

**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”

REVIEW

## **Fear is Relational**

- Fear of God or Fear of Man
- Don't Fear God > Fear man & Fear death
- Do Fear God > No Fear of man & No Fear of death

## **Fear is Directional**

### **Fear & the 10 Commandments**

- Right Kind of Fear leads to faith & obedience
- Wrong kind of fear keeps one in unbelief & sin

**REVIEW**

## 1 John 4:15–21

<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God,  
God abides in him, and he in God.

<sup>16</sup> We have come to know and have believed the love  
which God has for us.

God is love, and the one who abides in love  
abides in God, and God abides in him.

<sup>17</sup> By this, **love is perfected with us,**  
so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment;  
because as He is, so also are we in this world.

<sup>18</sup> **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,**  
**because fear involves punishment,**  
and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love, because He first loved us.

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother,  
he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen,  
cannot love God whom he has not seen.

<sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him,  
that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Romans 8:15

<sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again,  
but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 ..., silver, precious stones.... wood, hay, stubble...gold

# REVIEW

# 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)

**REVIEW**

*Session 2:*  
**Character Study**

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



# **Principle #1**

## **Right Fear Produces Love**

# Genesis 4:1-16

**In what ways did they Fear the Lord?**

- Note: 2nd born
- Firstlings of His Flock (Genesis 4:4)
- Fat portions

**What was the outcome?**

- Offering was regarded/accepted (Genesis 4:4)

**Application:**

- By faith we offer to God (Hebrew 11:4)

# Genesis 4:1-16

## In what ways did they not Fear the Lord?

- **Note:** First born
- No superlatives associated with the offering “fruit of the ground”
- Implied no faith / but sin (1 John 3:12)

## What was the outcome?

- Offering was not regarded / not accepted (Genesis 4:4)
- Cain became very angry & countenance fell (Genesis 4:5)
- Was lovingly rebuked by the Lord (Genesis 4:7)
- Killed Abel - Possibly perverted the blood sacrifice (Genesis 4:8)

## Application:

- Fear the dissatisfaction of God,
- Repent over your sin, guard against anger
- Keep “facing” the Lord (Gen 1:5, 6, 14, 16)

**Principle #1**  
Right Fear Produces Love

**Principle #2**  
Right Fear Produces Reverent Worship

# Leviticus 9:1–10:11

## In what ways did they Fear the Lord?

- Offer sin, burnt, & peace offerings (Lev. 9:6)
- Followed God's Instructions (Lev. 9:16 / Lev 1:1-13)
- *Note:* Wave offering (Horizontal-back and forth), Heave Offering (Vertical/Lev. 10:15)

## What was the outcome?

- Glory of the Lord Appeared (Lev. 9:23)
- Fire came out from the Lord (Lev. 9:24)
- Sacrificed received and consumed (Lev. 9:24)

## **Application:** What does God expect in our Worship?

- Shouted (rejoice, joy, sing) (Lev. 9:24)
- Fell on their faces / Worship (Lev. 9:24)

# Moses and Aaron

# Leviticus 9:22–10:11

**In what ways did they not Fear the Lord?**

- Possibly drunk (Lev. 10:9)
- Approach the Lord irreverently with Strange Fire (Lev. 10:1)

**What was the outcome?**

- Death (Lev. 10:2)
- Others will learn to revere/respect the Lord (Lev. 10:5-11)

**Application:** What does God expect in our Worship?

- Treated Holy (Lev. 10:3)
- Honored (Lev 10:3)
- Keep separate the Holy and Profane/Common (Lev. 10:10)

## Nadab & Abihu

# How to Fear | How NOT to Fear

- Holy Worship
- Right kinds of offerings
- Unholy Worship / Drunk
- Wrong Kinds of Offerings

Romans 12:1-21

Examples: Romans 16

## **Principle #1**

Right Fear Produces Love

## **Principle #2**

Right Fear Produces Reverent Worship

## **Principle #3**

Right Fear Produces Sacrificial Spirit of Giving



# Acts 4:32-5:16

## In what ways did they Fear the Lord?

- Unified Body (Acts 4:32)
- Shared (Acts 4:32)
- Cared for those in need (Acts 4:34)
- Sacrificial giving (Acts 4:34-37)

## What was the outcome?

- Grace (Acts 4:33)
- Needs met (Acts 4:34)
- Growth (Acts 5:14)

## Application:

- Sharing, Caring, Giving
- Individuals & Church to discern legitimate needs

# Early Church & Barnabas

# Acts 4:32-5:16

**In what ways did they not Fear the Lord?**

- Willing to lie to the Church (Acts 5:1-2, 5:7-8)
- Not connecting that lying to men is Lying to God (Acts 5:3-4, 9)

**What was the outcome?**

- Death (Acts 5:5, 5:10)
- Fear of the Lord by Believers & Unbelievers (Acts 5:11-26)

**Application:**

- Not to lie
- Sacrificial giving
- Proper Stewardship
- No Hypocrisy / Right Motives

## Ananias & Sapphira

# How to Fear | How NOT to Fear

- Right Motive: God Approval
- Give Sacrificially
- Give Freely
- Wrong Motive: Man Approval
- Give Selfishly
- Give Conditionally

## **2 Corinthians 8: (Giving directly to those who have physical and material needs)**

- By grace: 2 Corinthians 8:1 Bible Word Study / Grace
- Giving is possible in any circumstance: 2 Corinthians 8:2 (Philippians 4:10-14)
- Overflow of Joy: 2 Corinthians 8:2a Bible Word Study / Joy
- Recognition of Inadequacy: 2 Corinthians 8:2 Bible Word Study / Poverty
- Sincere, Generosity: 2 Corinthians 8:2b Bible Word Study / liberality
- According to their ability / Proportionally – 2 Corinthians 8:3 Bible Word Study / ability
- Beyond their ability / Sacrificially – 2 Corinthians 8:3
- Their own accord / Voluntarily – 2 Corinthians 8:3 Bible Word Study / Accord
- Seeking / Participatory – 2 Corinthians 8:4 Bible Word Study / Begging
- Giving to the Lord/Worship and to the Body/Service – 2 Corinthians 8:5
- Recognize the Sowing / Reaping Principle – 2 Corinthians 8:6
- Giving is Connected to Loving God, His Word, and Others – 2 Corinthians 8:7-8

# How to Fear | How NOT to Fear

## Additional Passages On Giving

### 2 Corinthians 9

- Recognize the Sow/Reap Principle – 2 Corinthians 9:6
- Decide ahead of Time / Purposeful – 2 Corinthians 9:7 Bible Word Study / Purposed
- Not Out of Sorrow/Grief/Grudgingly – 2 Corinthians 9:7 Bible Word Study / Grudgingly
- Not out of Distress/Compulsion – 2 Corinthians 9:7 Bible Word Study / Compulsion
- Cheerfully – 2 Corinthians 9:7 Bible Word Study / Cheerful
- Recognize God as the Source – 2 Corinthians 9:8
- Result in thanksgiving to God – 2 Corinthians 9:9

### 1 Corinthians 16:1

- Set aside weekly / Store-up / Regularly – 2 Corinthians 16:2 Bible Word Study / Save
- As one may prosper / Proportionately – 2 Corinthians 16:2 Bible Word Study / Prosper
- Paul wanted to avoid an additional collections - 2 Corinthians 16:2

**Other giving passages:** Matthew 6:2-4, Luke 6:27-38, Acts 20:35, Romans 12:19-21, Hebrews 13:16, Proverbs 3:9-12, Psalm 37:25-26, Acts 17:24

**Warnings on giving:** Matthew 6:33, Matthew 6:1, Acts 8:19, Ecclesiastes 5:5, Numbers 30:2, Psalm 66:13-15, Mark 12:17, James 4:3, James 5:1-6, Luke 16:1-11

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## **Principle #3**

Right Fear Produces Sacrificial Spirit of Giving

## **Principle #4**

Right Fear Produces Godliness

# Genesis 6-9

## In what ways did they Fear the Lord?

- Noah was righteous (by faith) (Gen 6:9, Hebrews 11:7)
- Noah was blameless/Integrity
- Noah walked with God (lived for, obeyed)
- Did all that God commanded (Gen 6:22, 7:5)
- Noah sacrificed to the Lord (Gen. 8:20-22)
- Reverently prepared the ark (Heb. 11:7)

## What was the outcome?

- Preserved, when all others not spared (2 Peter 2:5)

## Application:

- Being faithful and holy amidst sinful people

# Noah

# Genesis 6-9

## In what ways did they not Fear the Lord?

- Wickedness of man was great on the Earth (Gen 6:5)
- Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually
- Earth was corrupt (Genesis 6:11-13)
- Earth was filled with violence
- Ignored Enoch's Preaching (Jude 14)
- Ignored Noah's Preaching (2 Peter 2:5)

## What was the outcome?

- Whole world drowned (Genesis 7:18)

## Application:

- Jude 17-23

# World before the Flood

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## **Principle #5**

Right Fear Produces Faith



# Genesis 12-25

## In what ways **did** / **did not** they Fear the Lord?

- Partially obeys the Lord to move, taking Lot and His wife (Genesis 12:4-5)
- Fears the Egyptians, profits initially over his omission (Genesis 12:10-20)
- + Fights for the life of Lot (Genesis 14:13-16)
- Has child with Hagar (Genesis 16:1)
  - \*\*Note after the promise of his own heir from God (Gen. 15)
- + Circumcision (Genesis 17:10-27)
- + Negotiating Lot's rescue from Sodom destruction (Gen. 18)
- Fears and lies to Abimelech like Pharaoh (Genesis 20)
- + Offering of Isaac (Genesis 22, v16, Hebrews 11:17-19)

## What was the outcome?

- Brought trouble to himself, his family, and his neighbors
- A father of many nations (Romans 4:9-25)
- Genesis 25:8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied *with life*; and he was gathered to his people.

## Application:

- Recognize when the fear of God is eclipsed by the fear of man, we are risk in the trial to give into temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13, 31)
- Genesis 26:5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws."

# Abram/Abraham

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## **Principle #6**

Right and Wrong Fear Mixed: Double Minded = Double Trouble

# Genesis 25-33

## In what ways **did** / **did not** they Fear the Lord?

- Jacob (no fear) / Esau (fear): Selling of the Birthright (Genesis 25:27-34)
  - Others see this kind of fear, they will convince you to give something up for a sense of temporary security
- Jacob Fears & lies to Abimelech (not same person) like his Dad (Genesis 26:7-11)
- Esau marries two wives (Genesis 26:34-35)
- Jacob Deceives Dad & steals Esau's blessing w/ Mom's prompting (+40 years old) (Genesis 27)
- Esau out of spite marries daughter of Ishmael (Genesis 28:8-9)
- +/- Jacob's ladder dream (Genesis 28:10-22)
- Multiples Marriages, Mayhem, Mandrakes and Many Kids (13)! (Genesis 29-30)
- + / - Jacob's Deception with Laban (Genesis 30:25-31:16) / **Genesis 31:11-13**
- + / - Jacob flees from Laban (Genesis 31:3, 16-21)
- + / - Jacob fears Esau (after 20 years) (Genesis 32:1) – Note: angels of God (Gen. 32:1)
- + / - Jacob wrestles with God (Genesis 32:24-32)
- + / - Jacob Reconciles with Esau (Genesis 33:1-17)

## What was the outcome?

- Deception ends Vindication, conflict ends with covenant, God's provision & protection
- Broken relationships needing mending

## Application:

- Proverbs 8:13 \* Proverbs 15:16 \* Proverbs 22:4-5 \* Proverbs 23:17

# Jacob and His Relationships



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## **Principle #7**

Right Fear will persevere, especially in unjust suffering

# Overview of Joseph's Life

Psalm 105:17–24 (NASB95)

<sup>17</sup> He sent a man before them, Joseph, *who* was sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup> They afflicted his feet with fetters, He himself was laid in irons; <sup>19</sup> Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him. <sup>20</sup> The king sent and released him, The ruler of peoples, and set him free. <sup>21</sup> He made him lord of his house And ruler over all his possessions, <sup>22</sup> To imprison his princes at will, That he might teach his elders wisdom. <sup>23</sup> Israel also came into Egypt; Thus Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. <sup>24</sup> And He caused His people to be very fruitful, And made them stronger than their adversaries.

# Genesis 37-50

## In what ways **did** / **did not** they Fear the Lord?

- + Bad report (Gen. 37:3)
- + Told the Dreams (Gen. 37:5-11)
- Brother's Hatred / Jealousy (Bad Report, Dad's favoritism, Tunic, Two Dreams, Checking up on them, sold Joseph into slavery)
- + Joseph serves Potiphar (Gen. 39:1-18) – Key Verse Gen. 39:9-12
- + Joseph serves in the prison (Gen. 39:19-40:23)
- Pharaoh Dreams (Genesis 41 ) + Joseph's Response - Key Verse (Genesis 41:16)
  - \* Note: Joseph an innocent slave for 13 years
- People did not prepare – (Genesis 41:53-47, 47:13-26)
- Joseph's Brothers (Genesis 42-46, Genesis 50:15-21) Key Verse: Gen. 44:34

## What was the outcome?

- Egyptians enslaved to Pharaoh, except the priests
- Israel Preserved
- Brothers lived with guilt and sin, even after being forgiven
- Joseph blessed and exalted

## Application:

- Gen 50:20

Joseph / Brothers / Others

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# Exodus 2-15

## In what ways **did** / **did not** they Fear the Lord?

- Killed the Egyptian (Exodus 2:11-14)
- Angel of the Lord Appeared and Spoke in the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-6)
- Fled from the Staff turned into a Snake (Exodus 4:1-3)
- Speech problem? (Exodus 4:10-17) (Note: God became angry (Exodus 4:14))
- Son (s) not circumcised (Exodus 4:24-26)
- Pharaoh Rejects the request and makes Israel gather their own straw (Exodus 5)
- Israel is afraid and angry (Exodus 5:22-23, Exodus 6:9,
- Pharaoh's heart hardened by **Himself** /stubborn and later hardened by **God**
  - Exodus 7:8-13 Staff-Snake (Magicians Copy)
    1. Exodus 7:14-22 – water to blood (Magicians Copy)
    2. Exodus 8:1-15 – Frogs / Entreats until relief (Magicians Copy)
    3. Exodus 8:16-19 – Gnats (Magicians could not copy)
    4. Exodus 8:20-32 – Flies with Separation (go, but not very far away)
    5. Exodus 9:1-7 – Pestilence kills the livestock with separation
    6. Exodus 9:8-12 – Boils
    7. Exodus 9:18-34/35 – Hail
    8. Exodus 10:1-20 – Locusts (only the men can go, Pharaoh's servants plead)
    9. Exodus 10:21-27/29 – Darkness
    10. Exodus 11-12:32 – Death of the first born

# MOSES & PHARAOH

# Exodus 2-15

In what ways **did** / **did not** they Fear the Lord?

- + Passover, Left Egypt,
- Pharaoh chased (Exodus 14:4, 5, 8, 17 and was drowned Exodus 14:26-29)

**What was the outcome?**

- Great Deliverance
- Great Destruction

**Application:**

- Wrong Fear: Stubbornness turns to Grief, which can turn to Revenge rather than Repentance
- Right Fear: You will be tested!

## MOSES & PHARAOH

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**Principle #9**

Wrong Fear will result in complaining and discontent

# Numbers

**In what ways did / did not they Fear the Lord?**

- Eat Meat! Quail (Numbers 11)
- Miriam's & Aaron's Rebellion (Moses's Sister)(Numbers 11:1-16)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Gen. Not Permitted to Enter the Promise Land (Numbers 14:26–35)
- Fighting Battles (Numbers 14:39–45 )
- Gathering Wood on the Sabbath (Stoned) (Numbers 15:32–36 )
- Korah's Rebellion (Son of Levi), Part 1 (Numbers 16:1-33)
- Korah's Rebellion, Part 2 (Numbers 16:34-35) - 250
- More Rebellion, Plague (Numbers 16:41-50) - 14,700

## **Numbers 14:11**

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst?”

**What was the outcome?**

- Judgment

**Application:**

- Do all things with grumbling or disputing Philippians 2:14

**ISRAEL 1<sup>st</sup> Gen. vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen.**

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# 1 Kings-2 Chronicles

## In what ways **did** / **did not** they Fear the Lord?

- Ahab (1 Kings 16:27-34) v33
- + Elijah fed by the birds, helps the widow - food & son(1 Kings 17)
- + Elijah confronts Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)
- Jezebel death threat and Elijah flees (1 Kings 19:1-8)
- + Ahab repents and the Lord spares him for 3+ years (1 Kings 21:17-29)
- Ahab goes to war and dies (1 Kings 22 / 2 Chronicles 18) v33

## What was the outcome?

- Idolatry, Famine, Death

## Application:

- Great Courage and Faith

Elijah & Ahab & Jezebel

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**Principle #12**

Right fear does not cower before men or death

# Daniel 3

## In what ways **did** / **did not** they Fear the Lord?

- Nebuchadnezzar builds his image and commands worship (Daniel 3:1-7)
- Tattletale (Daniel 3:9)
- + Upon the threat Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (Daniel 3:13-18)
  - (1) No answer required (who I worship is my business)
  - (2) However, our God is able to deliver us from you and your fire
  - (3) If our God does not, we will not serve your gods, worship your idols

## What was the outcome?

- Escalation of Anger & Fire
- Servants Died
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego fell but delivered
- Nebuchadnezzar & others amazed but not repentant
- Decree for the world
- Prosperity for their obedience

## Application:

- Refused to recant
- Willing to die

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego



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**Principle #13**

Right fear prioritizes Christ First

# 2 Corinthians 11:23–12:10

Paul

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**Principle #14**

Wrong fear deceives others

1. Ungodly (v. 4)

2. Morally perverted (v. 4)

3. Deny Christ (v. 4)

4. Defile the flesh (v. 8)

5. Rebellious (v. 8)

6. Revile holy angels (v. 8)

7. Dreamers (v. 10)

8. Ignorant (v. 10)

9. Corrupted (v. 10)

10. Grumblers (v. 16)

11. Fault finders (v. 16)

12. Self seeking (v. 16)

13. Arrogant speakers (v. 16)

14. Flatterers (v. 16)

15. Mockers (v. 18)

16. Cause division (v. 19)

17. Worldly minded (v. 19)

18. Without the Spirit (v. 19)

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Handbook*  
(Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2003), 514.

# False Teachers of 2 Peter / Jude

# Christ in the Garden

Luke 22:41-44

“<sup>41</sup> And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to **pray**,<sup>42</sup> saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet **not My will, but Yours be done.**”<sup>43</sup> Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.<sup>44</sup> And being in agony He was **praying very fervently**; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

**What was the outcome?**

- Great Suffering, Great Salvation

**Application:**

- Prayer, Endurance

**LAST PRINCIPLE TO FEAR GOD RIGHTLY**

**PRAY**

**&**

**DO GOD'S WILL**

## Session 3: Getting Practical

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

