

Proverbs 31:30

The woman to be admired... lives in the Fear of God. (MSG)



Living *in* the right fear.

[Yare' yaw-ray  to fear, revere, be afraid; to stand in awe of, be awed; reverence, honour, respect.]

Proverbs 31:30,31

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates. (NKJV)

**WHAT is it to live
IN the fear of God?**

I have left this subject for last because it seems to hold the most important key. The word 'fear' though, is not exactly something that I jump to talk about as it may conjure up many things in our minds and hearts. But we must. For this is a matter of life... real life!

Our challenge here is to once again, find out the heart of God and listen for His interpretation. If He is a dictator and a tyrant that demands our allegiance than we must tremble and be terrified, for we are doomed. BUT, if He is a holy God who is wholly love... well, that changes things. I want to bow to such a One, not only because I should, but because I am compelled to.

The Message Bible states this verse in a unique way by saying: "...the woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the Fear of God." I had to stop and ask myself what this means. I fear God, but what does 'living in' mean? I have been fascinated by what I have found.

**"I can fear someone,
but not actually trust
them."**

*Psalm 115:11 says: You who **fear** the Lord, trust in the Lord. The word **fear** here is the same root word that is used in Proverbs 31:30. It is the Hebrew word meaning to be reverent or afraid. This verse implies that I can actually fear someone (or revere) but not actually trust them. There's nothing personal and no obligations.*

*So, it would be safe to suggest that living **in** the fear of God, simply means to be living and doing life **with** God. Eating, sleeping, breathing, thinking, doing ... everything, everywhere, forever.*

Different fears?

There are different fears. There is a healthy fear (one that actually nourishes our soul & body) or there are debilitating fears that confine and restrict us, bringing death. One is rational, others irrational. One is faith-based, others are narrow and short sighted. One is based on truth, others are based on assumptions & worry. I think you know what I mean. Check out <http://www.phobialist.com/index.html> for a detailed list of 100's of phobias that people have experienced.

If we don't place our trust in God we leave ourselves open to all kinds of worry and crippling fears.

Jesus exhorts us to get the right perspective on things. Take the time to read the following passages. ([Luke 12:4-6, 22-34](#))

**"Serve God, not
fear"**

This is a hard saying, and it is at this point that I would like to declare my gratefulness for God's grace for I am promised that God looks at the heart and He sees my desire to do His will and to be totally surrendered in every possible way to Him. But I struggle just like Paul describes in Romans 7 and do the things that I don't want to do and vice-versa. I have a feeling you understand what I mean.

God's Word is very clear though, that we must come to Him washed and clean by the blood of Jesus. If & when I submit to sin, I must repent and ask God to forgive me and cover me again with His righteousness through Jesus or I cannot enter into His presence. ([Isaiah 59:2](#))

Who we fear is who we serve

- **We cannot serve to masters. Who we fear is who we serve.**
(*Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13*)
- **God does not give us phobias.**
(*2 Timothy 1:7*)
- **Perfect love drives fear away!**
(*1 John 4:18*)
- **God is love.**

Listen to 1 John 4:17-18 from the Message Bible:

“God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and

Serve God.

God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in

Serve Love.

us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with

Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.”

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!

Psalm 103:2

No wonder the Pro31 woman was blessed! Look at these scriptures.

The [reverent] fear of the Lord:

- Brought unity (*1 Samuel 11:7*)
- Conquered the enemy (*2 Chronicles 14:14*)
- Brought respect (*2 Chronicles 17:10*)
- Is clean, enduring forever (*Psalm 19:9*)
- Brings wisdom (*Psalm 111:10*)
- Brings knowledge (*Proverbs 1:7*)
- Gives strong confidence (*Proverbs 14:26*)
- Is a fountain of life (*Proverbs 14:27*)
- Brings satisfaction (*Proverbs 19:23*)
- Gives protection against evil (*Proverbs 19:23; Genesis 20:11*)
- Hates evil and steers away from it (*Proverbs 8:13; Nehemiah 5:15*)
- Perfects holiness in us (*2 Corinthians 7:1*)
- Builds great relationships (*Ephesians 5:21*)
- Brings riches, honour, and life (*Proverbs 22:4*)
- Falls on people (*2 Chronicles 14:14, 17:10, 20:29*)

“Beauty recommends none to God, nor is it any proof of wisdom & goodness, but it has deceived many a man who made his choice of a wife by it.”

Matthew Henry Commentary

“Deuteronomy 10:12-13”

[The Essence of the Law] **“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”**

Our God is a just God.

He is Holy.

He is slow to anger

He is abounding in love, kindness & mercy

He is jealous & will not share His glory

He is full of compassion & relents from doing harm

He has His way

The Lord! The Lord! He is God!

I will serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart. (*Deut. 28:47*)

I will bow, surrender, serve, revere, worship, honour, love, relinquish everything ... I will live in the Fear of the LORD.

PRAISE THE LORD!

***Blessed is the man (woman) who fears the LORD,
Who delights greatly in His commandments.***

Psalm 112:1

1. **Exodus 34:6**
And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord! the Lord! a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abundant in loving-kindness and truth,
Exodus 34:5-7 (in Context)
2. **Numbers 14:18**
The Lord is long-suffering and **slow to anger**, and abundant in mercy and loving-kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and fourth generation.
Numbers 14:17-19 (in Context)
3. **Nehemiah 9:17**
They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, **Slow to anger**, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.
Nehemiah 9:16-18 (in Context)
4. **Psalm 103:8**
The LORD is merciful and gracious, **Slow to anger**, and abounding in mercy.
Psalm 103:7-9 (in Context)
5. **Psalm 145:8**
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, **Slow to anger** and great in mercy.
6. **Joel 2:13**
So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, **Slow to anger**, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.
Joel 2:12-14 (in Context)
7. **Jonah 4:2**
So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm.
Jonah 4:1-3 (in Context)
8. **Nahum 1:3**
The LORD is **slow to anger** and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.
Nahum 1:2-4 (in Context)