

LEARNING FEAR OF GOD Rob Robinson

Christians need to have fear of God in our hearts. A couple of generations ago, maybe many people feared God too much and lacked an understanding of his grace. Things are different today. If most people lack one of those qualities, it is the fear of God in which we are deficient. Here are seven things we can do to develop fear of God.

Learn, know and obey God's word. Moses commanded Joshua to gather the people regularly and read the Law of God before them all, men, women and little ones, so *“that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law...”* We must know God's word to develop the fear of God we need to have.

Hate evil. Proverbs says, *“The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.”* We must choose to hate evil instead of being attracted to it, and to fear its effects in our lives.

Beware of the influence of those who do not fear God. We do not want to share the same fate as those who have no fear of God.

Take seriously the fact that we and those we love will be lost if we do not remain faithful. It is great to be confident that we are saved. However, let's also maintain a legitimate fear that we can lose our salvation if we do not continue in our faith.

Get to know God and Jesus better. The gospels are full of stories of those who were blessed to come into the actual physical presence of Jesus Christ, and perhaps witness his miracles. Often their reactions included “fear and trembling.”

Worship. In genuine and meaningful worship, we focus on the greatness and awesomeness of God. Many of the Biblical scenes of worship depict believers responding with fear of God, as well as love and adoration for him.

Pray and ask the Lord to put a proper fear of God in your heart and into the hearts of those you love. Jeremiah prophesied that, in the new covenant, God said he will *“put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.”* Let's ask that he do just that in our hearts.

Deut. 31:11-12, Prov. 8:13, Eccl. 8:13 Heb. 4:1 Jer 32: 40