

**JOHN BEVERE**

**The**  
**Awe**  
**of**  
**God**

A 6-WEEK SERMON SERIES

**Lesson 6: The Benefits of Holy Fear**

## Lesson 6: The Benefits of Holy Fear

### Outline:

1. Wisdom
2. Riches
3. Honor
4. Long Life
5. Close

## The Treasure's Benefits

What are the BENEFITS of someone who truly walks in holy fear?

- Psalm 112 captures several of those benefits:

### **Psalm 112:1-3,6-9**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands.

<sup>2</sup> Their **children will be successful** everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> They themselves will be **wealthy**, and their **good deeds will last forever**.

<sup>6</sup> Such people will **not be overcome by evil** (and they)...will be **long remembered**.

<sup>7</sup> They **do not fear bad news**; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.

<sup>8</sup> They are **confident** and **fearless** and can face their foes triumphantly.

<sup>9</sup> They will have **influence** and **honor**.

**Let me list the benefits of the person who fear's God from just this one Psalm:**

1. This person has successful children (NKJV: descendants will be mighty on the earth)
2. This person is Wealthy
3. The good things this person does will last forever
4. This person will not be overcome by evil
5. This person will be long remembered.
6. This person will not fear bad news
7. This person is Confident
8. This person Fearless
9. This person has Influence
10. This person has honor – a person of dignity

## 1) THIS PERSON HAS SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

To begin, let's return to the father of faith, Abraham. When the angel said, "now I know you fear God, this is what God said..."

### **Genesis 22:17 | NKJV**

*Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants... and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.*

*In Jewish understanding when you have a double reference like this, it's all about multiplying...and because one verb tense is present tense and the other verb tense is future tense, it's described as one blessing on father Abraham, but God is promising that there will be blessings on his descendants. In other words, in blessing you Abraham, I will continue to bless you through your children.*

Holy fear continues to bless us through our descendants, and this is true not only in this life, but eternally.

### **NOTE**

- In eternity, many will possess greater honor and influence due to their descendant's obedience in building the kingdom.
- Abraham is an excellent example; his eternal influence will be enhanced by His offspring – Joseph, Samuel, David, Daniel, Isaiah, and of course Jesus; just to name a few. Even now, his legacy continues.

## 2) This person is Wealthy

## 3) The good things this person does will last forever

- Sadly, many think in heaven everything starts over. This isn't true, as believers, we've already begun to shape eternal history.

## 4) This person will not be overcome by evil

## 5) This person will be long remembered

Ps. 112:2: **“an entire generation of godly people will be blessed”**

- The word ‘generation’ means, “a long time,” and it references our “posterity.”
- Zechariah prophesied, “His mercy is on those who *fear Him* from **generation to generation**” (Luke 1:50).

A great example of this is found in the lives of two men, both born early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Max Jukes

In 1874 a sociologist named Richard Dugdale visited 13 county jails in upstate New York. He discovered 6 persons under 4 different family names that were blood relatives. This sparked curiosity and led him into a deep dive of the family line. It led back to an early Dutch settler named Max Jukes, who was born somewhere between 1720 and 1740. After years of diligent research Dugdale identified 540 descendants of Jukes.

#### Among his descendants were...

- 76 convicted criminals
- 18 brothel keepers
- 120 prostitutes
- over 200 government relief recipients

#### In short...

- there were generational sins that led to an abundance of dysfunctional behavior and cost the State tens of millions of dollars in today’s currency value.

### Jonathan Edwards

Born during the same time period.

He was a revivalist who authored numerous books and inspired many to take the gospel to the nations of the world. He was married to Sarah Pierpont in 1727. This couple greatly feared God. They read the Bible and prayed together every night before retreating. They had 11 children and Jonathan prayed a blessing over each child daily. He stated, “Every house should be a little church.”

Jonathan and Sarah’s 1,394 known descendants reveal God’s promise to those who fear Him - that they will *possess the gates of their enemies* and *their children will be successful everywhere*.

### Among their descendants are . . .

- 13 college or university presidents
- 65 college or university professors
- 3 United States Senators
- 30 Judges
- 100 lawyers
- 60 physicians
- 75 Army and Navy officers
- 100 ministers and missionaries
- 60 authors of prominence
- 1 vice president of the United States, Aaron Burr

His offspring didn't cost the State one penny

### 6) This person will not fear bad news

"Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth."  
Luke 21:26 NKJV

"The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."  
~ Oswald Chambers

### 7) This person is Confident

God said to Joshua 7 times 'Be Strong and of good courage'

- The opposite of courage is discouragement.
- Alexander the Great stated, "An army of sheep led by a lion is better than an army of lions led by a sheep."

### 8) This Person is Fearless

"Whoever fears God stands above all manner of fear. He has become a stranger to all the fear of this world and placed it far from himself." (Ephrem the Syrian)

### 9) This person has Influence

## 10) This person has honor – a person of dignity

### Wisdom

#### Proverbs 4:7 | GNB

Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do.

There is *nothing* in this world that equals the value of godly wisdom.

- We should seek God's wisdom in every decision we make.

We are told:

#### Proverbs 4:8

"If you prize wisdom, she will make you *great*."

The Hebrew word for *great* is defined, "to raise, to lift up; to be exalted."

- When God promotes, no one or no circumstance can demote! Wisdom, therefore, is the path to enduing significance.

Wisdom must be discovered; it's hidden, but not out of reach. Once found, it brings tremendous benefits.

### So how do we find it?

#### Psalms 111:10 & Proverbs 9:10 | NKJV

The fear of the LORD is the *beginning of wisdom*.

The Hebrew word for *beginning* is significant.

- It's found in the first verse of the Bible, "In the *beginning* God created the heavens and earth."
- This word means: 'the starting place.'
- Holy fear is the *originating point* for wisdom.

### Picture it like this...

There is a storehouse full of all the wisdom you need for enduring success. However, there's only one door and one key that can gain you access, it's holy fear.

Isaiah writes,

**Isaiah 33:6 | NIV**

"a rich store of...wisdom and knowledge; **the fear of the Lord** is **the key** to this treasure."

**Holy fear** is the **origin of enduring wisdom**, but **the benefit continues beyond the starting place**:

**Proverbs 14:27**

The fear of the Lord is a **fountain** of life, to turn one away from the **snares** of death.

Two key words are highlighted: **fountain** and **snares**.

**fountain.**

- The Hebrew word carries the meaning of 'a flow' or a constant source. To live well doesn't result from sporadic good decisions, rather a consistent flow of wise decisions that bear lasting fruit.

**snares (refer to traps or bait).**

- "The proper understanding of this Hebrew word is the lure or bait placed in a hunter's trap."
- Any good hunter knows that a trap needs two things to be successful. It must be hidden, in hopes that the animal will not recognize it for what it is, and it must be baited to entice the animal into the trap's deadly jaws.

**Proverbs 15:33 | NKJV**

The fear of the Lord is the **instruction** of wisdom

In combining the truths of these two passages, we discover that . . .

**Holy fear is a fountain - a continual flow - of the instruction of God's wisdom. It's an ever-present counselor, that doesn't slumber or sleep, but consistently coaches us to make wise decisions in life.**

When we are left on our own, separate from God's wisdom, mankind has proven for thousands of years we will make detrimental decisions, while thinking we're making good ones.

### Why is this?

- The ways of death and destruction are hidden and baited, no different than traps.
- What appears to be good, wise, beneficial, and enjoyable is often merely bait to lure you into what over time is bad, unwise, detrimental, and grieving.
- The fear of the Lord protects us from this by *faithfully turning us away from these traps*.

### Abimelech

#### Genesis 20:3 NLT

But that night God came to Abimelech in a dream and told him, "You are a dead man, for that woman you have taken is already married!"

### All we have to do is inquire.

- We now have the ability to see what's wholesome, perceive strategic maneuvers and inspired ideas.
- In essence, we ultimately rise above the norm and stand out in society.

### In this final segment, I want to talk about 'the power twins.'

- These two virtues go hand-in-hand; often complimenting each other in scripture.

They are identified in the following verse:

#### Proverbs 22:4

True *humility* and *fear of the Lord* lead to riches, honor, and long life.

True *humility* and *holy fear* are connected.

You will never find someone who fears God who is not truly humble, and conversely, anyone who is truly humble who doesn't fear God.

Let's briefly look at the three listed promises:

1. Riches
2. Honor
3. Long life



## Riches

The Hebrew word for 'riches' is defined:

*"Wealth, riches. It describes all kinds of wealth in land, possessions, cattle, and descendants."*

It's the same Hebrew word for *wealthy* as Psalm 112:3.

### **Address mindset/controversy toward possessing riches and wealth.**

- I had to come to grips with this years ago. In our early years of ministry, Lisa and I witnessed ministers teaching a 'prosperity gospel' that lead many to chase after opulence. The fruit was devastating, it led many into covetousness, which is idolatry.
- In witnessing the casualties, we responded by swinging the pendulum the opposite direction. We grew to disdain any teaching that mentioned wealth, riches, or prosperity.

### **A person who truly fears God will handle wealth properly and not succumb to the trap of covetousness.**

What is the purpose of wealth and riches? To bless others...

- Share about the work you are doing and why finances are an important factor to accomplish what you're assigned to do.

### **These projects have cost tens of millions of dollars.**

- What if the men and women who've supported these efforts believed that godliness is synonymous to lack or poverty?
- If they did, we wouldn't have strengthened the multiple millions who've been reached.

### **There is a huge difference between covetousness and possessing wealth to impact lives. Those who truly fear God know the difference and stay clear of the former.**

### **If someone is poor, does it mean they lack the fear God?**

- No! Scripture is loaded with men and women who didn't possess material wealth.
- Did it make them less godly? Absolutely not! True wealth is not measured in money or possessions, but our ability to help others.

## Honor

The Hebrew word for ‘honor’ is defined as: “honor, glory, majesty, wealth.”

- It carries a weightiness, an authority not stemming from a title or position, but rather attached to character.

So we discover yet another wonderful benefit of holy fear: **nobility**.

- It transforms you into a person of dignity and honor.

The Psalmist uses the same Hebrew word for those who fear God:

**Psalm 112:9**

“They will have influence and **honor**.”

### Consider the virtuous woman in the book of Proverbs.

- She possesses tremendous qualities. She’s trustworthy, wise, diligent, energetic, hardworking, prosperous, wealthy, kind, assists those in need, and defends the helpless.
- Another outstanding trait that is sometimes overlooked is, “She is clothed with strength and dignity” (Proverbs 31:25).
- She wears honor like a garment, in other words, no different than our clothing—it’s visible and noticeable to all in her presence.

What is her calling-card? It’s holy fear!

**Proverbs 31:30**

Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who **fears the Lord** will be greatly praised.

**Here is the amazing reality:** the nobility and dignity ascribed to this woman is available to any man or woman who fears God.

## Long Life

**A fabulous benefit of holy fear is prolonged days.**

We read:

**Proverbs 10:27**

“Fear of the Lord lengthens one’s life.”

What a promise! And it’s not a one-time occurrence, for again, we are told the wisdom of holy fear will,

**Proverbs 9:11**

“Multiply your days and add years to your life.”

Not only are we promised **added years** but assured that **our days will be more productive**.

- Not just *quantity*; but also *quality*.

Still another confirmation is found in one of the Ten Commandments. Holy Fear inspires us to honor our parents so that...

**Ephesians 6:2**

“Things will go well for you, and you will have **a long life** on the earth.”

Once again, we find not only longevity, but also productive days.

- It’s important to note, without quality of life, the pleasure of added years diminishes.

Solomon wrote in his pessimistic years,

**Ecclesiastes 7:1**

“The day you die is better than the day you are born.”

It’s obvious, he must not have been enjoying life when he penned these words.

**What ensures quality of life, riches, and honor?**

- True humility and the fear of the Lord.

## **Close**

**Chose now to be a part of the mighty transformational move of holy fear that will prepare the bride for the return of our Groom. Don’t be on the outside looking in. By embracing holy fear, you’ll find deep intimacy with our Bridegroom, your salvation will be matured, you’ll be very fruitful, and you will build an eternal legacy.**