

# He who fears God ...

**Dear Friend in Jesus!** One day as I was visiting a Muslim friend, we were deep in conversation in his drawing room when his ten-year-old son, Hussain, walked in. After formal greetings and introductions, my friend told me that Hussain was memorizing the Qur'an. He asked his son to recite a few verses for me. Obediently, Hussain correctly recited portions of the chapter he had memorized that day. However, my attention centered on the words of the repetitive passage of the Qur'an: *Fattaaqullah wa atioon, So fear Allah and obey me* (Sura 26:108,110,126 ff).

After the recitation, Hussain left us engaged in discussion on the subject of fearing God. We talked about it for quite a long time, discussing not only the Qur'an but also the Bible. My Muslim friend wanted to know what the prophets in the past had to say on such a subject. So, with the help of the index towards the end of the Bible we checked a few passages that have words 'the fear of the Lord'.

Job, known in Islam as Ayub, said, "The fear of the Lord - is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding" (Job 28:28). In the Torah, Moses was commanded to tell his people, "fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him" (Deuteronomy 10:12). David, known in Islam as Daud, said, "The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever" (Psalm 19:9). Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever" (Psalm 118:4). "The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love" (Psalm 147:11).

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On the same subject Solomon, known in the Qur'an as Sulaiman, said, "He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death" (Proverb 14:26-27).

To encourage his followers, Jesus said, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. ... Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you in hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him" (Luke 12:4-5).

Do such passages refer to physical fear in the sense that we should literally tremble and quake in God's presence? No, certainly not. Fearing God means to honor God. To trust him and to abhor wickedness amounts to the fear of the Lord.

Not only my friend, but many Muslims, are surprised that in the Bible 'the fear of the Lord' and 'the love of God' stand side by side. It is like the relationship between parents and children. As children, the fear of discipline from our parents no doubt prevented some evil actions. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should fear His discipline, and therefore seek to live our lives in such a way that pleases Him.

Once we understand and accept these aspects of God, we can walk out our lives in a special appreciation of these harmonizing truths -- the "Fear of God" and the "Love of God.". We fear Him because He is holy and hates sin, but we love Him because He loved us first by sending Jesus to stand for us as redeemer and intercessor. Elsewhere in the Scriptures it is said, "Fear God and give him glory, because the

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hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water” (Revelation 14:7).

Indeed, God is kind, but he is also the master and ruler of the Day of Judgment. He will fulfil both his kindness and his justice in judging all people. Thus, as people of God we should strive to ‘purify ourselves from everything that contaminates our body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God’ (2 Corinthians 7:1).

I could not stop myself explaining to my Muslim friend that a biblical fear of God, for the believer in Christ, includes understanding how much God hates sin and fearing His judgment of sin. The fear of the Lord has several results: we avoid evil, God delights in us, and he extends his mercy to us through Christ (Proverbs 16:6; Psalm 147:11; Luke 1:50).

Therefore as believers in Christ, we have His promise that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39). We have His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). This promise is open to anyone who believes in Jesus as the restorer of eternal life. Jesus said, ‘For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day’ (John 4:40).

A couple of hours later as I was leaving, Hussain said, ‘thank you uncle’. I did not know that he was listening behind the door. Hussain is a follower of Christ today despite all the troublesome life he faces.

## **Prayer and Praise points**

- ❖ We thank the Lord for safe journeys and teaching sessions at several churches and fellowships in TX, LA, GA, TN, and KY. We praise the Lord for Christians we equipped in seminars and speaking appointments and ask you pray with us that they will reach their Muslim neighbors, friends, relatives and co-workers.
- ❖ We thank God for new connections with sisters and brothers in Christ we never knew before! We were abundantly blessed, encouraged and respected for our calling and are refreshed in Christ!
- ❖ We pray that God will continue to do miracles in the lives of Muslims in authority and influence, that the Holy Spirit will take away their spiritual blindness (2 Corinthians 4:4), and they will embrace Jesus as the only Savior.
- ❖ We pray for Christians and other minorities who are facing persecution day and night. We pray for the safety of those who have come out from Islam but are living in predominantly Muslim communities.
- ❖ We thank the Lord who is still doing miracles in the lives of Muslims, including those with hardened hearts, who read, listen, and watch our programs. We pray that the moment of realization will come, and they will embrace Jesus as their Lord.
- ❖ We pray for boldness in the face of all opposition to reveal that Jesus is the only way, and for that perfect unity Jesus prayed for in the body of Christ so the whole world will know Christ.
- ❖ From time to time Steven teaches via Skype. Often time zones become a challenge. Please pray with us for strength and that many attending such sessions will be strengthened in their faith and calling.
- ❖ We pray for God to send a new part-time administrator and for all office expenditures to be met. A great door of effective works is open (1 Corinthians 16:9). We pray for more workers to join us in outreach as God leads them. We need your prayers and support. Through your help, Muslims are being reached for Christ even in the darkest places of spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12).

## **Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects**

**Jesus to Muslims** relies solely on God through the generosity of our donors to: reach Muslims with the Gospel, expand our outreach, and hold seminars to equip Christians, give resources, as well as research and publish material for truth seekers.

**Funds in total received:**

**August 2019: \$10,853**

**September 2019: \$13,425**

**Monthly Need is \$15,000. We praise God for His provision through His people. If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving, please go to: [www.JesusToMuslims.org](http://www.JesusToMuslims.org) and click on “Support”. Donations are tax deductible.**