

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Psalm 33:8 “Let all the earth **fear the LORD**; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in **awe** of Him.” Deuteronomy 10:12-14 “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? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.”

Quote: “The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshipping Him in awe.” J. I. Packer, Knowing God

The fear of God is an attitude of **awe** and **adoration** whereby the child of God guides and guards his or her thoughts, words and deeds for the glory of God and the eternal good of men.¹ The true and living God is both a “consuming fire”² and “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.”³ He chastens in perfect righteousness those errant children whom He loves for the purpose of conforming them to the image of His Son. And yet, with compassion, long-suffering, and wisdom, He is working “all things together for the good of those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” as He defines and determines good for His glory. Through most Gentile and Jewish eyes, the man called Jesus ended up paying the ultimate price for nothing at the hands of Rome. Through the eyes of faith, Christians see the very same scenario as the ultimate victory! Jesus came to save His people from their sins. The poverty of Galilee, the heartache of Gethsemane, the agony of Gabbatha, the abandonment on Golgotha and the victory of an empty grave were all part of God’s sovereign plan. The wonder of wonders is that the best is yet to come—glory awaits for all who fear God through faith in the Person and work of His dear Son!

Paul certainly gave evidence of a healthy fear of God in his inspired writings. One of the most inspirational is Romans 11:33-36. “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For

who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

Like Moses, who is thought to have written Psalm 91, William Cooper captured the confidence that God-fearing believers can have amidst the storms of life. In his poem, *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*, Cowper echoed the Psalmist who wrote, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.’”

The Fear of God

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sov’ reign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow’r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

1. Matt.22:37-40; I Cor.10:31-33 2 Deut4:24; Heb.12:29 3 II Cor.1:3
4 Psalm 91:1-2