

## **THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM**

Proverbs 9:10 ... "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

We have spoken before about fearing God and about wisdom. Today we look at how one affects the other.

"The fear of the Lord," as we read in today's verse, concerns our respect for him. Fearing the Lord is not about being afraid, but about how you obey and honor him as your sovereign creator and the ruler of the universe. I might add, that if you reject God and die without a relationship with Christ, you will certainly have other reasons to be afraid, however that is not our topic today.

What does it mean that respecting God is the beginning of wisdom? In past devotionals, we have cited passages instructing us to pray for wisdom, as well as God's promises to bless us with wisdom if we ask. But, the context of wisdom in today's verse, is that wisdom is also the product of your reverence for God. You receive it automatically when you honor God as your Father and creator.

The second part of our verse, tells us that we will understand the character of God as we begin to learn about him, which will happen as the result of our respect and the wisdom it produces. Got that? I probably made it more complicated than it really is. Try this: When you respect God as your Father, he gives you the wisdom to know him better, which will allow you to understand his character more. When those three steps happen, God will be pleased with you and your relationship with Christ will be open and fruitful.

It is not necessary to stumble and blunder your way through life in a blind manner. God wants you to know his will for you. He wants you to understand his expectations for you. He wants to reveal himself to you. It all starts with your fear – or your respect – for him.

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