

This Is the Only Type of Fear That Delivers You From Crippling Cowardice

There are two words in Hebrew used for “fear”: Pakhad – פָּחַד – is fear in general. Yir’ah – יִרְאָה – is more a reverential fear associated with authority, power, and holiness.

In Greek there is primarily one word, – *phobeo*, from which are derived words having to do with “phobia.” This word is found some 100 times in the New Covenant, and seven times in Luke 12; the chapter in which Yeshua defines the fear of the Lord.

Although there is only one word in the Greek of Luke 12, there are three different meanings, according to the context. Two are bad; one is good.

1. Verse 4 (twice): Cowardice, fearfulness, fear of man, fear of evil: bad.
2. Verse 5 (three times): Holy reverential fear of God: good.
3. Verses 7, 32: insecurity, worry, afraid that God rejects you: bad.

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that can do no more” (Luke 12:4).

As believers in Yeshua and the God of Israel, we should be fearless and courageous. Cowardice is not part of our character, because it is not part of the character of God. We do not fear evil; nor evil people; nor the devil; nor any wickedness. We have no “fear of man.”

On the other hand, we do fear God.

“But I will warn you whom you shall fear: Fear Him who, after

He has killed, has power to cast into hell. Yes, I say to you, fear Him" (Luke 12:54).

God is holy and all-powerful. He punishes evil. The fear of the Lord is eternal. The pure reverence of His holiness, power and hatred of evil is beautiful. When there are great miracles, there must be an accompanying fear of God. He who is powerful to heal sickness is also powerful to punish sin. Sin and sickness are both evil. God's holy power destroys evil.

If we are to rejoice at His power to heal the sick, so should we have an awesome fear of His power to punish sin. His power to destroy evil is awesome. "Awe" is a good way to define the fear of the Lord. He is awesome; we have awe.

"Therefore, do not fear. You are more valuable than many sparrows ...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

We are not afraid of God as if He were evil. God is good. He loves us. We are precious in His sight. He wants to give us everything good. We do not suffer from insecurity, nor lack of confidence, nor fear of rejection, nor self-condemnation.

God loves us all so much that any form of doubt or worry is driven out of us. We are totally accepted in His love. Let's find this beautiful balance: we have neither cowardice nor insecurity; but we do have the holy, awesome beautiful fear of the Lord. {eoa}

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