

Principles to cultivate a blessed life

An in depth study of Psalm 112 (Part-3) on 23.3.2014

Reasons for the fear of the Lord.

- (1) We should fear Him because of His authority as the creator of all things and people (Ps 33:6-9; 96:4-5; John 1:19). The fact that God's awesome authority and power continues to be exercised over the elements of creation and over the human race is sufficient cause for fearing Him (Ex 20:18-20; Ecc3:14; Mk 4:39-41).
- (2) The holiness of God and His separation from & constant opposition to sin and unrighteousness should cause us to fear Him (Rev 15:4).
- (3) The universal judgment of God at the end of history should cause us to fear Him who judges all injustice and inequity (Deut 17:12-13; Is 59:18-19; Mal 3:5; Heb 10:26-31). It is a solemn and holy truth of Scripture that on the day of final judgment every person will give an account to God for his/her actions and the stewardship of life (Eccl 12:4; Ro 14:10&12; 2-Co 5:10 and Rev 20:12-13).
- (4) God has promised to bless and honor all those who fear Him "Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life"(Pr 22:4). Other blessings promised include protection from death (Pr14:26-27), provision for our daily needs (Ps 34:9; 111:5) and a long life (Pr 10:27).
- (5) Those who fear the Lord know that "it will go better with God-fearing men "regardless of what happens in the world around them"(Eccl 8:12-13).

Additional reasons to fear God:

- (a) **He is the object and author of Godly fear** (Is 8:13; Jer 32: 39-40).
- (b) **Scripture is understood through fear** (Prov 2:3-5)
- (c) **Godly fear or fear of God is described as:**
 - The beginning of knowledge: (Pr 1:7; 9:10; 15:33)
 - Hatred of evil (Pr 8:13)
 - Wisdom (Job 28:28; Ps 111:10)
 - A treasure to saints (Pr15:16; Is 33:6)
 - A fountain of life (Pr 14:27)
 - Is sanctifying (Ps19:9)
 - Filial and reverential (Heb12:9 and 12:28)
- (d) **Is Commanded** (Deut 13:4; Ps 2:11; Ps 22:23; Eccl 12:13 &1-Pet 2:17)
- (e) **Motivates to know & understand:**
 - The holiness of God (Rev 15:4)
 - The greatness of God (Deut 10:12; 10:17)
 - The goodness of God (1-Sam 12:24)
 - The forgiveness of God (Ps130:4)
 - Wondrous works of God (Josh 4:23-24)
 - Judgments of God (Rev 14:7)
- (f) **Necessary for believers to:**
 - The worship of God (Ps 5:7; Ps 89:7)
 - The service of God (Ps 2:11; Heb 12:28)

- Avoiding of sin (Ex 20:20)
- Righteous government (2-Sam 23:3)
- Impartial administration of justice (2-Chr 19:6-9)
- Perfecting Holiness (2-Cor 7:1)
- (g) **Those who have it:**
 - Give pleasure to God (Ps 147:11)
 - Are pitied by God (Ps 103:13)
 - Are accepted by God (Acts 10:35)
 - Receive mercy from God (Ps 103:11; 103:17; Luke 1:50)
 - Are Blessed (Ps 112:1; Ps 115:13)
 - Confide in God (Ps 115:11; Pro 14:26)
 - Depart from evil (Pro 16:6)
 - Converse together of holy things (Mal 3:16)
 - Should not fear man (Is 8:12-13; Matt 10:28)
 - Have their desires, fulfilled by God (Ps 145:19)
 - Have their days, prolonged (Pro 10:27)
- (h) **Should be:**
 - Prayed for (Ps 86:11)
 - Exhibited in our service (Col 3:22)
 - Exhibited in giving a reason for our hope (1-Pet3:15)
 - Constantly maintained (Deut 14:23; Josh 4:24 and Pro 23:17)
 - Taught to others (Ps 34:11)

The Conditions We Must Meet.

There are specific basic requirements that one must fulfill in order to cultivate the fear of the Lord. Once this is done, one enters into God's blessings.

1. The first requirement relates to the theme of decision. Many people wait to call upon God until they are in a desperate situation. But in Proverbs 1:28-29, God said that He will NOT listen to such prayers:

“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but will not find me, Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord”.

Notice knowledge and the fear of the Lord are set side by side. {Through these in-depth studies, I am trying to impart the knowledge}. Because the people discussed in this passage did not choose the fear of the Lord, God rejected them. **THE FEAR OF THE LORD WILL NOT COME INTO OUR LIVES UNLESS WE CHOOSE IT-** The decision is ours to make.

2. The second requirement after making a decision is the need to be taught the fear of the Lord. Let's read what the Holy Spirit speaks to God's children in Psalm 34:11-13.

“Come, you children, listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from the evil, And your lips from speaking deceit”.

We need to be taught the fear of the Lord. After we have chosen it, we have to let the Holy Spirit teach us the fear of the Lord. There is no instructor besides the Holy Spirit who can teach us the fear of the Lord. Let us **pray right now** and make a decision.... You can repeat after me:

Dear God, I want to make room in my life for the fear of the Lord. I open up my heart and life to the fear of the Lord. Teach me the fear of the Lord. ---In Jesus Name---Amen.

If we allow the Holy Spirit teach us the fear of the Lord, the implication is that we will have life and many days to see good. This promise is our motivation, and it manifests itself in our speech—the words that come out of our mouth. Does the way in which we speak reflect the fear of the Lord??? Proverbs 3:7 says “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil”.

The conditions mentioned here are NOT trusting in our wisdom AND departing from evil. We must turn our backs on evil and separates ourselves from it. One thing that Bible makes clear is that the EVIL and the FEAR OF THE LORD do not go together.

So, let me sum-up the **preliminary conditions** that we must fulfill in order to CULTIVATE the Fear of the Lord.

1. We must make the right choice: There are many Christians who have never even been confronted with the necessity of making that choice.
2. We must be taught by the Holy Spirit. He alone can teach us the fear of the Lord. We must enroll as pupils in the school of the Holy Spirit.
3. We must renounce dependence on our own wisdom.
4. We must renounce evil in any form in which we recognize it.

Now because of the importance of this topic/subject and in order to understand it fully, lets look at who we are and how God has designed Us. This should help us understand where the Word of God should sit, where the Holy Spirit resides and operate and how our bodies respond at a given time. We are a very, very complex beings and only a living God could have created us as we are.

We are a SPIRIT, have a SOUL and live in a BODY. {Put the chart on the screen}

OUR BODY

It is by our **body** that we function. It’s comprised of organs and cells which consists of protein, carbohydrates and fats. Our body contains our nervous system with nerves and the brain. It is through our bodies that we connect to the physical world with our five senses. Psalm 139:14 says that “You are fearfully and wonderfully made.”

OUR SOUL

Our **soul** is what gives us our personality and its through our soul that we live out our relationship with God, with our people and with our self. Our soul likely has three(3) major components—our mind, will and emotions.

Our mind has a conscious part and a sub-conscious part. The conscious mind is where we do our thinking and reasoning. The sub-conscious mind is where we hold our deep beliefs and our attitudes. It is also where we have our feeling, our emotions and retain our memories. Our will is what gives us the ability to make choices. Through a very complex way, our mind, our will and our emotions are connected to the body through our endocrine, nervous and immune systems.

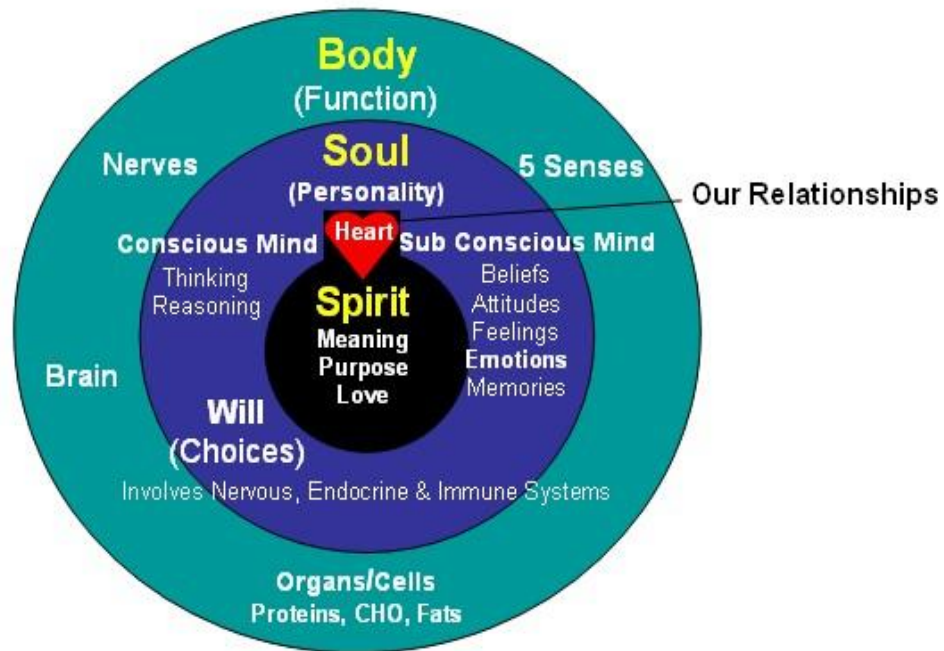
Note: Mr. Herbert Benson of The Benson-Henson Institute for Mind Body Medicine says “The mind and body communicate constantly. What the mind thinks, perceives and experiences is sent from our brain to the rest of the body”.

OUR SPIRIT

It is in our Spirit that we have meaning and purpose in life. At the deepest level our spirit gives us meaning and purpose and our spirit enables us to love one another, our self and God. It's through our spirit that we have communication and fellowship with God. Our spirit gives us intuition between right and wrong.

Note: Our spiritual health will have a significant impact on our emotional health which in turn will have major influence on our physical health. The interconnection between the spirit, the soul and the body is certainly a complex connection, nevertheless, the connection is real. The Apostle John was inspired by God to write in 3-John 1:2 "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prosper".

We Are a 3-Part Whole



We are **spirit**, have a **soul** and live in a **body**

Our beliefs and attitudes, determined in large degree by our faith (and knowing God's Word), will play a major role in our thinking patterns. Our day to day thinking will have an impact on our emotions and feelings, and our emotions and feelings will have a major impact on our behaviors. That is why, our thought pattern play a SIGNIFICANT role in our emotional, spiritual and physical health.

When a person comes to God for salvation, that persons spirit is immediately changed from the state of "LOST" (separated from God by sin) to "SAVED" (brought into right relationship with God through Jesus' life, death and resurrection). This is an immediate eternal change BUT do our other parts receive immediate change also???

Is **Body** immediately changed into an eternally-living creation? NO

Is **Mind** immediately transformed into thinking only holy thoughts for the rest of our life? NO

Is **Soul** immediately delivered from experiencing wrongful desires? NO
So, then our Spirit is different than our other parts and it is through this(spirit) part that God speaks to us, guides us, comforts us and so on.

Hebrew 4:12 tells us “*For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart*”.

Fourteen Blessings of the Fear of the Lord

1. Is the beginning of wisdom ([Proverbs 1:7](#); [Proverbs 9:10](#))
2. Determines destiny ([Proverbs 1:29](#))
3. Helps depart from evil ([Proverbs 3:7](#); [Proverbs 16:6](#))
4. Is to hate evil ([Proverbs 8:13](#))
5. Prolongs days ([Proverbs 10:27](#))
6. Gives strong confidence ([Proverbs 14:26](#))
7. Is a fountain of life ([Proverbs 14:27](#))
8. Produces satisfaction ([Proverbs 15:16](#))
9. Is the instruction of wisdom ([Proverbs 15:33](#))
10. Tends to life ([Proverbs 19:23](#))
11. Gives riches, honor, and life ([Proverbs 22:4](#))
12. Brings freedom from envy ([Proverbs 23:17](#))
13. Brings blessing and prosperity ([Eccles. 8:12](#); [Isaiah 33:6](#))
14. Involves humility ([Isaiah 2:10-21](#))

May God bless you all with to days teaching.....Amen