

Subject: A God-Fearing Woman

Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31

Proverbs 31 is God's description of a godly woman. It is the picture of a godly wife and mother. She loves her husband, loves her family, cares for them and always puts them first. She is hard-working and generous with her time and resources. She speaks with wisdom and kindness. For all these things her husband and children are grateful and they praise her. At the very heart of all she is and all she does is her godly character summed up in verse 30, she is a woman that fears the Lord. What does it mean to be a God-fearing woman and why is it so important? I want to show you some qualities of a God-fearing woman:

1. SHE HAS A DEEP REVERENCE FOR GOD

Proverbs is a book about godly wisdom. Wisdom is skill for living, and it begins with a reverence for God. ***Proverbs 1:7*** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* A God-fearing person wants to know and obey God's wisdom for their daily life. ***Psalms 111:10*** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

To fear God is to respect and reverence Him. The fear of the Lord has been described as "a state of mind in which our own attitudes, will, feelings, deeds, and goals are exchanged for God's." A person who fears God understands that life is all about God, not about them. ***Jeremiah 32:39-40***³⁹ *And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:*⁴⁰ *And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.* This fear of God is something that comes from the heart and is the driving motivation for God's people. It affects everything about a person's life including how they pray: "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed by thy name."

2. SHE UNDERSTANDS THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.* The fear of the Lord is directly related to the knowledge of God. And the knowledge of God comes from reading and studying God's Word. ***Proverbs 2:1-5***¹ *My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*² *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*³ *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*⁴ *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*⁵ *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

As we come to know God we understand that He is eternal, sovereign, holy, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, faithful, good, gracious and merciful, and unchangeable. How would you not fear or reverence that kind of God? A better a person knows God, the more he fears God, loves God, and trusts God.

3. SHE FEARS GOD MORE THAN ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE

The person who fears God can overcome all other fears. A prime example of this was the parents of Moses, Amram and Jochebed. ***Hebrews 11:23*** *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were*

not afraid of the king's commandment. That verse is not talking about the faith or Moses, but the faith of Moses' parents. Pharaoh had made a decree to kill all Jewish babies, but they feared God more than Pharaoh.

4. SHE INFLUENCES HER FAMILY TO FEAR GOD

Here again we see the example of Moses' mother, Jochebed, who trained her son to fear God more than Pharaoh. **Hebrews 11:24-27** ²⁴ *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;* ²⁵ *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;* ²⁶ *Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.* ²⁷ *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.* It wasn't easy for Jochebed to train Moses to fear God. They lived in the midst of an ungodly nation. Egypt was full of idols and false gods. How could she train Moses to trust and obey the one true God? Yet she did exactly that.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to grow up as a child of wealthy parents? **Proverbs 15:16** *Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.* Jochebed could have left Moses alone and let him decide for himself, but she knew God and she wanted him to know and fear God. The greatest thing any mother can do for her children is train them to fear God. Train them to have reverence for God's name, God's day, God's Word, and God's people. **Psalms 34:11** *Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.* Mothers, keep that verse in your heart every day.

The Bible says that a God-fearing woman will influence an unsaved husband.

1 Peter 3:1-2 ¹ *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;* ² *While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*

5. SHE TURNS AWAY FROM SIN AND PURSUES HOLINESS

The Bible says that a person who fears God will depart from evil. **Proverbs 3:7** *Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.* **Proverbs 8:13** *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil.* **Proverbs 16:6** *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.* It was said of Job that he feared God and shunned evil.

A woman who fears God will live a pure and holy life. **2 Corinthians 7:1** *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

6. SHE IS SAVED AND NOT AFRAID TO FACE GOD

The first step in salvation is to fear God and realize that we are guilty sinners, condemned, and we deserve punishment in hell fire. I saw something on Facebook recently that said God doesn't send anybody to hell. That's not what Jesus said in **Matthew 10:28** *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 ¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.* ¹⁴ *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

When Jesus was crucified two thieves were crucified next to Him, one on each side. One of them was saved during his final hours. He asked the other thief: “Don’t you fear God? We are condemned and deserve to die for our crimes, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

John Newton wrote these words to *Amazing Grace*: “Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.” This is the indictment of a lost world in **Romans 3:18** *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

The fear of God will first bring conviction, and then in salvation the fear of God will bring confidence. **Proverbs 14:26** *In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.*

You can tell a God-fearing woman by the way she lives. All through the Bible people who fear God show it by what they do and don’t do.

Noah feared God and built an ark to protect his family.

Abraham feared God and offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

Job feared God and endured sorrow and personal suffering.

This woman in Proverbs 31 feared God and blessed the lives of her husband and children.

Ladies, may I ask you a question? Would your husband and children describe you as a woman that fears God?

Men, if you are married to a God-fearing woman, let me ask you this question. Do you fear God like your wife fears God?

Children, here is a question for you. Many of you have a mother who fears God, and she taught you by example to fear God. Do you fear God like your mother fears God?