

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

January 28, 2012

The Fear of the Lord

EXODUS 3:6 NLT – (6) I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Man is constituted "in nerve and tissue and brain cell and soul" to function best on faith. In other words, God made us so that we realize our greatest potential when we are free from the devastating effects of fear. Yet all of us have fears. Those who deny this are being dishonest with themselves. We are afraid of others, ourselves, the future, the past, unemployment, public opinion—the list is endless!

The Bible mentions no less than two dozen words relating to fear. They range in meaning from trepidation to nervousness, and most carry a negative meaning. But one kind of fear—the fear of the Lord—is positive and health-producing. Scripture tells us that it is the "beginning of knowledge" (**Proverbs 1:7**), that it is "clean" (**Psalms 19:9**), that it gives "strong confidence" (**Proverbs 14:26**), and that it is "a fountain of life" (**Proverbs 14:27**). But, most significantly, we can choose to be controlled by this fear (**Proverbs 1:29**).

Moses expressed this kind of fear when God confronted him from a burning bush that was not consumed. Moses "hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God" (**Exodus 3:6**).

The fear of God is reverent trust. We stand in awe of God, His power, and His holiness. We believe His warnings, His commands, and His promises. We hold His character in such high respect that we choose "to hate evil" (**Prov. 8:13**), knowing that all His commands are for our good. By fearing Him, we express our devotion to Him. It is the one fear that overcomes all others.

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 34:11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Fear only two: God, and the man who has no **fear of God**."

January 1, 2013

