

Walking in the Fear of the Lord



PSALM 97:3

- Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.
- His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.
- The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.
- The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.
- All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!
- Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.
- For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.
- Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Make a Joyful Noise to the LORD

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- A PSALM**
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
 - Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the

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- With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!
 - Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.
- The LORD Our God Is Holy**
- 99**
The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! Let the LORD be great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
 - Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!
 - The King in his might loves justice; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
 - Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

- Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name. They called to the LORD, and he answered them. In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.
- O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoing.
- Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy!

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PSALM 102:20

- Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his! We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
 - For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
- I Will Walk with Integrity**
- 101**
A PSALM OF DAVID
I will sing of steadfast love and justice, to you, O LORD. I will make music; I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house.
 - I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.
 - A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil.
 - Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure.
 - I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.
 - No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.
 - Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.

- Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress! Indirect your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!
- For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.
- My heart is struck down like grass and has withered; I forget to eat my bread.
- Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my flesh.
- I am like a desert owl of the wilderness, like an owl of the waste places.
- I lie awake; I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.
- All the day my enemies taunt me; those who deride me use my name for a curse.
- For I eat ashes like bread and mingle tears with my drink; for you have taken me up and thrown me down.
- My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.
- But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations.
- You will arise and have pity on Zion; it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.
- For your servants hold her stones dear and have pity on her dust.
- Nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.
- For the LORD builds up Zion; he appears in his glory; he regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer.
- Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

Walking in the Fear of the Lord

We know we SHOULD...

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

- ¹² And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,
- ¹³ To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

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We know WHY we should...

Proverbs 9:10-11

- ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
- ¹¹ For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

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But HOW is it done?

Is it simply an attitude of the heart? Or are there specific acts that demonstrate it?

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But HOW is it done?

Is it simply an attitude of the heart? Or are there specific acts that demonstrate it?

Before going any further, ask yourself what these acts might be. When the lesson is complete, you'll see if you were on the right track.

This study will focus on this passage
from Psalm 34:

Psalms 34:11-16

- ¹¹ Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- ¹² What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth
many days, that he may see good?
- ¹³ Keep thy tongue from evil,
and thy lips from speaking guile.
- ¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the
righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their
cry.
- ¹⁶ The face of the LORD *is* against them that do
evil, to cut off the remembrance of them
from the earth.

The first thing to recognize is that knowing *how* to walk in the fear of the LORD is not self-evident; it must be learned.

Psalms 34:11-16

¹¹ Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Walking in the fear of the LORD does not benefit God. This is for our own good; “which I command thee this day for thy good.”

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Proverbs 10:27

²⁷ The fear of the LORD prolongeth days:
but the years of the wicked shall be
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Ecclesiastes 7:17

¹⁷ Be not over much wicked,
neither be thou foolish:
why shouldest thou die before thy time?

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¹² *What man is he that desireth life, and loveth
many days, that he may see good?*

We now come to the first word of instruction on HOW to walk in the fear of the LORD:

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and thy lips from speaking guile.**

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Guile: Craft; cunning; artifice; duplicity; deceit; usually in a bad sense.

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Matthew Henry Commentary

“We must be upright and sincere in every thing we say, and not double-tongued. Keep thy tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering.”

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The 3rd chapter of James shows that governing our speech is inseparable from walking in the fear of the LORD:

James 3:1-12

- 1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.
- 2 For in many things we offend all.

If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.
- 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.
- 4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.
- 5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things.

Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!
- 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.
- 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:
- 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.
- 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.
- 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.
- 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?
- 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

This passage begins with a warning against failing to maintain in ourselves the standards we set for others.

James 3:1-2a

- 1 My brethren, be not many masters [telling others what to do], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.
- 2 For in many things we offend all.

James 3:1-12

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Amazingly, there is only *one thing* we need to do to fully submit ourselves before God in the fear of the LORD.

James 3:2b

- ² If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.

James 3:1-12

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The tongue is like a horse's bit or a ship's rudder in its ability to control something much larger than itself.

James 3:3-5a

- 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.
- 4 Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth [the helmsman decides] .
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The tongue is like a small flame that can ignite a forest fire.

James 3:5b-6

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The tongue fights against being brought into submission.

James 3:7-8

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Being double-tongued undermines our attempt to be a good witness for God.

James 3:9-10

- 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father;
and therewith curse we men,
which are made after the similitude [likeness] of God.
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Such duplicity can only be found in human beings.

James 3:11-12

- ¹¹ Doth a fountain send forth at the same place
sweet *water* and bitter?
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either a vine, figs?
so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

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Now, the second directive for walking
in the fear of the LORD:

Psalms 34:11-16

- ¹¹ Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- ¹² What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth
many days, that he may see good?
- ¹³ Keep thy tongue from evil,
and thy lips from speaking guile.
- ¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

There is no neutral ground. The only way to depart from evil is to do good.

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and thy lips from speaking guile.
- ¹⁴ **Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.**

Galatians 6:9-10

- 9 And let us not be weary in well doing:
for in due season we shall reap,
if we faint not.
- 10 As we have therefore opportunity,
let us do good unto all *men*,
especially unto them who are of the
household of faith.

Psalms 34:11-16

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- 12 What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth
many days, that he may see good?
- 13 Keep thy tongue from evil,
and thy lips from speaking guile.
- 14 **Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.**

Remembering that the eyes of God are watching you – and that he responds to what he sees – this is what keeps you walking in the fear of the LORD!

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- 13 Keep thy tongue from evil,
and thy lips from speaking guile.
- 14 Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
- 15 *The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.*
- 16 *The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

This important passage is repeated almost verbatim in **1 Peter 3:10-12**:

- ¹⁰ For he that will love life,
and see good days,
let him refrain his tongue from evil,
and his lips that they speak no guile:
¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good;
let him seek peace, and ensue it.
¹² For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the
righteous, and his ears *are open* unto
their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is*
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Psalms 34:11-16

- ¹¹ Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
¹² What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth
many days, that he may see good?
¹³ Keep thy tongue from evil,
and thy lips from speaking guile.
¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the
righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their
cry.
¹⁶ The face of the LORD *is* against them that do
evil, to cut off the remembrance of them
from the earth.

This important passage is repeated almost verbatim in **1 Peter 3:10-12:**

- ¹⁰ For he that will love life,
and see good days,
let him refrain his tongue from evil,
and his lips that they speak no guile:
- ¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good;
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Psalms 34:11

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

PSALM 97:3

- 1 Fire goes before him
and burns up his adversaries all around.
2 His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
3 The mountains melt like wax before the
LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
4 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.
5 All worshipers of images are put to shame,
who make their boast in worthless
idols,
worship him, all you gods!
6 Zion hears and is glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.
7 For you, O LORD, are most high over all the
earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
8 O you who love the LORD, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of his saints;
he delivers them from the hand of the
wicked.
9 Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
10 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Make a Joyful Noise to the LORD

- 98 A PSALM
Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
2 The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the
sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and
faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the

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- 5 With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
make a joyful noise before the King,
the
LORD!
6 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it
let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteous-
ness,
and the peoples with equity.

The LORD Our God Is Holy

99 The LORD reigns; let the peoples
tremble!

- He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth quake!
2 The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
3 Let them praise your great and awesome
name!
Holy is he!
4 The King in his might loves justice;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
5 Exalt the LORD our God;
worship at his footstool!
Holy is he!
6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who
called upon his name.
7 They called to the LORD, and he
answered them.
8 In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them;
they kept his testimonies
and the statute that he gave them.
9 O LORD our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
10 Exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy!

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

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PSALM 102:20

- 1 Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his!
We are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.
2 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

- 3 For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

I Will Walk with Integrity

101 A PSALM OF DAVID
I will sing of steadfast love and jus-
tice;

- to you, O LORD, I will make music.
I will ponder the way that is blameless.
Oh when will you come to me?
I will walk with integrity of heart
within my house.

- I will not set before my eyes
anything that is worthless.
I hate the work of those who fall away;
it shall not cling to me.
A perverse heart shall be far from me;
I will know nothing of evil.

- Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly
I will destroy.
Whoever has a haughty look and an arro-
gant heart
I will not endure.

- I will look with favor on the faithful in the
land,
that they may dwell with me;
he who walks in the way that is blameless
shall minister to me.

- No one who practices deceit
shall dwell in my house;
no one who utters lies
shall continue before my eyes.

- Morning by morning I will destroy
all the wicked in the land,
cutting off all the evildoers
from the city of the LORD.

- 2 Do not hide your face from me
in the day of my distress!
Indcline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I
call!

- 3 For my days pass away like smoke,
and my bones burn like a furnace.
4 My heart is struck down like grass and
has withered.
I forget to eat my bread.

- 5 Because of my loud groaning
my bones cling to my flesh.
6 I am like a desert owl of the wilderness,
like an owl of the waste places.
7 I lie awake;

- I am like a lonely sparrow on the house-
top.
8 All the day my enemies taunt me;
they curse.

- 9 For I eat ashes like bread
and mingle tears with my drink;
because of your indignation and anger,
for you have taken me up and thrown
me down.

- 10 My days are like an evening shadow,
I wither away like grass.
11 But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;
you are remembered throughout all
generations.

- 12 You will arise and have pity on Zion;
it is the time to favor her;
the appointed time has come.
13 For your servants hold her stones dear
and have pity on her dust.

- 14 Nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth will fear
your glory.

- 15 For the LORD builds up Zion;
he appears in his glory.
16 He regards the prayer of the destitute
and does not despise their prayer.
17 Let this be recorded for a generation to
come,
so that a people yet to be created may
praise the LORD.



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