



CHRISTIAN  
UNION

# Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

**KEY TWO: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: CHRISTIAN VIEW OF FEAR**

## May God's Kingdom Come



**Matthew 6:9-10** - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

*Sermon on the Mount, 1877*  
**Carl H. Bloch**



## 2. Theological Foundations: 7. Christian View of Fear

*We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.*

*Having a fear of man, and not having the fear of God blunts the resolve of Christians to seek God with whole hearts, forgoing fillings of the Holy Spirit and the power to spread the kingdom of light.*



## Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. **Theological Foundations**
3. Seeking God Wholeheartedly
4. Spiritual Practices
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership



## Most Common Commands in the Bible

- **Do Not Fear** - One of the most common commands in the Bible is the command not to fear or be afraid, and while this may be the case, it applies only to certain types of fears.
- **Fear God and Fear Human Authority** - The Bible is replete with commands to fear in certain situations.
- **Praise and Give Thanks to God** - Other common Bible commands include the commands to praise the Lord and give thanks.



## ***Merriam-Webster Dictionary - Definition of Fear (Greek: Fobos)***

- 1 a:** an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger
- b:**
  - (1) :** an instance of this emotion
  - (2) :** a state marked by this emotion
  
- 2 :** anxious concern : SOLICITUDE
  
- 3 :** profound reverence and awe especially toward God
  
- 4 :** reason for alarm : DANGER



## Christian View of Fear

1. Do Not Fear Eternal Judgment
2. Do Not Fear Material Lack
3. Do Not Fear the Supernatural
4. Do Not Fear Man
5. Fear Human Authority
6. Fear God



## Christian View of Fear

1. **Do Not Fear Final Judgment**
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## Christians Are Not to Fear Final Wrath or Judgment



**1 John 4:17-18** - By this is love perfected with us, so **that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.** <sup>18</sup> **There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

*Last Judgment, 1306*  
Giotto

## Christians Are Not to Fear Final Wrath or Judgment



**Romans 5:9** - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the **wrath** of God.

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** - and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the **wrath** to come.

*Last Judgment, 1306*  
Giotto



## Christian View of Fear

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## Christians Are Not to Fear Material Lack



**Matthew 6:25-34** - “Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

*Meeting Between Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, 1466*  
**Piero della Francesca**

## Christians Are Not to Fear Material Lack



**Matthew 6:25-34 (cont'd)** - <sup>27</sup> “And which of you by **being anxious** can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you **anxious** about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

*Meeting Between Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, 1466*  
Piero della Francesca



## Christian View of Fear

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## Christians are Not to Fear the Supernatural



*The Angel Appearing to Zechariah, 1800*  
**William Blake**

**Luke 1:11-13** - “And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and **fear fell upon him.** <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “**Do not be afraid,** Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”

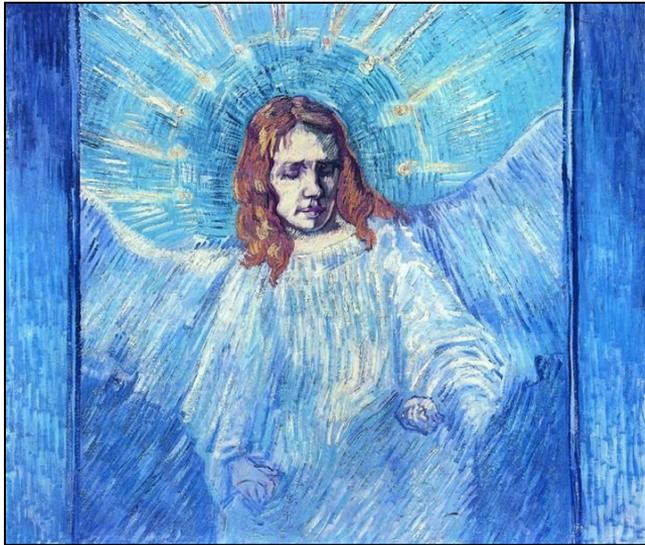


## Christians Are Not to Fear the Supernatural

**Mark 5:15** - And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, **and they were afraid.**

**Luke 7:15, 16** - “And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>**Fear seized them all**, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!”

## Angels Causing Fear at the Resurrection of Jesus



*Head of Angel, After Rembrandt, 1889*  
**Vincent Van Gogh**

**Matthew 28:2-6** - And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “**Do not be afraid**, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.



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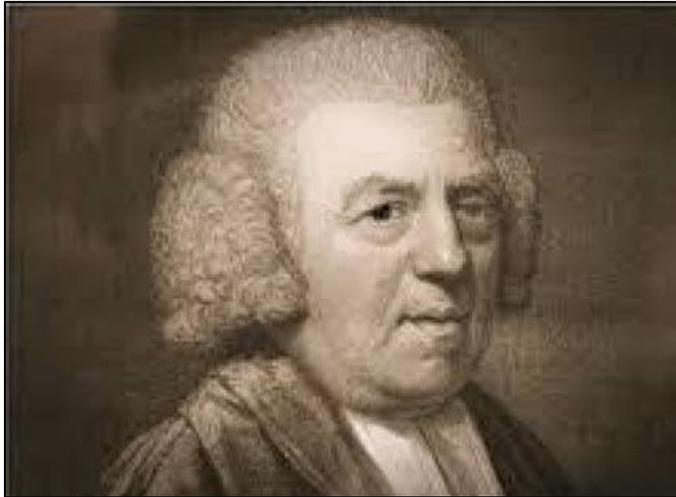


## Christian View of Fear

*Fear of man hinders many Christians from calling others to seek God through repentance, prayer and fasting. Also hinders many from confronting false shepherds, thereby harming the flock.*



## Christians Are Not to Fear Man



“The fear of man, under the name of prudence, like a chilling frost nips everything in the bud.”

**John Newton (1725-1807)**  
**Anglican minister, hymn writer, and noted abolitionist**



## Christians Are Not to Fear Man

**Luke 12:4-7** - “I tell you, my friends, **do not fear** those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. <sup>5</sup> But I will warn you **whom to fear: fear him** who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, **fear him!** <sup>6</sup> Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. <sup>7</sup> Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not**; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

**John 7:13** - Yet for **fear of the Jews** no one spoke openly of him.



## Christians Are Not to Fear Man

**John 9:22** - (His parents said these things because they **feared the Jews**, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

**John 12: 42, 43** - Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, **but for fear of the Pharisees** they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> **for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.**



## Christians Are Not to Fear Man

**2 Timothy 1:7** - **for God gave us a spirit not of fear** but of power and love and self-control.

**Hebrews 13:6** - **So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”**

**1 Peter 3:14** - But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.  
**Have no fear of them, nor be troubled**



## All Christians Persecuted

**John 15:19-20** - If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.** <sup>20</sup> **Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.**

**2 Timothy 3:10-12** - “You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> **Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,**”



## Preparing for Attacks

*Remembering that Jesus promised persecution comes to all who seek to live godly lives helps strengthen us for when those times arise.*



## Preparing for Attacks

**John 15:18 - 16:4** - “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also.



## Preparing for Attacks

**John 15:18 - 16:4 (cont'd)** - <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’ <sup>26</sup> “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.



## Preparing for Attacks

**John 15:18 - 16:4 (cont'd) - <sup>16:1</sup> “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.**



## Preparing for Attacks

**1 Peter 4:1, 2** - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, **arm yourselves with the same way of thinking**, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.



## Preparing for Attacks

**2 Timothy 2:22-26** - So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup> correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and **escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.**



## Sources of Attacks

- Christian
  - From True Christians, and
  - Fake Christians
- Non-Christian
  - From Non-Committed, and
  - Hardcore Anti- Christians



## Means of Attack

- Social Ostracism, Rejection
- Verbal or Written: gossip, slander, mockery, vilification, invective, disparagement, derision (directly or indirectly)
- Financial, Career
- Physical Affliction (directly or through government) (beatings, imprisonment, torture, starvation...)



## Devotion of First Century Christians Over “Winsomeness”

“Pagans of the first century viewed Christians as killjoys who lived gloomy lives devoid of pleasure. The pleasures from which Christians of the first century typically abstained were the popular forms of Roman entertainment: the theater with its risqué performances, the chariot races, and the gladiatorial fights with their blood and gore. Christian lifestyle also condemned the ‘pleasures’ of an indulgent temper, sex outside marriage, drinking, slander, lying, covetousness, and theft.

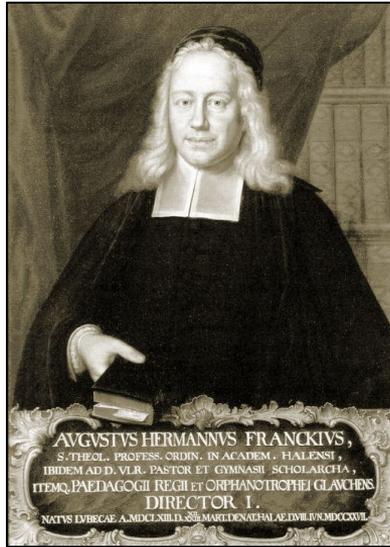


## Devotion of First Century Christians Over “Winsomeness”

“These attitudes toward contemporary Roman customs and morals, combined with the Christians’ refusal to burn incense to the emperor—a gesture of civic gratitude intended to assure the well-being of the empire—earned Christians the reputation of being haters of humanity and traitors to the Roman way of life.”

- K.H. Jobes, Commentator on 1 Peter

### Great Christian Examples



“This I take to be the true cause why we are so strongly possessed with the fear of man; for did we desire nothing in the world, we should not fear it.”

[Nicodemus: A Treatise Against the Fear of Man \(1701\)](#)

**August Hermann Franke (1663-1727)**

**Pastor, Founder of a Pietist university in Halle**



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## Fear Human Authority

*Government:*

**Romans 13:1-4** - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are **not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.**

Would you have **no fear of the one who is in authority?** Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, **be afraid**, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an **avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.**



## Fear Human Authority

*Employers:*

**Ephesians 6:5** - Bondservants, obey your earthly masters **with fear and trembling**, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ;

**Colossians 3:22** - Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, **fearing the Lord**.

*Christian Leadership:*

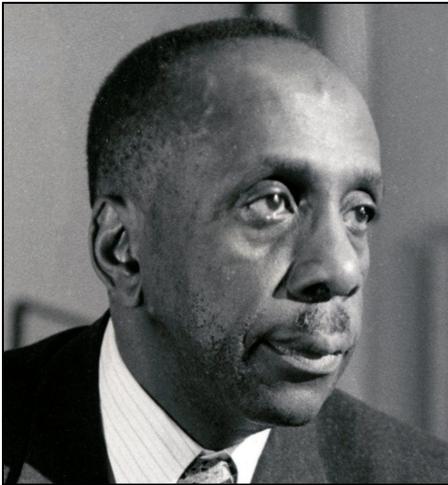
**1 Timothy 5:20** - As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may **stand in fear**.



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## Fearing God Over Fearing Man



“There is a fear that is the response of the heart to the holy and the divine, the fear of the Lord. It is this fear that is the beginning of wisdom... It is the high privilege of religion, at its best, to establish in the hearts of men the overwhelming experience of the holy, the awareness of God.”

**Howard Thurman (1899 - 1981)**  
**Prominent American Minister, Author and Civil Rights Leader**



## Fear of God

**Psalm 25:12-14** - Who is the man who **fears the LORD**? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. <sup>13</sup> His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. <sup>14</sup> **The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.**

*Lack of fear of God keeps many from true friendship with God.*



## All Should Fear God

**Ecclesiastes 12:9-14** - Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. <sup>10</sup>The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. <sup>11</sup>The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. <sup>12</sup>My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. <sup>13</sup>The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.** <sup>14</sup>**For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.**



### All Should Fear God

**Psalm 111:10** - The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

**Proverbs 1:7** - The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Isaiah 8:13** - “But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. **Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.**”



## All Should Fear God

**Proverbs 9:10** - The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

**Proverbs 22:4** - The reward for humility and **fear of the LORD** is riches and honor and life.

## All Should Fear God



**Luke 12:4-7** - “I tell you, my friends, **do not fear** those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. <sup>5</sup> But I will warn you **whom to fear: fear him** who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, **fear him!**”

*Saint Sebastian, 1480*  
 Andrea Mantegna



## All Should Fear God

**Acts 19:17** - And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And **fear fell upon them all**, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.

**Romans 3:18** - **“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**



## Christians Should Fear God

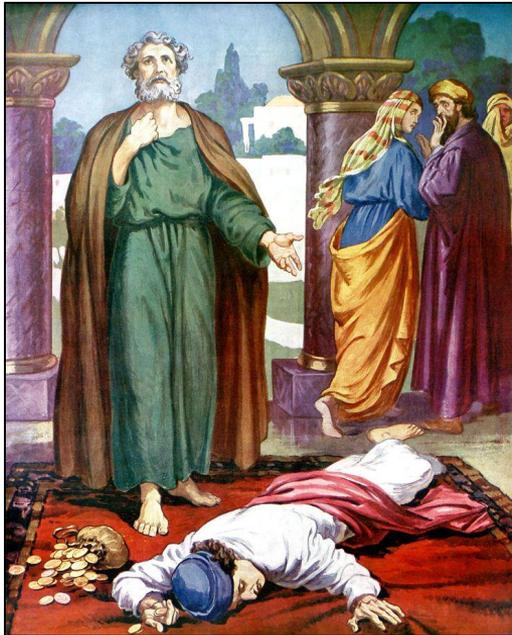
**Hebrews 10:26-31** - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a **fearful expectation of judgment**, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” <sup>31</sup> It is a **fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**



## Christians Should Fear God

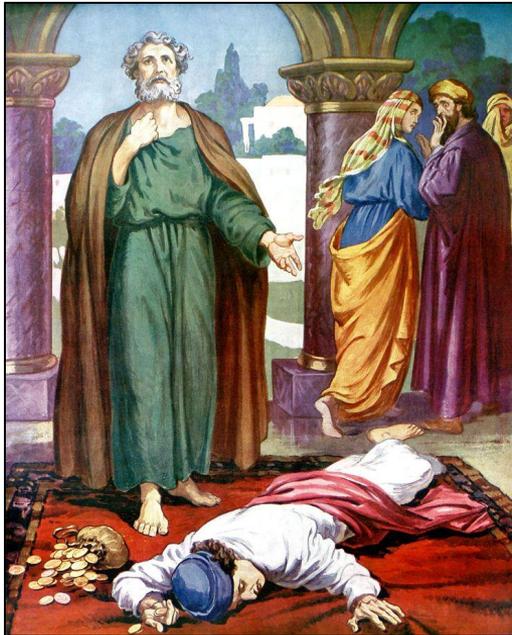
**Hebrews 12:18-24** - For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup> **Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”** <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

## Christians Should Fear God



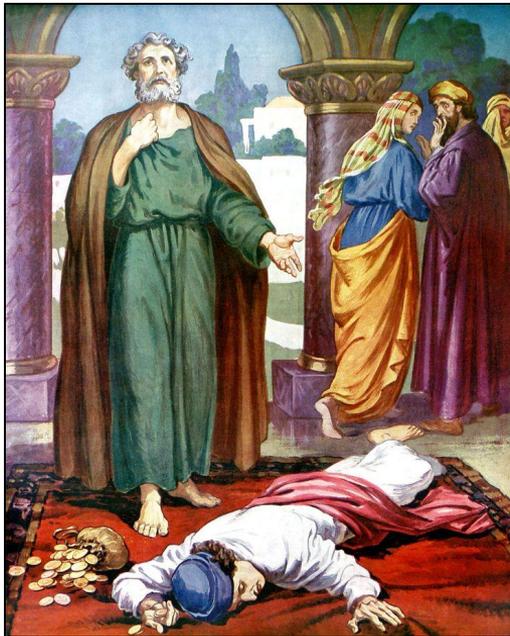
**Acts 5:1-11** - But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, <sup>2</sup> and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"

## Christians Should Fear God



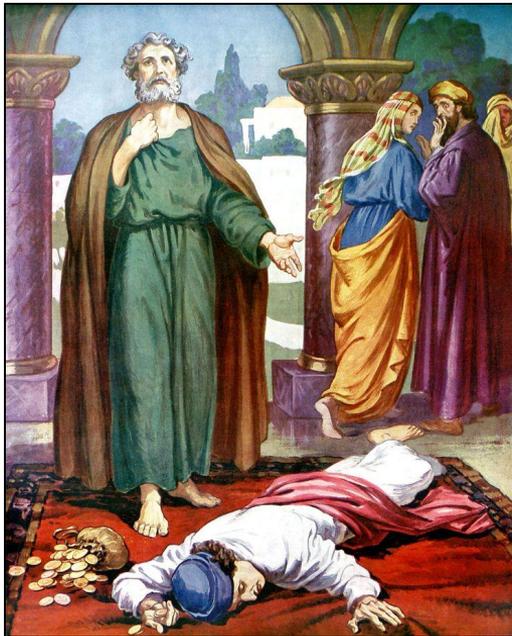
**Acts 5:1-11 (cont'd)** - <sup>4</sup> While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” <sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. **And great fear came upon all who heard of it.** <sup>6</sup> The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

## Christians Should Fear God



**Acts 5:1-11 (cont'd)** - <sup>7</sup> After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” <sup>9</sup> But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”

## Christians Should Fear God



**Acts 5:1-11 (cont'd)** - <sup>10</sup> Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup> **And great fear came upon the whole church** and upon all who heard of these things.



## Christians Should Fear God

**Acts 9:31** - So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the **fear of the Lord** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

**Romans 11:20** - That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, **but fear.**

**2 Corinthians 5:11** - Therefore, knowing the **fear of the Lord**, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.



## Christians Should Fear God

**2 Corinthians 7:1** - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in **the fear of God**.

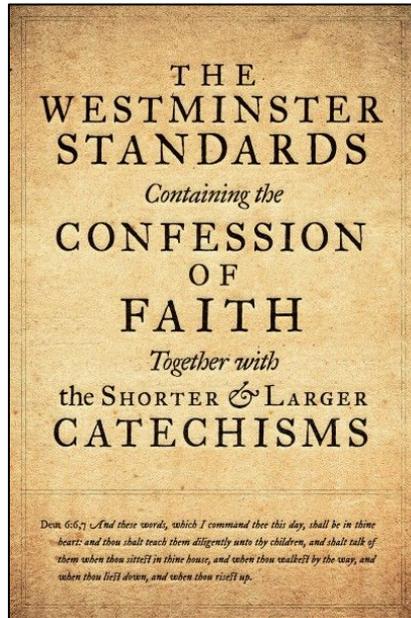
**Philippians 2:12** - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with **fear and trembling**,



## Christians Should Fear God

**1 Peter 1:15-17** - but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,<sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”<sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear** throughout the time of your exile,

## Christians Can Receive Temporal Judgments



**Westminster Confession of Faith of 1647 (Chp. XVII, Section 3):** Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure, and grieve His Holy Spirit, come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and **bring temporal judgments upon themselves.**



## When Christians Should Fear God

**Psalm 91:1-16 - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.** <sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” <sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. <sup>5</sup> **You will not fear the** terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. <sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. <sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge—



## When Christians Should Fear God

**Psalm 91:1-16 (cont'd)** <sup>10</sup> no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. <sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. <sup>14</sup> “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. <sup>15</sup> When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. <sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”



## Day of the LORD Mentioned 31 Times in the Bible

**Isaiah 13:9-13** - Behold, the **day of the LORD** comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. <sup>10</sup> For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. <sup>11</sup> I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. <sup>12</sup> I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the **wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.**

## Day of the LORD Mentioned 31 Times in the Bible



**Amos 5:18-20** - “Woe to you who desire the **day of the LORD!** Why would you have the **day of the LORD?** It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?”



## Day of the LORD Mentioned 31 Times in the Bible

**2 Peter 3:7-13** - But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

<sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.



## Day of the LORD Mentioned 31 Times in the Bible

**2 Peter 3:7-13 (cont'd)** - <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and **hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

## Fearing God Over Fearing Man



“The carnal person fears man, not God. The strong Christian fears God, not man. The weak Christian fears man too much, and God too little.”

**John Flavel (c. 1627–1691)**  
**English Puritan Presbyterian Minister and Author**



## **Christian View of Fear**

- 1. Do Not Fear Final Judgment**
- 2. Do Not Fear Material Lack**
- 3. Do Not Fear the Supernatural**
- 4. Do Not Fear Man**
- 5. Fear Human Authority**
- 6. Fear God**



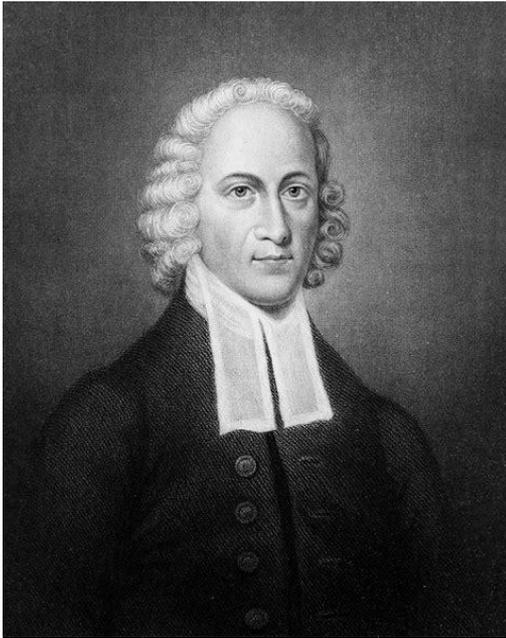
## Fearing God

**Faithful Christians** - should not be fearful of eternal judgment and the Day of the Lord, but should be fearful of stepping outside God's commandments because of potential judgments and curses. Perhaps could be called a "reverence" for God.

**Carnal Christians** - should be fearful that judgments will come upon them or be intensified. Possibly, that their disobedience would mean that they are not Christian and in danger of eternal judgment. They indeed should be alarmed!

**Non-Christians** - should be fearful of going to hell at any moment. If they do not have fear of God, it's a mark of wickedness. Non-Christians if they were wise, would be alarmed!

## 2. Theological Foundations: 7. Christian View of Fear



“The state of the times extremely requires a fullness of the divine Spirit in ministers, and we ought to give ourselves no rest till we have obtained it. And in order to [do] this, I should think ministers, above all persons, ought to be much in secret prayer and fasting, and also much in praying and fasting one with another. It seems to me it would be becoming the circumstances of the present day, if **ministers in a neighborhood would often meet together and spend days in fasting and fervent prayer among themselves, earnestly seeking for those extraordinary supplies of divine grace from heaven, that we need at this day.**”

**Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)**  
**American Pastor and Theologian**



*We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.*

*As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.*

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner  
with Christian Union: [christianunion.org/cornerstone](https://christianunion.org/cornerstone)**

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

*Psalm 33:12*



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