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Fear Of The Lord John Bevere

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Understanding the Fear of the Lord Through John Bevere's Teaching

In a world that often emphasizes personal freedom and self-fulfillment, the concept of "fearing God" can seem outdated or even unsettling to many. Yet, for those who have encountered the teachings of John Bevere, the phrase **Fear Of The Lord John Bevere** represents not a paralyzing dread, but a doorway to profound intimacy, wisdom, and transformative power. John Bevere, a bestselling author and internationally recognized speaker, has dedicated a significant portion of his ministry to unpacking this often-misunderstood biblical principle. His work challenges believers to move beyond a casual relationship with God and into a posture of reverential awe that changes everything about how they live, pray, and lead. This article explores the depth of Bevere's message on the fear of the Lord, examining its biblical foundations, practical applications, and the life-altering benefits it offers to those who embrace it.

Who Is John Bevere and Why His Message Matters

John Bevere is not a newcomer to the Christian landscape. With decades of pastoral experience and a global ministry that reaches millions through books like *The Bait of Satan*, *Drawing Near*, and his definitive work *The Fear of the Lord*, Bevere has established himself as a voice that calls the church to a higher standard of holiness. His teachings are rooted in a deep conviction that many believers operate with a diluted understanding of God's nature, focusing almost exclusively on His love and grace while neglecting His majesty, holiness, and righteous judgment. For Bevere, the fear of the Lord is not an Old Testament relic but a New Testament essential. He argues convincingly that without this foundational reverence, our faith becomes shallow, our prayers become powerless, and our lives lack the spiritual authority that God intends for His children.

Bevere's personal journey into this topic began with a crisis of belief. Confronted by the disparity between the vibrant, powerful Christianity described in the Book of Acts and the often lukewarm, comfortable version he saw around him, he began to search the Scriptures intently. What he discovered was a recurring theme: every major figure who walked in deep intimacy with God—from Abraham and Moses to Isaiah and the apostles—also possessed a profound, reverent fear of the Lord. This realization became the catalyst for his teaching ministry, and it continues to resonate with thousands of people who feel a hunger for something more authentic and substantial in their spiritual lives.

Defining the Fear of the Lord: More Than Just Respect

One of the greatest barriers to embracing the fear of the Lord is simply misunderstanding what it means. When John Bevere speaks on this topic, he is careful to distinguish between servile fear—the terrified cowering of a slave before a cruel master—and filial fear, which is the reverent awe of a beloved child before a loving but powerful father. The Greek word used in the New Testament for this kind of fear is *phobos*, but its context in

Scripture points not to terror but to deep respect, awe, and veneration. Bevere often uses the analogy of a lion: you can love a lion, admire its beauty, and even feel safe with its owner, but you never forget that it is a lion. You do not treat it like a household pet. In the same way, the fear of the Lord keeps us mindful of who God is—His infinite power, His absolute purity, and His unchanging righteousness—while also drawing us into a relationship of trust and love.

Bevere emphasizes that the fear of the Lord is not the opposite of love; rather, it is the foundation upon which genuine love is built. In his book *The Fear of the Lord*, he writes extensively about how this reverence actually protects us from false intimacy. When we approach God with flippancy or casual familiarity, we risk creating a god in our own image—a deity who exists to serve our desires rather than one whom we are called to serve and adore. True fear of the Lord humbles us, aligns our hearts with His will, and positions us to receive His grace without presumption. It is, as Bevere often says, the beginning of wisdom and the secret place of abiding protection.

Biblical Foundations: What Scripture Says About the Fear of the Lord

To fully appreciate the teaching of John Bevere on this subject, it is essential to see how deeply rooted it is in the Bible. The phrase “fear of the Lord” appears more than 300 times in Scripture, and it is consistently associated with blessing, wisdom, and favor. Proverbs 1:7 declares, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” This verse sets the tone for the entire book of Proverbs, which repeatedly links the fear of the Lord to a life of righteousness, prosperity, and long life. Bevere points out that this is not a suggestion but a spiritual law. Just as gravity governs the physical world, the fear of the Lord governs the spiritual realm. Ignoring it leads to confusion and downfall; embracing it leads to clarity and strength.

Bevere also draws heavily from the New Testament, particularly the Book of Acts and the writings of Paul. In Acts 9:31, we read that the churches throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria “had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.” Notice that the fear of the Lord is mentioned alongside the comfort of the Holy Spirit. For Bevere, this is a crucial insight: reverence and comfort are not contradictory but complementary. The early church grew not despite their reverence but because of it. They understood that God is both loving and holy, and they approached Him with a balanced combination of confidence and awe.

Furthermore, Bevere often references Isaiah 11:2-3, which describes the Spirit of the Lord resting upon the Messiah and mentions “the Spirit of the fear of the Lord” as a distinct facet of divine empowerment. If even Jesus operated in the fear of the Lord, Bevere argues, how much more do we need it? This perspective elevates the fear of the Lord from a mere Old Testament concept to a central aspect of New Testament spirituality. It is not optional for those who desire to walk in the fullness of their calling; it is indispensable.

The Transformational Impact of Cultivating the Fear of the Lord

One of the most compelling aspects of John Bevere’s teaching is his emphasis on the practical, observable benefits of living in the fear of the Lord. He does not present this as a dry theological doctrine but as a dynamic way of life that produces tangible results. Among the most significant benefits are:

- Divine Protection: Bevere teaches that the fear of the Lord acts as a shield. Proverbs 14:26 says, “In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.” When we honor God with reverent awe, we position ourselves under His covering, and He takes responsibility for our safety and well-being.
- Uncommon Wisdom: Because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, those who cultivate it gain insight that surpasses natural intelligence. They make better decisions, discern deception more quickly, and navigate life’s complexities with supernatural clarity.

• Holiness and Purity: A healthy fear of God restrains us from sin not because we are afraid of punishment but because we do not want to grieve the One we love and respect. This internal restraint is far more powerful than external rules or religious systems.

• Answered Prayer: Bevere points to Psalm 145:19, which states, “He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.” Reverence opens a channel for our prayers to reach God’s throne with greater effectiveness.

• Spiritual Authority: Throughout Scripture, those who feared God were given authority over nations, circumstances, and even demonic forces. When we honor God, He entrusts us with greater responsibility and power.

These benefits are not automatic; they require intentional cultivation. Bevere is quick to caution that the fear of the Lord cannot be faked or manufactured through religious rituals. It grows organically as we spend time in God’s presence, meditate on His Word, and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal His majesty to us. It is a grace that we can ask for and develop over time.

Overcoming Common Misconceptions About the Fear of the Lord

Despite the clear biblical support for the fear of the Lord, many Christians remain hesitant to embrace it. John Bevere addresses several common objections head-on. One of the most frequent is the idea that the New Testament replaces fear with love. While it is true that “perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18), the context makes it clear that this refers to the fear of punishment, not the reverential fear of God. In fact, the same apostle John who wrote about love also wrote extensively about walking in obedience and reverence. There is no contradiction; love and fear coexist in a healthy relationship with God, much as a child can both love and respect a good father.

Another misconception is that the fear of the Lord leads to a joyless, legalistic faith. Bevere counters this by pointing to the Psalmist, who declared, “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (Psalm 2:11). True reverence actually produces joy because it frees us from the burden of self-reliance and places us under the care of a sovereign, loving God. The early church, which walked in the fear of the Lord, was also described as having “gladness and simplicity of heart” (Acts 2:46). Reverence and joy are not enemies; they are partners in a vibrant spiritual life.

Bevere also confronts the notion that the fear of the Lord is only for spiritual elites or those called to full-time ministry. He insists that it is for every believer, regardless of age, background, or station in life. In fact, he argues that the lack of this fear is the root cause of many problems in the modern church, including moral compromise, division, and spiritual impotence. The solution is not more programs or better sermons but a fresh encounter with the holiness of God that inspires awe and transforms the heart.

Practical Steps to Cultivate the Fear of the Lord in Daily Life

Knowing what the fear of the Lord is and experiencing it are two different things. John Bevere offers practical guidance for those who want to move from understanding to application. Based on his teachings, here are several actionable steps:

1. Prioritize Time in God’s Presence: The fear of the Lord is not learned from a book alone; it is caught in the presence of God. Regular time in worship, prayer, and silence before the Lord creates the environment where reverence can grow. As we behold His glory, we are transformed.
2. Study the Whole Counsel of Scripture: Many believers focus almost exclusively on passages about God’s love and mercy, neglecting the passages that reveal His judgment and holiness. Bevere encourages a balanced diet of Scripture that includes the challenging parts, as they help us maintain a healthy perspective of who God is.
3. Practice Obedience in Small Things: The fear of the Lord is directly connected to obedience. When we deliberately choose to honor God in the small, unseen areas of our lives, we build a pattern of reverence that

strengthens over time. This includes our thoughts, words, and attitudes, not just our outward actions.

4. Ask the Holy Spirit for a Revelation: Bevere often prays for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. This is a gift that God is eager to give to those who ask. Simply praying, “Lord, teach me to fear You” can open the door to profound transformation.

5. Surround Yourself with Those Who Fear God: We are influenced by the company we keep. Spending time with fellow believers who carry a genuine reverence for God creates an atmosphere where our own faith can deepen. This includes listening to teaching that honors the holiness of God, like the messages of John Bevere.

These practices are not a formula but a journey. As we commit to walking this path, the fear of the Lord becomes less of a concept and more of a living reality that shapes every aspect of our lives.

The Fear of the Lord in Leadership and Ministry

John Bevere has a particular burden for leaders in the church. He believes that a lack of the fear of the Lord among

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