



Amazingly, the word FEAR (Old and New Testaments) is used to convey both negative and positive emotion.

- terror.... sheer **panic**
- awe... great **respect**

In the Bible's use of "fear" the most common object is GOD. For many reasons, a thinking person MUST FEAR GOD! Only a **fool** would be **unafraid** of God's power to judge and punish.

Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, **be afraid** of the one who CAN destroy both soul and body in hell. *(Mt. 10:28)*

We must all appear before  
the judgement seat of Christ... since  
then, we know what it is to FEAR the  
Lord, we seek to persuade men.

*(11 Cor. 5:10-11)*

The **emphasis** of the Bible is not  
fright but **motivation**.

*Deut. 10:12-13*

And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

“Are we to be afraid of God who loves us?”  
**Yes and No.**



1. God can destroy us. Jesus **took care** of that fear!

- Having been justified by faith, we have PEACE with God... *(Rom. 5:1)*

- There is now NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus...

*(Rom. 8:1)*

2. God's perfection and power are overwhelming and overwhelmingly impressive. We are afraid NOT to love him! We are compelled by the evidence to hold GOD in highest regard, respect, reverence.

We respect God because of his superiority...  
not grudgingly but enthusiastically!  
Refusal to respect God would be a major  
mistake. To recognize the obvious is to our  
credit. It is the beginning of wisdom.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Understanding starts with obtaining a knowledge of God.

*(Prov. 9:10)*

Positive fear leads to LOVE and LOVE then **defuses** all **negative** fear.

AWE < ADMIRATION > ALARM

\*This is how any genuine relationship works. Love dispels fear.

God is love... whoever lives in God has God's love made complete, giving confidence on the day of judgment... There is **NO FEAR IN LOVE**, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear [terror] has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. *(1 Jn. 4:16-18)*

## **PSALM 33**

Let all the earth fear the  
Lord, let all the people of the  
earth revere him. (vs. 8)

## WHY?

- his amazing **character** (4-5)
- his astonishing **creation** (6-7)
- his awesome **control** (9:11)
- his astounding **capacity** (12-19)



## HOW?

- This Psalm does not imply that we fear God by beating our breast or pulling our hair or screaming or cringing. It tells us to:
  - sing and praise (1-3)
  - hope and trust (20-22)

This is the conclusion of the matter.  
FEAR GOD and keep his  
commandments for this is the whole  
duty of mankind. (*Ecc. 12:13*)