

Transforming Daily
“...fear God for nothing...”
Job 1:9

Why should anyone fear God? The simple answer is because He is God. To elaborate further on the answer, He is God and He said to. But what does it mean to fear the Lord? It means to honor Him with reverential respect. It also means to be afraid of Him. Many people won't accept the second answer because they say that God is a loving, kind, and good God. I agree, He is, and being so is not mutually exclusive to His judgment, wrath, and acts retribution. As a matter of fact the Bible says that we are not to fear those who can kill the body, but Him who can kill the body and destroy the soul (Matthew 10:28). Pretty clear, isn't it?

The point here in Job, however, is Satan's useless and shameful attempt at provoking God against His own will. God knows Job's heart. God also knows Satan's whiles. On the other hand, mankind doesn't. Even among Christians there is a sense that if good things come, you're right with God. If bad things come, there must be sin in your life. Now that isn't to say God doesn't reward good works or that He doesn't discipline those whom He loves when their sin breaks fellowship with Him. That's why it's so important to be discerning of the Spirit of God. Just because I wrecked my car doesn't mean there is unconfessed sin in my life. Quite a few people have driven and are driving themselves insane because they think that breaking a nail or getting the wrong food at a drive through window is punishment from God for some unconfessed sin. Not so. Sounds to me more like superstition.

There is also a sense among Christians that good things happen if you have enough faith, and if you don't have enough faith, bad things happen. “One can be healed of an illness if they will only claim it by faith,” they say. The healing doesn't come, and their response is that the one praying didn't have enough faith. Now that isn't to say that God can't heal, nor is it to say that Christians shouldn't be fervent in prayer and steadfast people of faith. That's why it is so important for the believer to be a good student of the Word of God in order to discern truth from false teaching which is harmful and has injured many physically, spiritually, mentally, psychologically and emotionally.

The believer should fear God (and love Him) because of who He is and not just because of what He has, will, or can do. I often say that we should seek His face, through Scripture and in prayer, before, if at all, we seek His hand. Fear God for nothing.