

## Searching the Scriptures / 72 / Only Believers Fear The Lord / Part 2

Today our discussion will center around the fact that only believers have a respectful “*fear of the Lord*”. To accomplish this we want to look at the following three points that believers realize about God:

1. God is a “Consuming Fire”
2. God is Sovereign
3. God Must Receive All Glory

### 1. God is a “Consuming Fire”

In Exo 3:1–6 we read an amazing account: *“Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. and Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God .”*

Abraham uttered similar words in Gen 18:27, *“And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes.”* Isaiah, too, expressed his fearful condition in Isa 6:5, *“Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”*

Deu 4:24 makes this solemn pronouncement, *“For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.”* God is indeed to be feared as believers—and those whom God is drawing to salvation—come to realize that God is fully capable of casting them into the Lake of Fire, which is the punishment that every single human being deserves.

### 2. God is Sovereign

Christians also fear the Lord because they understand that He is absolutely sovereign in His dealings with mankind and this entire universe, which He has spoken into existence and which He sustains from one moment to the next. We learn this truth from Exo 15:18, *“The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.”*

We find the statement in Rev 11:17, *“...We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”* Furthermore, Dan 4:3 declares, *“How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.”* God’s rule spans all of human history on this earth from Creation to Judgment Day, as we read in 1 Cor 15:25, *“For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”*

However, we see from the parable of the nobleman’s ten servants and ten pounds in Luke 19, that unsaved man does not want to submit to God’s holy authority, as verse 14 describes, *“But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.”* Yet, in Php 2:9–11, we discover that everyone who has ever lived will ultimately acknowledge God’s sovereign rule: *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

### **3. God Must Receive All Glory**

The fear of the Lord also includes the idea that the child of God realizes that all he possesses has been given to him as a gift from God. Thus, all glory and credit belong to God alone. We see this from Rev 4:11, *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Amen.”* Isa 42:8 is another, very compelling verse: *“I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.”*

God is a jealous God, and He is the epitome of glory. He is indeed worthy of all glory—so much so that He demands that all glory remain within the Godhead, as we learn from Rev 5:12, *“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”* In fact, those who are redeemed can glory in God and what He has done for them, as Jer 9:23–24 affirms, *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”*

May God be pleased to give us the fear of the Lord as a gift, as Pro 9:10 explains, *“... the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”*, or salvation.