

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

FOUNDATIONAL FEAR

Pastor Dave Bechtel | Isaiah 33:6 | September 14, 2014

1. Discuss as a group: What do you think are some of the most common “fallen fears”? What are you looking forward to in the Fearless Series?
2. As a group, come up with a one-sentence definition for “fear of the Lord.” See Ps 34; Prov 3:7; Is 8:12-13; and the GROW Group Leaders’ Blog (bthl.ch/ggl) to jumpstart your discussion.
3. Review the list of benefits of the fear of the Lord (Point II).
 - a. Do any of these strike you as surprising or interesting? Why?
 - b. Have you experienced any of these? How?
 - c. Are there any that you would desire more?
4. Read the short article “The Fear of God” by Randy Alcorn (bthl.ch/alcorn) and discuss the following quotes:
 - a. “Unhappily, even in the church we seemed to have lost the vision of the majesty of God.” How does this challenge the way you routinely approach corporate worship?
 - b. “We learn to appreciate the access to God which Christ has won only after we have first cried, ‘Woe is me for I am lost.’” Read Isaiah 6:1-8. How does the cross both create and dispel fear?
5. Martin Lloyd-Jones, a well-known British pastor in the last century, said, “If anyone feels anything in the presence of God save an utter poverty of spirit, it ultimately means that you have never faced Him.” Do you feel like you have a healthy fear of God? If not, what’s wrong with your perception of Him? How do you get the fear of the Lord (Point III)?
6. Parents: Children learn to respect and fear the Lord by first learning to respect and fear authority (see Eph 6:1-4; Lev 19:3). How are you instilling respect for authority in your children?
7. Share one take-away you have from this discussion.

- I. What is it? (The **fear** of the **Lord**)

Pr 22:3; Lk 12:5; Jn 14:27;
Phil 2:12; II Tim 1:7; I Pet 1:17;
I Jn 4:18

 - A. It is **not** being “**afraid**” of Him.

Ex 20:18-20; I Sam 12:18-24;
Is 8:12b-13; 66:2b;
Phil 2:12-13; Js 2:19;
I Pet 3:14b
 - B. It’s **foundational** for a life that **pleases** God.

Ps 36:1; 111:10; 147:11;
Pr 1:7, 28-32; 9:10; Is 11:1-3a;
Jn 8:29; II Cor 5:9-11a
- II. What are its benefits?
 - A. **Goodness** (love, compassion, peace).

Ps 31:19; 103:11-17; Acts 9:31
 - B. **Safety** (protection)

Ps 31:20; Pr 14:27; 16:6
 - C. Long **life**

Pr 10:27
 - D. **Cleansing** (holiness)

II Cor 7:1
 - E. **Hope**

II Sam 19:30; Pr 23:17-18
 - F. **Joy**

Is 11:2-3
 - G. **Courage**

Ps 27:1; Pr 14:26
 - H. **Harmony**

Eph 5:21
 - I. **Friendship** with God
Gen 18:17; 22:11-12; Ps 25:14;
Is 41:8; Jn 15:14; Js 2:23
 - J. Corporate **presence**.

Mal 1:6-8; Js 4:8
- III. How do we get it?
 - A. It takes **knowledge**.

Deut 4:10; 5:29; 17:18-19;
Deut 31:12-13; Ps 34:11
 - B. It requires **desire**.

Is 6:1ff; Pr 2:1-5; Phil 2:10-11;
Rev 22:8-9