

**To Fear or Not To Fear**  
that is the question

NOTES

[www.LearnLogos.com/fear](http://www.LearnLogos.com/fear)



## **Proverbs 1:7**

**7 The fear of the LORD is  
the beginning of  
knowledge;  
Fools despise wisdom  
and instruction.**

*Session 1:  
Bible Survey*

“True and  
Misguided  
Meanings of  
Fear”



“The Old Testament uses seventeen different Hebrew words and one Aramaic word to describe different kinds of “fear.””

“The New Testament reference “fear of God” as many times as the “love of God”

“When did fear  
get introduced  
into the  
World?”



## Genesis 3:6–10 (NASB95)

- 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
- 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. (*...some time passed...*)
- 8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.**
- 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”
- 10 He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

# The Corruption

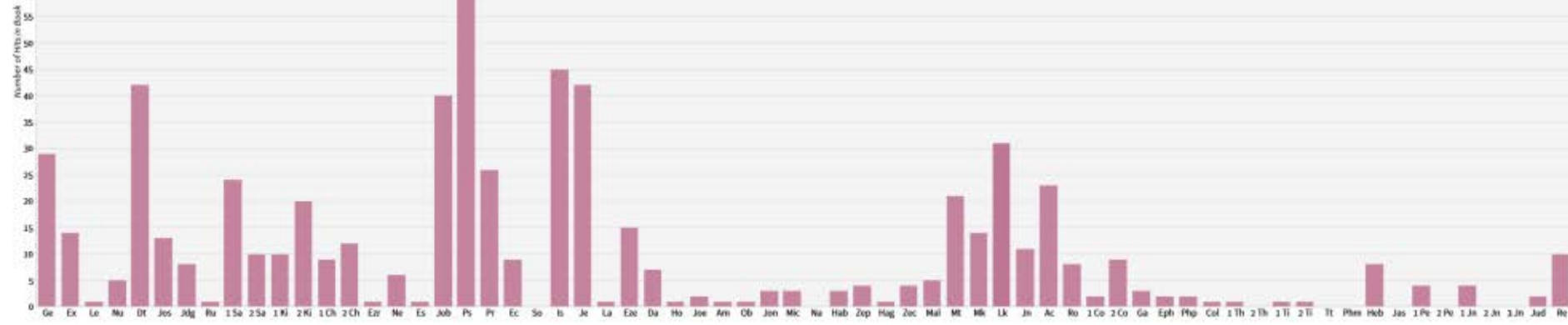
**FEAR OF MAN**

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**LEVEL OF GOD**



# Various Words Related to "Fear" in the Bible



WHO'S MISSING?

OT: SoS, Nahum

NT: 2 Thes, Titus, Philemon, James, 2 Peter, 2 John, 3 John

**“ Only Thing We Have to  
Fear Is Fear Itself ” - FDR**

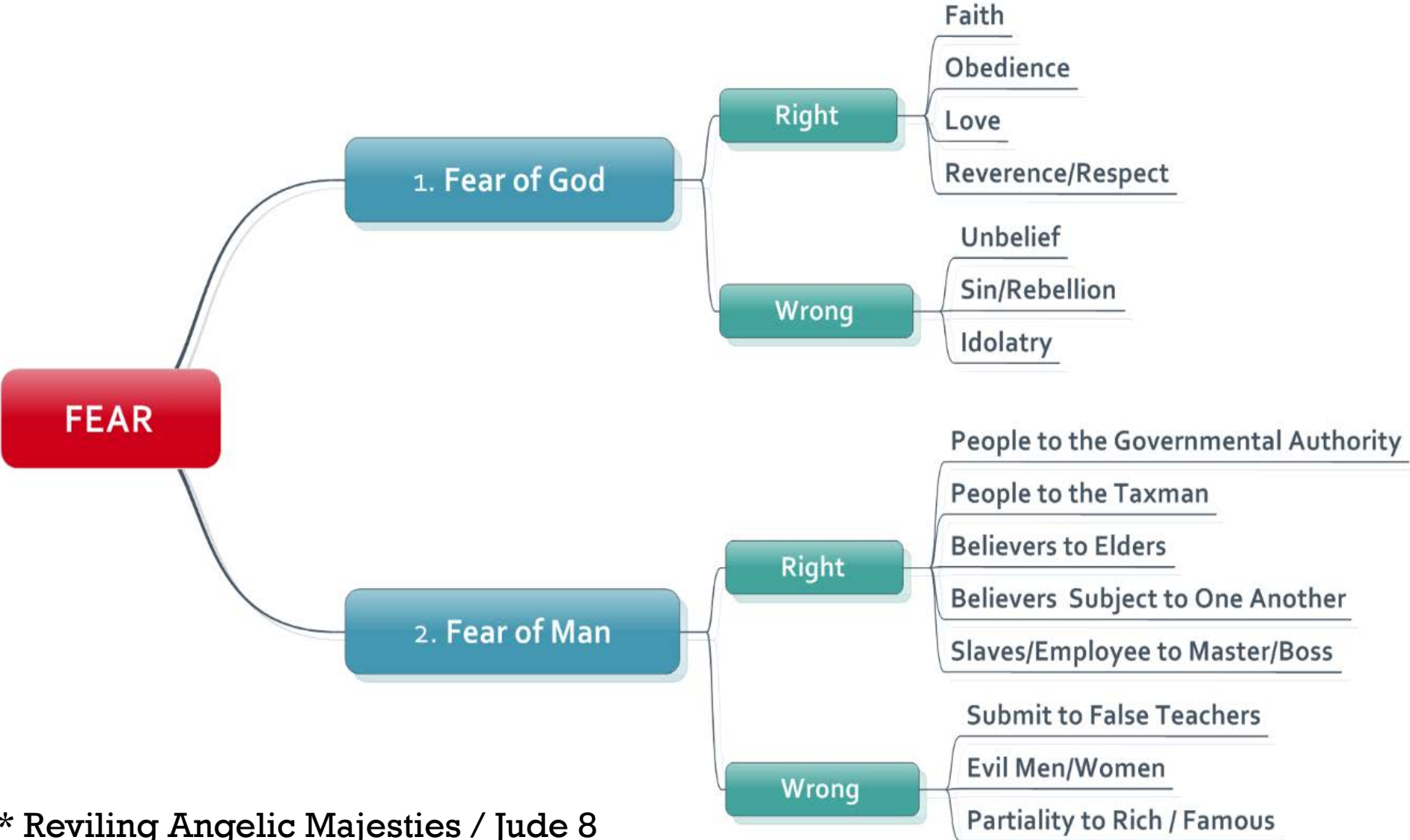
**“ We fear what we don't  
understand ” Carmine  
Falcone, (Movie: Batman Begins)**

**Quotes**



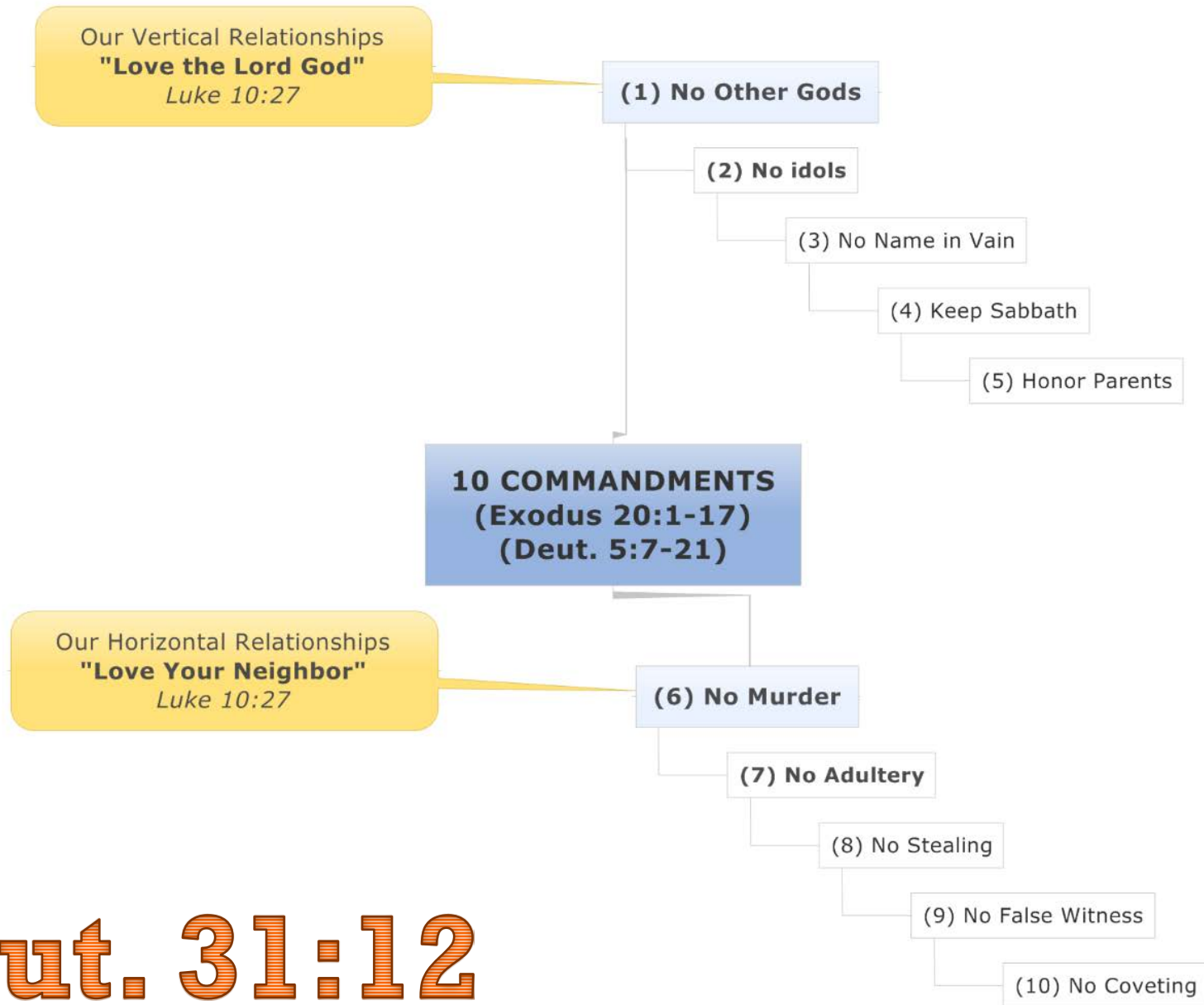
# FEAR IS NOT JUST AN EMOTION: It's Relational & Directional

*Who does it drive you too?*



\* Reviling Angelic Majesties / Jude 8

# HOW FEAR IS RELATED TO GOD, HIS LAW, & SIN?



**Deut. 31:12**



“ Have I ever resisted the temptation to sin because I feared the wrath of God?

“ Will God really judge me if I \_\_\_\_\_?

“ Does the God I worship ever get upset or angry with me because of my sins?

“ Does God really punish people today?

“ Does the idea of fearing God ever enter my mind? - **Robert A. Morey, Fearing God**

Question



### **Nehemiah 9:3 (NASB95)**

3 While they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; and for *another* fourth they confessed and **worshiped the LORD their God.**

### **False god(s)**

### **2 Kings 17:7–8 (NASB95)**

7 Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and **they had feared other gods**

8 and **walked in the customs of the nations** whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and *in the customs* of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.

**True God**



“ Courage is not the  
absence of fear, but  
rather the judgment that  
something else is more  
important than fear.”  
— Ambrose Redmoon

Quote



# SEVEN DESCENDING

## CYCLES

(1) 3:7-11; (2) 3:12-30; (3) 4:1-5:31; (4)  
6:1-8:32; (5) 8:33-9:57; (6) 10:1-12:7; (7)  
13:1-16:31.

1. Israel's Sin
2. Israel's Servitude "God allows Israel to be conquered."
3. Israel's Supplication "God responds to their cries."
4. Israel's Salvation (Physical/Spiritual)
5. Israel's Security

**NOTE:** Rest = peace with neighbors, lack of oppression. Israel wasn't consumed because Yahweh's Compassion

**KEY MESSAGE:** Don't look at the men for their success; look to the presence of the Lord to make them useful, it is not the natural abilities of men.

**KEY VERSE:** Judges 17:6 & 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.



# Idolatry

**2 Kings 18:4 / Hezekiah**

**4 He removed the high places and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made,** for until those days the sons of **Israel burned incense** to it; and it was called Nehushtan.

**Full Context: 2 Kings 18:1-6**

**Jeremiah 16:18**

18 “I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land; they have **filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable idols** and with their abominations.”

**Full Context: Jeremiah 16**

**No Idols**



# Name in Vain

## Psalm 15:4

4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD;  
**He swears to his own hurt and does not change;**

**Full Context: Psalm 15:1–5**

## Jeremiah 5:1–2

1 ...If you can find a man, If there is one who does justice, who seeks truth, Then I will pardon her.  
2 “And although they say, ‘As the LORD lives,’  
**Surely they swear falsely.**” ...  
...7 “Why should I pardon you? Your sons have forsaken Me  
**And sworn by those who are not gods.**

**Full Context: Jeremiah 5**

**No Name in Vain**



# No Sabbath

## 2 Chronicles 36:19–21

19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings...

20 Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths**. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

## Ezekiel 22:8

8 “You have despised My holy things and **profaned My sabbaths**.

## Nehemiah 13:19–21

19 It came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, **I commanded that the doors should be shut and that they should not open them until after the sabbath**. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates so *that* **no load would enter on the sabbath day**.

20 Once or twice the traders and merchants of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem.

21 Then I warned them and said to them, “Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? **If you do so again, I will use force against you**.” From that time on they did not come on the sabbath.

# Keep Sabbath



## Jeremiah 35:17–19

18 Then Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Because you have **obeyed the command of Jonadab your father**, kept all his commands and done according to all that he commanded you;  
19 therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me always.” ’ ”

## Honor Parents

## Dishonor Parents

### Ezekiel 22:6–7

6 “Behold, the rulers of Israel, each according to his power, have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood.

7 “They have treated father and mother **lightly** within you. The alien they have oppressed in your midst; the fatherless and the widow they have wronged in you.

Context: bloodshed, belittle, disdain, accursed



## 1 Samuel 24:4–6

4 The men of David said to him, “Behold, *this is* the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.’ ” Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul’s robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David’s conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul’s *robe*. 6 So he said to his men, “**Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him**, since he is the LORD’s anointed.”

## No Murder

## Murder

### 2 Kings 21:16–17

16 Moreover, **Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another**; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

17 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and all that he did and his sin which he committed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?



“I'm not afraid of death;  
I just don't want to be there  
when it happens.”  
— Woody Allen

Famous Quote



## Ruth 4:10

10 “Moreover, I (Boaz) have acquired Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, **to be my wife** in order to **raise up the name of the deceased** on his inheritance, so that the **name of the deceased will not be cut off** from his brothers or from the court of his *birth* place; you are witnesses today.”

**No Adultery**

## Adultery

### Jeremiah 5:7–8

7 “Why should I pardon you? Your sons have forsaken Me And sworn by those who are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, **They committed adultery And trooped to the harlot’s house.**

8 “They were **well-fed lusty horses, Each one neighing after his neighbor’s wife.**



# Stealing

**Acts 4:34–35**

34 For there was not a **needy person among them**, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and **they would be distributed to each as any had need.**

Hosea 4:1–2

1 Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land.

2 *There is* swearing, deception, murder, **stealing** and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.

**No Stealing**



## Daniel 6:5

5 Then these men said, “**We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God.**” ...24 The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions’ den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

# No False Witness

## False Witness

### 1 Kings 21:9–10

9 Now she (Jezebel) wrote in the letters, saying, “Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people; 10 and **seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him,** saying, ‘You cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.” ...13 Then the two worthless men came in and sat before him; and the **worthless men testified against him,** even against Naboth, before the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” **So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.**



## Acts 20:33–35

33 “I have **coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes.**

34 “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me.

35 “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**’ ”

# No Coveting

# Coveting

## Joshua 7:20–21

20 So Achan answered Joshua and said, “Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did:

21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, **then I coveted them and took them;** and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.”



## Psalm 34:7–16 (NASB95)

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

<sup>8</sup> O taste and see that the LORD is good;

How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

<sup>9</sup> O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want.

<sup>10</sup> The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;

But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

<sup>11</sup> Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man who desires life And loves *length of days* that he may see good?

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup> Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are *open* to their cry.

<sup>16</sup> The face of the LORD is against evildoers,  
To cut off the memory of them from the earth.



# Jonathan Edwards: Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

1. God may cast wicked men into [hell](#) at any given moment.
2. The Wicked deserve to be cast into hell.  
Divine justice does not prevent God from destroying the Wicked at any moment.
3. The Wicked, at *this* moment, suffer under God's condemnation to Hell.
4. The Wicked, on earth - at this very moment - suffer the torments of Hell.  
The Wicked must not think, simply because they are not physically in Hell, that God (in Whose hand the Wicked now reside) is not  
- at this very moment - as angry with *them* as  
He is with those miserable creatures He is *now* tormenting in hell,  
and who - at this very moment - do feel and bear the fierceness of His wrath.
5. At any moment God shall permit him, [Satan](#) stands ready to fall upon the Wicked and seize them as his own.



# Jonathan Edwards: Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

6. If it were not for God's restraints, there are, in the souls of wicked men, hellish principles reigning which, presently, would kindle and flame out into hellfire.
7. Simply because there are not visible means of death before them at any given moment, the Wicked should not feel secure.
8. Simply because it is natural to care for oneself or to think that others may care for them, men should not think themselves safe from God's wrath.
9. All that wicked men may do to save themselves from Hell's pains shall afford them nothing if they continue to reject Christ.
10. God has never promised to save us from Hell, except for those contained in Christ through the covenant of Grace.



## **Unbelievers:**

No fear of God >  
fear man, fear death

## **Believers**

Fear of God >  
no fear of man, no fear of death



# Thermometer Comparisons



Degrees of Fear

“ We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.”

— Plato

Quote



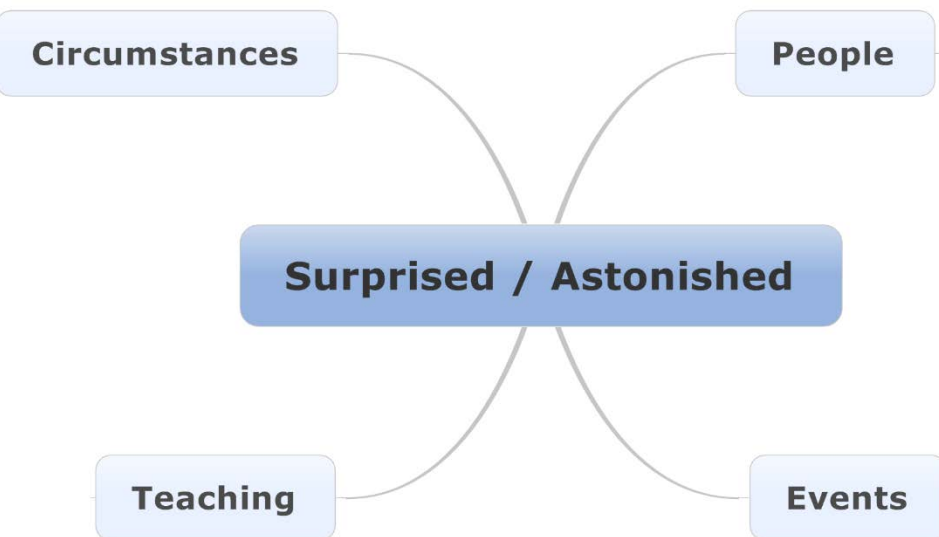
## Mark 12:17

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at Him.

## Acts 7:31

<sup>31</sup> “When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look *more* closely, there came the voice of the Lord:

**Acts 13:9–12** But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, <sup>10</sup> and said, “You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> “Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.” <sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.



**1 Corinthians 7:32** But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; 33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided.

**Romans 9:1** I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

**Luke 12:25** “And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span?”

**2 Corinthians 11:29** Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

**Luke 12:50** “But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!”

**Worry, Anxiety, Stress**

**Position, Pressure, Persecution, Problems, Perseverance, Preparations**

**Discipline over Sin for your Sanctification**



## **Ephesians 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

## **Revelation 2:3**

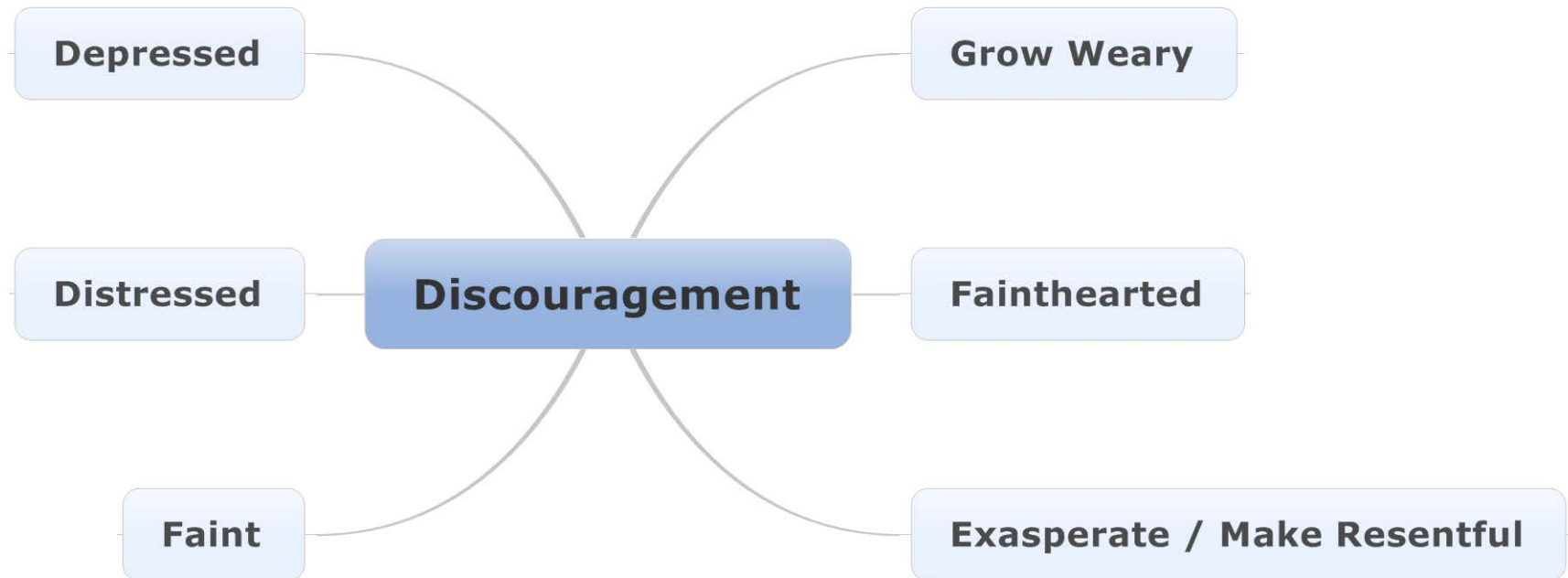
<sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

## **Colossians 3:21**

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

## **2 Corinthians 7:6**

<sup>6</sup> But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;



## **Luke 16:3**

<sup>3</sup> “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.

## **2 Timothy 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

## **2 Timothy 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

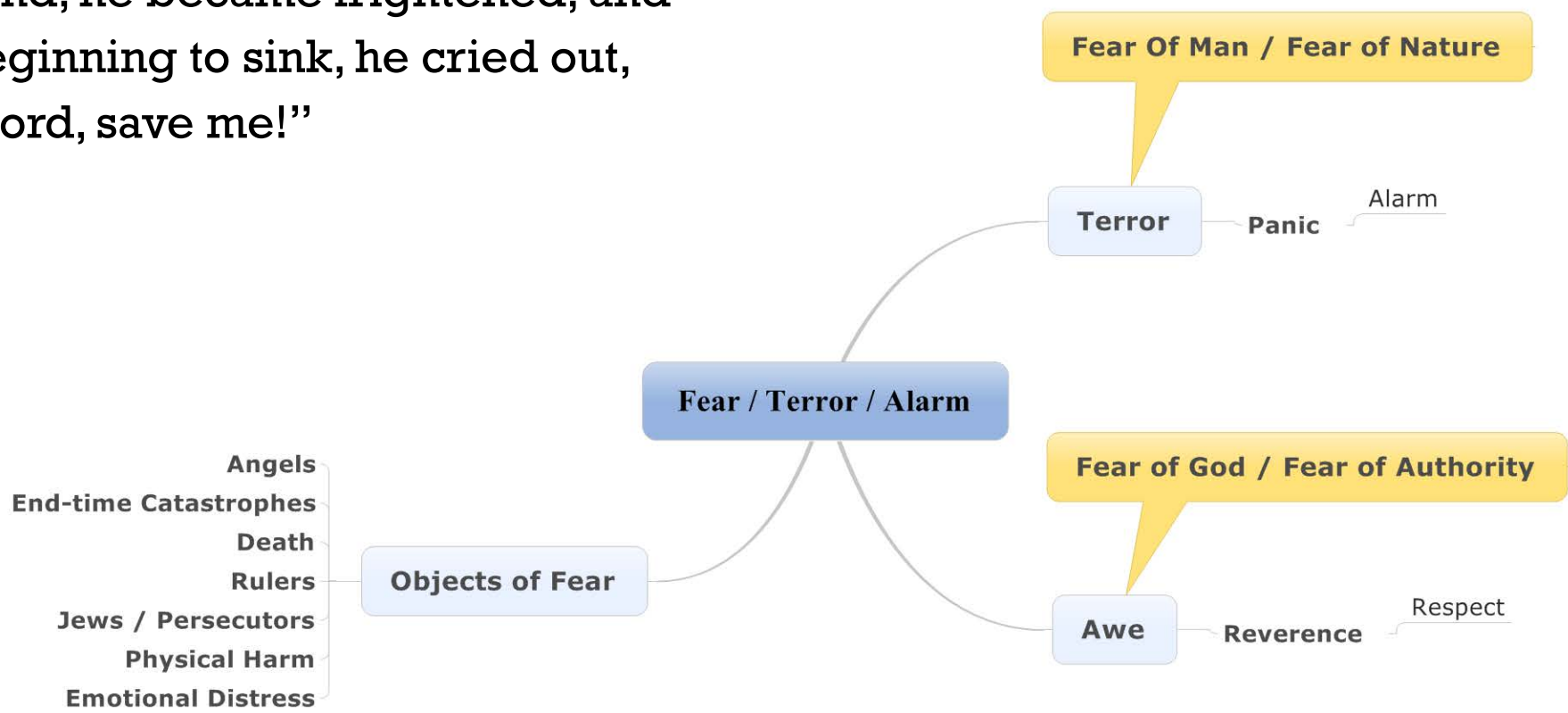


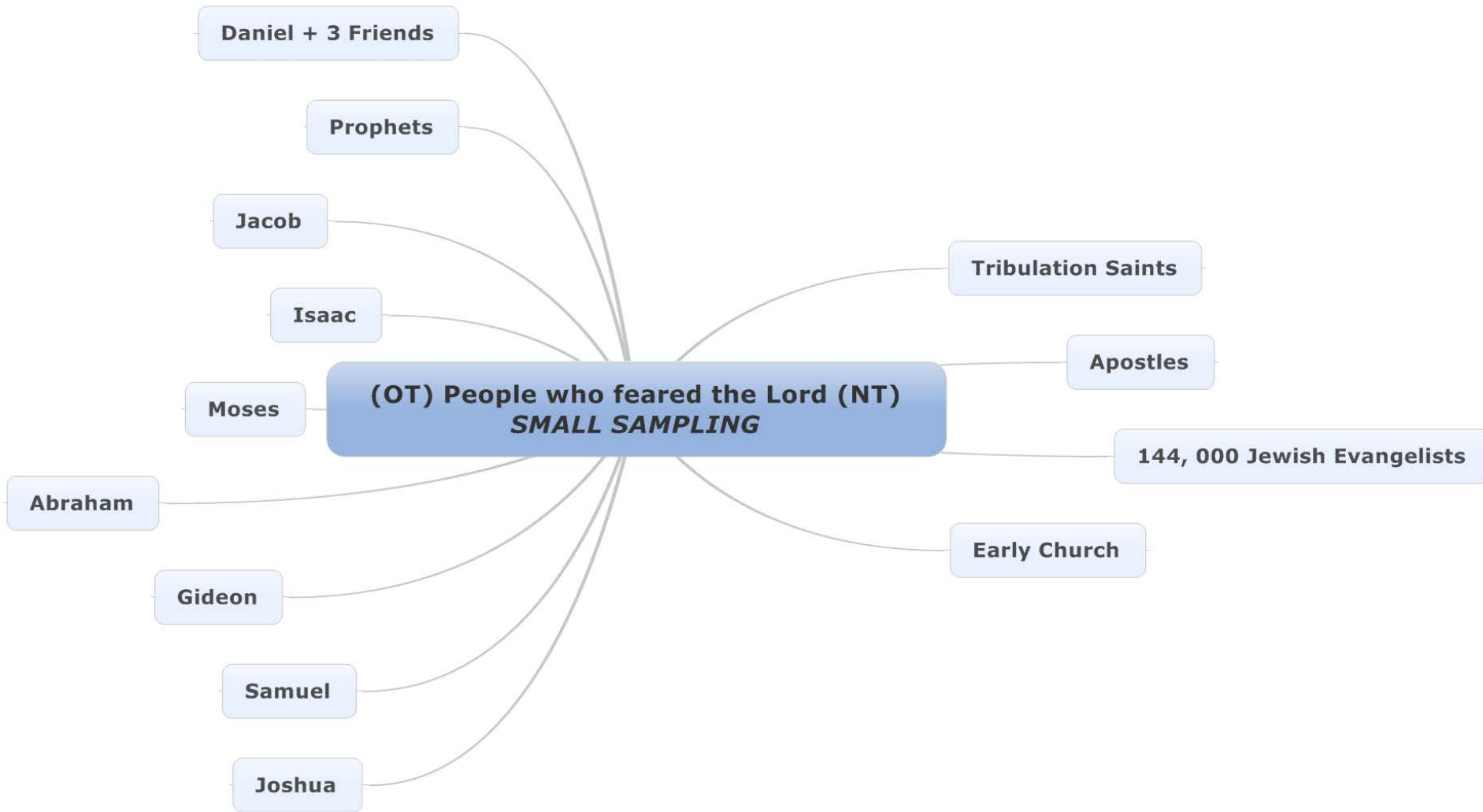


**Matthew 10:28** “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Luke 21:9** “When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.”

**Matthew 14:30** But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”





**(OT) People who feared the Lord (NT)**  
*SMALL SAMPLING*

**Daniel + 3 Friends**

**Prophets**

**Jacob**

**Isaac**

**Moses**

**Abraham**

**Gideon**

**Samuel**

**Joshua**

**Tribulation Saints**

**Apostles**

**144,000 Jewish Evangelists**

**Early Church**



“ Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.”

— Francis Chan, *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*

Quote

# Absalom

Joshua 1:8–9 (NASB95)

Entering the Promise Land

- 9 **“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed,** for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

2 Samuel 13:28 (NASB95)

- 28 Absalom commanded his servants, saying, “See now, when Amnon’s heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon,’ then put him to death. **Do not fear; have not I myself commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant.**”

# Joshua



# “Fear and Trembling”

- 1 Chronicles 16:30, Psalm 96:9, Psalm 114:7,
- Psalm 119:113-120, Jeremiah 5:20-25, Daniel 6:26-27
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 2 Corinthians 7:14-15
- Ephesians 6:5-9
- **KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:12-13 / Hebrews 11

## “Fear of Christ”

- Ephesians 5:21, 6:5

## “Fear of the Lord”

- 2 Chronicles 19:5-11, Psalm 34:11-14. +++

*Special Phrases to Know*



Strong \* Courageous

**FEAR**

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LEVEE

Fear \* Dismayed

**Joshua 10:25**



Fear of the Lord is the attitude of awe and of filial reverence which befits the child of God over against his Maker and Redeemer. This fear is desired and approved by God (Deut. 4:10). It is not inconsistent with, but flows from, the experience of forgiveness (cf. Ps. 130:4). This fear is to be rendered sincerely and faithfully. It should be without hypocrisy, but should be expressed with simplicity and truth of heart.

**Quote**



## Revelation 21:1–8 (NASB95)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the **tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,**

4 and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**

5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

6 Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

7 “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

8 “But for the **cowardly** and **unbelieving** and **abominable** and **murderers** and **immoral persons** and **sorcerers** and **idolaters** and **all liars**, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”



# What Role does “fear” play for the Christian?

1. Romans 3:18 –  
“THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”  
(Character of Unbelievers)
2. Matthew 18:15-18 (Church Discipline)
3. 1 Timothy 1:18-20 (Handing over to Satan)
4. 2 Cor. 5:1-11 / Romans 14:10 / 1 Cor. 3:10-15  
(Judgment Seat of Christ)
5. Acts 9:31 (Life of the Church)
6. Hebrews 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 11:32, Revelation 3:19  
(The Father’s discipline/chastening)

**Session 2:  
Character Study**

**“Glory and  
Defeat rooted in  
Right and Wrong  
Fears”**



## Session 3: Getting Practical

“How do you  
live and die  
in light of  
fear?”

