

FOOLPROOF

The Beginning

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Ephesians 5:15-17 "Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

In light of my past experience, my current circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what's the wise thing for me to do?

The beginning of wisdom is surrendering to the source of wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Three Reasons to Fear the Lord

1. God's POSITION demands that I fear Him.

Job 37:23-24 "We cannot imagine the power of the Almighty; but even though He is just and righteous, He does not destroy us. No wonder people everywhere fear Him. All who are wise show Him reverence."

Job 38:2, 4 The Lord's challenge to man: "Where were you when I created the world? Who are you to question My wisdom?"

Malachi 1:6 "'A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due Me? If I am a master, where is the respect due Me?' says the LORD Almighty."

Luke 12:4-5 "I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him. Fear Him who has power over both your body and your soul!"

1 John 2:3-6 "We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in Him. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did."

Obedience is not optional. God requires it. His nature demands it.

Micah 6:8 "The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what He **requires of you**. You must treat people fairly. You must love others faithfully. And you must **be very careful** to live the way your God wants you to."

2. God's TRUTH teaches me to fear Him.

Deuteronomy 31:11-13 "...you shall read this law ...so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God..."

Psalms 25:12-14 "Who are those who fear the Lord? He will show them the path they should choose. They will live in prosperity, and their children will inherit the land. The Lord is a friend to those who fear Him. He teaches them His covenant."

Whenever you separate the PERSON of Jesus from the PURPOSE of Jesus you are deceived.

Mark 8:33 "Jesus said to Peter. 'You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'"

Matthew 7:21 "Jesus said, 'Not everyone who calls out to Me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of My Father in heaven will enter.'"

3. God's LOVE motivates me to fear Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 "For Christ's love compels us... that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again."

Romans 7:12 "The law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good."

Psalms 119:97 "Oh, how I love Your law! I meditate on it all day long."

Isaiah 33:5-6 "The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He will fill Zion with His justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; **the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.**"

Psalms 34:9 "**Fear the LORD**, you His holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing."

Memory Verse: Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

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