

When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

(Taken from When People Are Big, Ed Welch, P & R Publishing, 1997)

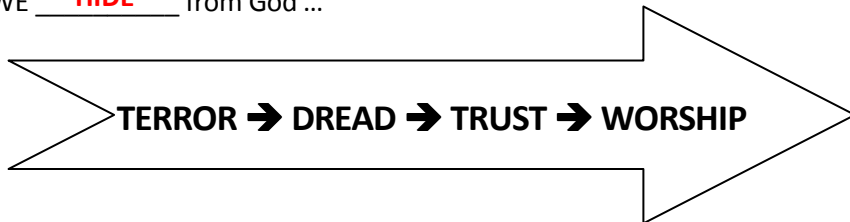
Ps. 112:1 – BLESSED is the man who fears the Lord . . .

Do you notice more of an emphasis in churches of our faith & practice on self-improvement than the glory of God? If so, what are the spiritual/practical consequences of such an emphasis?

What is the “fear of the Lord”?

- At the one end of the spectrum, the fear of the Lord does indeed mean a TERROR of God. (Gen. 3:7-8)
- At the other end, the fear of the Lord means REVERENT submission that leads to OBEDIENCE.

WE HIDE from God ...



... We seek to draw NEAR and SUBMIT to God.

Why do you think the Bible uses one word (“fear”) to describe polar responses to God?

What does the fear of God have in common with the fear of people?

What do these passages teach us about the fear of the Lord:

Deut. 4:10

Deut. 17:18-19

Deut. 31:13

Psalm 33:8-9

Psalm 34:9-11

A GROWING knowledge of God displaces the fear of PEOPLE.

“It is good for us to have times when we are UNCOMFORTABLE before God. It may not be a fear of PUNISHMENT, but it may be a fear of incurring God’s DISPLEASURE ... one of God’s names is FEAR.”
(See Gen. 31:53)



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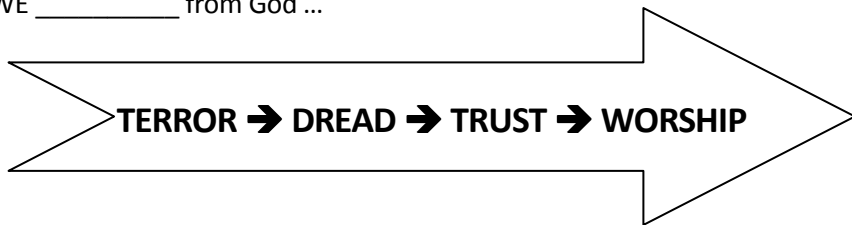
Ps. 112:1 – _____ is the man who fears the Lord . . .

Do you notice more of an emphasis in churches of our faith & practice on self-improvement than the glory of God? If so, what are the spiritual/practical consequences of such an emphasis?

What is the “fear of the Lord”?

- At the one end of the spectrum, the fear of the Lord does indeed mean a _____ of God. (Gen. 3:7-8)
- At the other end, the fear of the Lord means _____ submission that leads to _____.

WE _____ from God ...



... We seek to draw _____ and _____ to God.

Why do you think the Bible uses one word (“fear”) to describe polar responses to God?

What does the fear of God have in common with the fear of people?

What do these passages teach us about the fear of the Lord:

Deut. 4:10

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Psalm 33:8-9

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A _____ knowledge of God displaces the fear of _____.

*“It is good for us to have times when we are _____ before God. It may not be a fear of _____, but it may be a fear of incurring God’s _____ ... one of God’s names is _____.”
(See Gen. 31:53)*