

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

"Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord."

Psalm 112:1,7

We can call ourselves blessed if we demonstrate a reverential fear that leads us to obedience of God's Word and find great delight and pleasure in His Word. As believers we know we are to live in obedience to it. We are to take great pleasure in hearing, reading, and spending time in God's Word. We then are a people who are greatly blessed. God is the object of our faith and the only lasting foundation for our lives. His Word shows us how He will carry out His promises in our lives as we submit to His lordship.

Preoccupation with what **"might"** happen can be defined as fear. In this rapid increase of knowledge we gain about today's world through the media, an atmosphere often exists in which fear is born and nurtured. In this unquenchable pursuit for knowledge, we must keep in mind that **"bad news"** information can produce hopelessness if we allow it to take our eyes off the belief in our Father's great ability to protect and guide His children.

What is your heart fixed upon? What is serving as the foundation for your life's values so that when tested you will not be moved away from righteousness? What are you trusting in? Is your trust in Jesus and His ability to keep your life intact or is your trust based upon your personal ability to keep everything in balance and under control?

These are very important questions because they reveal who and what we are trusting in as a basis for our lives. Our choices determine whether our trust is in the Lord or is founded on a human basis of self-sufficiency, *"I know I can...."*

Information is important and we need to be aware of what is going on around our world, nation, state, and city. However, bad news can cause us to take our eyes off Jesus and turn them to the provocation of turmoil and devastation in the earth.

We are tempted to lose our hope and trust that God is still in control and has not let go of our lives or this earth. We need to remember that in these times, God is still concerned with what is going on and has His plan in place to bring about His perfect will.

God looks over the earth and causes His Word to come to pass. Jeremiah received a promise concerning Judah and its sinfulness, judgment, and restoration. He recorded in Jeremiah 1:12, *"The Lord said to me, you have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."* You can believe that God pays attention to what He has stated and ensures that it will come to pass the way He said it! As He was concerned about Judah, He is very concerned about you.

Regardless of what level of understanding you have arrived at regarding God's will for you concerning any matter you face, His plan will be brought about through **"His"** ability, not yours. So fix your attention on His Word and refuse to pay attention to what circumstances are declaring. Choose to step back from the task of management of your life and turn that responsibility over to Jesus. Fix your heart upon your God. Trust in your Lord. He is able and willing to prove His power to you right where you live.