

Knowledge is something we receive from God through obedience to his word. It's not something that we attain to through our own superior intellect.

Men walk around as if they are the source of knowledge; but the Scripture says what do we have that we have not received

Jesus Christ is our source for knowledge. He said "no one comes to the father except through me" so here we have the true source for knowledge. Without the knowledge of God; Revealed by God through Jesus Christ, we would have no relationship with God, And no eternal blessing.

James 1:12 (NKJV)

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to **those who love Him**.

12-15-16

Biblical Love & Fear of God

*1. The Love command: is focused exclusively on the task at hand

- *a. You cannot love someone you don't know. Love is based on knowledge.
Love that is nothing more than pure emotion, is not love, it is just feeling.

Matthew 22:37 (NKJV)

37 Jesus said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

You must love the Lord your God with all... etc. **It is not an option.**

Enduring Devotion

If someone is the object of your love you are devoted to them

The Ultimate Enduring Devotion Exemplified in God's love for man

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For **God so loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

8 But **God demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*2. The command to fear the Lord:

- *a. Psalm 33:1-9 (NKJV)
 - 1 Rejoice in the Lord. O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful.
 - 2 Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.
 - 3 Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.
 - 4 For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in truth.
 - 5 He loves righteousness and justice: **The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**
 - 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.
 - 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses.

anonymous parallelism

Let all the earth fear the Lord. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him
For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

The idea of awe, dread, it has to do with respect and reverence. This too is a high form of love.

It is a very crucial idea for understanding what it means to love the Lord.

It's a respect and admiration that drives us up and motivates us forward to live beyond ourself, to reach for those higher goals and aspirations in our spiritual life that will have an impact beyond our study group.

Fear the Lord

Have the highest regard for God's word for His holy Majesty, because of His evidence in creation

The fear of God not only comes through evangelizing, but it is also our response in determining to know God's word. It is a result of faith; where the word of God understood becomes **epignōsis** knowledge, and our fear for God increases

The only fear of God that really counts is our highest regard for the teachings of His revealed methods for thought and action; and we can only attain that through coming to Bible class on a regular steady basis time after time, and learning what God has provided for us. We exemplify our love for God through our enduring devotion to Bible study, to be here.

When we come to grips with what God has done in terms of His devotion to us at the cross in providing us our salvation, then our response: the more we learn doctrine we respond in fear, defined as admiration and reverence for God.

This in turn provides us with increased motivation to go forward. It is incremental, it doesn't happen all at once. You learn a little here, a little there, and you gain a little more respect. This in turn spurs you on to more motivation, so you go back to Bible class, you learn, you apply, you are overwhelmed with what God is doing and is going to do, and that drives you to greater reverence. We begin to see how the cycle continues and the cycle builds, and this is what it means to love the Lord.

It is the twin ideas of **Enduring Devotion** and respect and awe for God.

The Bible emphasizes this whole aspect of fear and awe for the Lord:

Psalm 22:23 (NKJV)

23 **You who fear the Lord** praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

Reverence and awe are the at the very root of the whole idea of true worship. Not singing, not what we feel,

it is a mental attitude of respect for God that is a result of learning what God has done for us. **It is a mental attitude based on the knowledge of what God has made available through revelation.**

Psalm 91:19 (NKJV)

19 Oh, **how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You**! Which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men!

From eternity past God has established contingent blessings for each one of us, which is dependent on spiritual growth.

We must develop the capacity to receive these blessings; which is directly connected to developing personal love for God

Psalm 33:18 (NKJV)

18 Behold, **the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him**! On those who **hope** in His mercy!

His careful care

Hope refers to a confident expectation in the faithful enduring love of God.

Fearing the Lord is related to confidence, and confidence is related to our future;

This is where we have a personal sense of our eternal destiny, the result of that is faithfulness and love.

Psalm 34:7 (NKJV)

7 **The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him**! And delivers them

Only for those who have developed the capacity for personal love for God, and they maintain in the midst of trials.

This is protection that God gives to those who fear him.

Not every believer fears God:

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Psalm 34:9 (NKJV)

9 Oh, **fear the Lord**, you His saints! **There is no want to those who fear Him.**

Psalm 22:1 (NKJV)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; **I shall not want.**

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

We don't need counseling or psychology or stress management techniques, or any other human viewpoint system to get along in life.

Psalm 86:11 (NKJV)

11 Teach me **Your way**, O Lord; I will walk in **Your truth**. Unite my heart to **fear Your name**.

"Your truth" A reference to the principles of Bible doctrine referred to in the Word.

Jesus Christ in His high priestly prayer the night before He was crucified, said:

John 17:17 (NKJV)

17 Sanctify **them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

believers in the church age

The Bible stresses the importance of this second aspect of love, on reverence and awe.

Every single believer should demonstrate in their daily lives, these two aspects: **enduring devotion** on the one hand, and on the other hand, **respect, awe and admiration** **fear the Lord**

This is what drives us, what provides the motivation to stimulate us, to push us forward in the spiritual life to spiritual maturity, because the last thing in the world that you want to do is to let God down, to disappoint Him.

So we are told that awe, respect, and admiration is necessary for any advance in understanding God and in application of doctrine.

Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

7 **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Wisdom translates from the Hebrew word **chokmah**, a word that in its basic meaning means skill.

It is the skill to apply epignōsis Knowledge

Romans 1:28 (NKJV)

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

3.