

perfecting holiness in the fear of God

ross van niekerk





2 corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.



hebrews 12:14

Follow peace with all, and holiness, without which no one shall see the Lord.

be holy

defining holiness from Greek



1 peter 1:13-16

“Be holy, for I am holy.”

- *hagos*: an awful thing; sacred; saint.
- *ha'gios*: physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated,
- *hag'nos*: properly clean, innocent, modest, perfect.

be holy

doctrine of holiness



- God is Holy (Isaiah 6:3)
- God demands Holiness (1Pet 1:16)
- Holiness is separation (Lev 20:26)
- God makes holy (Lev 21:8)
- Where God is, is holy (Exo 3:5)
- Holiness requires obedience (Ex 19:4-6)
- Holiness requires consecration (Ex 13:2)
- Holiness requires humility (Is 57:15)
- Holiness by the Spirit (John 14:26)
- Holiness by the Truth (John 17:17)

be holy
a key to holiness



2 corinthians 7:1b

...perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

what is the fear of God?

1: anticipating final judgment



ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good, or whether evil.

what is the fear of God?

2: to control your tongue



psalm 34:11-14

Come, listen to me, my sons; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man that desires life, and loves days, that he may see good?

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile...

what is the fear of God?

3: to hate evil and love good



psalm 34:11-14

Come, listen to me, my sons; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man that desires life, and loves days, that he may see good?

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile.

Depart from evil and do good...

what is the fear of God?

3: to hate evil and do good



proverbs 8:13

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the wicked mouth.

what is the fear of God?

4: to love peace



psalm 34:11-14

Come, listen to me, my sons; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man that desires life, and loves days, that he may see good?

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile.

Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

what is the fear of God?

5: intellectual humility



proverbs 3:7

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.

what is the fear of God?

6: grasped by revelation



hebrews 12:5-10

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh who corrected us, and we gave them reverence. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For truly they chastened us for a few days according to their own pleasure, but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness.

what is the fear of God?

6: grasped by revelation



hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for also, "Our God is a consuming fire."

promises reserved for those who fear God



1. Fulfill your desire (145:19)
2. Teach and instruct (25:12-14)
3. Dwell in prosperity (25:12; 112:3; 128:2)
4. Descendants be great (25:13; 112:2; 128:6)
5. Intimate friendship with God (25:14)
6. Enjoy divine protection (31:19-20)
7. Unmerited favour (103:17-18)

the jealous God



james 4:4-5

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?