

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The Foundation of the Entire Book of Proverbs

What the fear of the LORD is NOT:

*It is not terror — not the paralyzing dread of a slave before a cruel master.
It is not merely respecting God as a concept or following Him as a good idea.
It is not a religious feeling that fades after Sunday morning.*

What it IS:

*Reverence — the settled, sober recognition that God is high and holy and you are not.
Awe of what God is, and love for what God has done — both at once, held together.
The gravity that keeps a life in orbit. Lose it, and you drift.
A changed side — hating what God hates, loving what God loves (Prov. 8:13).*

Five Verses You Must Know:

Proverbs 1:7

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 9:10

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:
and knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

Proverbs 8:13

*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance,
and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

Proverbs 14:26

*In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence:
and his children shall have a place of refuge.*

Proverbs 31:30

*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain:
but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

Why It Changes Everything:

A teenager who fears the LORD knows something about reality that a room full of professors without God will never touch. Not because he is smarter — because he is oriented. He knows the foundation. The scientist who can calculate a satellite's orbit to the millimeter but has no fear of God is brilliant about the orbit and helpless about the soul. Knowledge starts with the right address. The right address is the living God, who is actually there, who made everything you can see, and who will one day bring every work into judgment — including every secret thing (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Start there, and build anything.