

THE COMMAND TO FEAR (or Revere) GOD

Found in 36 verses from our list

Only the "fear" part of the verses is listed. Many of the commands are connected with concepts such as service, love, obedience, etc. Some of the commands contrast fear of God (which we must have) to some type of sin (which we must avoid). However, our purpose at this point is simply to demonstrate the obligation we have to fear God, not to demonstrate its compatibility with other godly character traits, or its incompatibility with sinful conduct. Unless stated, the recipients of the command are people who belong to God, or who at least claim to.

In a few verses, the obligation is stated indirectly, or is implied in the form of a rhetorical question.

Since the concept of "fear" can be translated several ways (including words such as "afraid" and "reverence"), it is put in italics, where present in the verses listed below.

1. "Do it. (A basic command.)

Leviticus 19:14 - *Fear* your God.
Leviticus 19:32 - *Revere* your God.
Leviticus 25:17 - *Fear* your God.
Leviticus 25:36 - *Fear* your God.
Leviticus 25:43 - *Fear* your God.
Deuteronomy 6:13 - *Fear* the Lord your God.
Deuteronomy 10:20 - *Fear* the Lord your God.
Joshua 24:14 - Now *fear* the Lord.
Psalm 34:9 - *Fear* the Lord.
Proverbs 24:21 - *Fear* the Lord.
Proverbs 3:7 - *Fear* the Lord.
1 Peter 2:17 - *Fear* God.
Revelation 14:7 - *Fear* God.

2. It's our obligation to fear. (More details given than in the previous section.)

Deuteronomy 10:12 - All that the Lord your God asks of you: *fear* the Lord your God (etc.).
Deuteronomy 6:24 - The Lord commanded us ... to *fear* the Lord our God.
1 Samuel 12:24 - Be sure to *fear* the Lord.
Psalm 90:11 - Your wrath (over sin) is as great as the *fear* that is due you.
Jeremiah 5:22 - "Should you not *fear* me?" declares the Lord.

3. Who should we fear? (Specific emphasis: The God of the Bible is the one we must fear.)

Deuteronomy 13:4 - It is the Lord your God you must ... *revere*.
1 Chronicles 16:25 - The Lord ... is to be *feared* above all gods.
Psalm 96:4 - The Lord ... is to be *feared* above all gods.
Isaiah 8:13 - The Lord Almighty ... is the one you are to *fear*.

Daniel 6:26 - Decree by Nebuchadnezzar: People must *fear* ... the God of Daniel.
Matthew 10:28 - Be *afraid* of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell
(i.e., more than you *fear* humans, who can only kill your body).
Luke 12:5 - *Fear* him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you
into hell. Yes, I tell you, *fear* him.

4. Who should do the fearing? (Not just "believers.")

Deuteronomy 31:13 - Children must ... learn to *fear* the Lord your God.
Psalm 33:8 - Let all the earth (its inhabitants) *fear* the Lord.

5. It must influence our worship and service to God.

Psalm 2:11 - Serve the Lord with *fear*.
Hebrews 12:28 - Let us ... worship God acceptably with *reverence* and *awe*.
[These two words are not the same as the word "fear" seen in the other
New Testament verses. They have a slightly different emphasis.]

6. It must influence our attitude about salvation.

Romans 11:20 - Do not be arrogant (because you have been offered salvation and
others haven't), but be *afraid*. (God doesn't have to give you this offer.)
Philippians 2:12 - Continue to work out your salvation with *fear* and trembling
(since God is the one who gives you both the desire and the ability to do
so - v. 13).

7. It must influence the way we live.

2 Chronicles 19:7 - Now let the *fear* of the Lord be upon you. (Context:
promoting justice; avoiding injustice.)
2 Chronicles 19:9 - To the leaders: You must serve ... in the *fear* of the Lord.
Nehemiah 5:9 - Shouldn't you walk in the *fear* of our God? (Context: not taking
advantage of others.)
Proverbs 23:17 - Always be zealous for the *fear* of the Lord.
1 Peter 1:17 - Live your lives as strangers here (in this world) in *reverent fear*.

Passages used: Leviticus 19:14, 32; 25:17, 36, 43; Deut. 6:13, 24; 10:12, 20; 13:4; 31:13; Joshua 24:14; 1 Samuel 12:24; 1 Chron. 16:25; 2
Chron. 19:7, 9; Neh. 5:9; Psalm 2:11; 33:8; 34:9; 90:11; 96:4; Proverbs 3:7; 23:17; 24:21; Isaiah 8:13; Jeremiah 5:22; Daniel 6:26; Matthew
10:28; Luke 12:5; Romans 11:20; Philip. 2:12; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Peter 1:17; 2:17; Rev. 14:7.