rainforest? Were you struck with a sense of awe and wonder, amazed at what Yahweh has created?

This is the second type of fear we are talking about, this is how we need to view our Creator at all times.

The "fear of the Lord", therefore, should include an overwhelming sense of the majesty, worth, and beauty of YHWH.

There is a duality of YHWH, in His image we have been created, male and female. Using generalities and Scripture, we may say that men (who are leaders, strong, and authoritative) have a need to be respected and women (who are beautiful, loving, and compassionate) have a need to be loved. We see this in Ephesians 5:33.

**Ephesians 5:33**

However, let each one of you **love his wife** as himself, and let the wife see that **she respects her husband**.

Women are specifically reminded to respect their husbands and husbands are told to make sure to love

their wives. If we look at the idea of fearing God, we can see a similar pattern. We are to have a fear, a respect for YHWH, the Creator of the universe. We can see this addressing the male side of YHWH, the all-powerful Most High God.

The awe, reverence, and appreciation of Him and His creation, in all its beauty, may be considered the female side.

Just as we interact with men and women differently, perhaps we need to view our Creator from both perspectives. It's not enough to just be afraid of YHWH, we need to see the beauty, the majesty, and power of Him in order to better appreciate who He is and what He has done.

It is through our fear of YHWH that we are better able to see His mercy knowing He is able to destroy our soul and we deserve death. Yet because of His mercy and His grace toward us, His compassion, He has offered us a way to receive eternal life. We have such a great reason to be in awe and wonder of His goodness. It should be humbling when we put both types of "fear" together.

Our Creator, who is mighty enough to erase our existence as if it never occurred, who promises eternal death to those who do not obey Him, offers us the opportunity to know Him and to serve Him. He **wants us** to draw near to Him and to have an intimate, personal relationship with Him. As we begin our journey of Torah Pursuance, the fear of Him in all His glory and power helps motivate us to learn how He wants us to live.

Our continuance of that journey reveals the awesomeness, the mercy, grace, and love He shows toward us making it easy to be humbled before Him.

Why should we revere Him?

How do you treat someone that you cherish?

How do you respond to someone whom you look up to and hold in high esteem, or find completely amazing because they have a great sport talent, an acting talent, or are highly educated, a genius?

Do you lightly put aside what they want to share with you? Do you cast them and a relationship with them away so casually? Do you disrespect them?

For most of us, it's not likely that we would, ESPECIALLY if they wanted to share the secret to their success.

What if that individual told you there was something you could do to elevate your abilities, that you could be like they were? Would you listen, would you pay attention? Of course! What if that person wanted to adopt you into their family allowing you full access to what they have, an intimate relationship with them?

Would you turn them down?

Not likely.

Yet, the Creator of the UNIVERSE has done these things.

He has given us the “secret” to living a holy, set apart, life for Him. He has given us the ability to join with Him and become one of His family, co-heirs with His son. If we wouldn’t cast aside such gifts or knowledge from mortal men, then why is it so easy for us to do it with the Creator?

Perhaps it’s because we don’t look up to, revere, and cherish Him. Maybe we aren’t amazed at His goodness. Are we truly grateful for what He has done for us?

What if we don’t even realize how we treat Him?

How thankful are you to your Creator for all that He has done?

Does His Word and His creation still inspire you as it once did?

What do you think will happen if your fear of and respect for YHWH is coupled with your admiration and reverence for Him?

How much more deeply will you cherish Him and His Word?

How blessed would you be?

Let’s fear YHWH, keep His commandments, and reap the blessings the Scriptures promise us.

*We hope that you’ve been blessed by this teaching.*

*Remember, continue to test everything.*

*Shalom*

*For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

**EMAIL:** [Info@119ministries.com](mailto:Info@119ministries.com)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/119Ministries](http://www.facebook.com/119Ministries)

**WEBSITE:** [www.TestEverything.net](http://www.TestEverything.net)

**TWITTER:** [www.twitter.com/119Ministries#](http://www.twitter.com/119Ministries#)