

Last Days Letter to The Body of Christ

Chapter 4

God's Best-Kept Secret!

Important: Please read (if you have not) Chapter 1 first. “Going Up to God’s way of thinking” is preferred reading for the understanding of all subsequent chapters.

Scripture quotations taken from the [NASB](#) except where otherwise noted. Bold print, underline emphasis is mine.

The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant. Psalms 25:14

Only those who fear Yahweh have His secret and His covenant, for their understanding. Psalms 25:14 (NJB)

Who is the person who fears the Lord? He will show him the way he should choose. He will live a good life, and his descendants will inherit the land. The secret counsel of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He reveals His covenant to them. Psalms 25:12-14 (HCSB)

The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. Psalms 25:14 (NIV)

If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:4-5

The Fear of the Lord is one of God’s best-kept secrets. When one reads the Holy Scriptures and sees all of the promises, blessings & benefits that this one attribute supplies, why would they not earnestly seek out what “The Fear of The Lord” really means and how one can acquire it!

I believe the reason why so few Christians discover this amazing secret of God and the great treasures found in God’s word (to follow) is due to the following paradox. (please bear with me here) We cannot fear Him if we do not know Him and we cannot truly know Him if we do not fear Him!

I had for years pondered “The fear of the Lord” and the knowledge one acquires when He is feared. The following is what I discovered; “The fear of The Lord” draws us to know Him, knowing Him causes us to fear Him, the more we know Him the more we will fear Him and the more we fear Him the more we will love Him and the more we love Him the less we will have to fear Him because “Perfect love casts out all fear.” This is a dichotomy!

Get to know God so you will fear Him and fear Him so you will know Him, then you will grow to properly love Him. If you do this then you will know “the secret of the Lord” and

benefit from the many blessings and promises that are only for those who desire to know, and fear the Lord. Look at some of the following amazing benefits of "The Fear of The Lord"

Knowledge of God The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: Proverbs 1:7

God's wisdom, knowledge and understanding The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

Longer life The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. Proverbs 10:27 (NIV)

Overcome sinful habits and overcome evil By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil Proverbs 16:6

Discover the fountain of life and avoid the snares of death The fear of Jehovah is a fountain of life, That one may depart from the snares of death. Proverbs 14:27 (ASV)

Contentment Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. Proverbs 15:16 (RSV)

Riches, honor, and life The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life. Proverbs 22:4

Experience true worship But as for me, I will come into Thy house in the multitude of Thy mercy: and in Thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. Psalms 5:7

Have no wants O fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear Him have no want. Psalms 34:9 (RSV)

Glory of God's salvation Surely His salvation is nigh them that fear Him; that glory may dwell in our land. Psalms 85:9

Receive daily provision He provides food for those who fear Him; He is ever mindful of His covenant. Psalms 111:5

A satisfying, safe from harm, life The fear of the LORD leads to life; and he who has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. Proverbs 19:23 (RSV)

Experience His Covenant The secret of The Lord is for those who fear Him and He will make them know His covenant. Psalms 25:14

Experience God's goodness O how abundant is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for those who fear Him. Psalm 31:19 (RSV)

Constant protection Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness, To deliver their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine. Psalms 33:18-19 The angel of the LORD encamps around

those who fear Him, And rescues them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Psalms 34:7-8

A Banner of offence But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner to be unfurled against the bow... Psalm 60:4 (NIV)

Receive an inheritance For You have heard my vows, O God; You have given *me* the inheritance of those who fear Your name. Psalm 61:5

Experience vast lovingkindness For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is his lovingkindness toward them that fear Him. Psalms 103:11 (ASV)

Bring delight to the Lord The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love. Psalm 147:11 (RSV)

Strong confidence and a place of refuge In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge. Proverbs 14:26

With all of these benefits how come "The Fear of The Lord" is such a secret?! Though we may have read these passages and even several times, the principle remains a secret and an unknown experience because we do not "Fear The Lord". What an abundance of peace, wealth and blessing is for those who "Fear The Lord"!

There is little to no fear of the Lord in our culture. Christians use God's name in vain (as a common thing and a swear word) and don't even realize it! We have little to no morals; Christians commit adultery, cheat on their income tax, they don't vote, they steal from the workplace, copyright fraud is rampant, abortion, pornography, child molestation just to name a few! The commonplace attitude of Christians is that they should get a deal, get special treatment because they are "a child of God." We cheat on just about everything possible because "God wants to bless His people". We borrow and do not pay back. We slander, gossip, defraud, steal, lie and defame one another, babies are murdered through abortion, yes Christians get abortions. We listen to and watch filth. We enjoy evil and excuse it in the name of entertainment. Should I go on? You would think that God could not see or hear anything we say or do! The true crucible of how we treat one another is in our homes, with our friends, on the job and in church. You would think we had mini civil war's everywhere; we do! Christian divorce rate is higher than the secular world; and how happy are those who are married? Most marriages are hanging on a thread. Believers go from marriage to marriage, friendship to friendship, from job to job and from church to church because we are running from God and trying to hide our sin rather than face it. Why? "There is no fear of God before our eyes" why, because they do not know God!

DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES." Romans 3:16-18

The fear of the Lord is not just "to be in awe of", "reverence" or "reverential trust". Yes it is awe and reverence, but it is far more! Out of the 93 times the original Greek word (phobeō) is transliterated only once it is translated as reverence. By the way phobeō is

where our word phobia comes from. So what do we do when we teach and preach? We say "The fear of the Lord" is to have reverence and never even mention the other transliterated words (more on this to come).

Awe and reverence are what we experience when we fully understand what it is to **fear God**. Following, we will see how we have twisted and have not captured the true meaning of this word **fear** and what it truly means to fear **God**! Just to say that "to fear God" only means "to be in awe of", "reverence" or "reverential trust" is the devil's decoy, his counterfeit to lure us and keep us away from the full truth. Most of the world cannot even relate to the words awe and reverence. "Awesome" is often misused in the Christian and secular realm for a variety of things that are not Awesome at all. For example, "It would awesome if you filled out the registration card" "This ice cream is awesome, you should try some". To this regard, if "**The fear of The Lord**" only means "awesome" then some have reduced "**The fear of The Lord**" to nothing but paper and food!

What should have great meaning results in little or no understanding of "**The fear of The Lord**" this one way "God's best kept secret" remains a secret!

Who are our examples of those who knew the full meaning of "The fear of the Lord" and therefore had stood in great Godly Fear, Reverence and Awe?

How about The High Priest, who in the Holy of Holies would be slain in a second if he disobeyed Jehovah God. Or how about Noah and his family, how they obeyed God and saw all those people destroyed before their very eyes. Or how about Moses who spent 40 days and nights on the Holy Mountain with God and if any of the people at the foot of the mountain touched it would instantly perish! Or Lot who saw his city and half of his family destroyed before his eyes by the finger of God! Many might say, that only happened in the Old Testament. OK, then how about Saul who was struck with blindness. Ananias and Sapphira who were slain for lying to The Holy Spirit. John, who on the Island of Patmos was on the verge of death as God revealed to him what will happen at the end of the age. Not to take the bold step of mentioning Hell where those who disobey the Gospel will perish utterly for ever and ever! Must I go on? We have no idea what it is like to truly be in Awe and in proper of our God.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment. 2 Peter 2:4-9

The term "God-fearing People" has faded into a world of compromise. Though we look up to people who we would call "God Fearing", there is little desire to inquire how to be like them. In this world of compromise, we have great trouble with this concept of fear related to God, so we explain it away and in a way that feels good and acceptable, warm and fuzzy. To say that we as believers should walk and live in "The FEAR of God" is upsetting and politically incorrect! This compromise is no surprise to our ever-sliding godly standard of Christ-like living! To reverse this attitude, we must "Go Up to God's Way of Thinking" (see [Chapter 1](#)).

Let us look at the more complete meaning of this key word that unlocks "God's best kept secret"! What seems to be something very negative in an "only think positive" world is in actuality a great blessing and the way to truly and rightly live the Christian life.

fear (fīr) n. **1.a.** A feeling of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence or imminence of danger **2.** To be uneasy or apprehensive. [Middle English *fer*, from Old English *fæŕ*, danger, sudden calamity. See **per**-³ below.] --**fear****er** n. **3.** Extreme reverence or awe, as toward a supreme power. **SYNONYMS: (n.)** *fear, fright, dread, terror, horror, panic, alarm, dismay, consternation, trepidation.* These nouns all denote the agitation and anxiety caused by the presence or imminence of danger (American Heritage Dictionary)

If we look at the original Greek, in the Strong's, (notice that we are in the New Testament) you will see the words used to describe being fearful of man, wild beast, the corrupt world system and The Lord are the same. The word Phobos is used for both. Phobos is where the word phobia comes from. The following scriptures illustrate this very reality.

"Do not **fear** (5399) those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather **fear** (5399) Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid (5399) of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. "But I will warn you whom to fear (5399): fear (5399) the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear (5399) Him! Luke 12:4&5

Greek Strong's Number: 5399 Greek Word: φοβέω Transliteration: phobeō Phonetic Pronunciation: fob-eh'-o Root: from Cross Reference: TDNT - 9:189,1272 Part of Speech: v Vine's Words: Awe, Fear, Fearful, Fearfulness, Reverence Usage Notes: English Words used in KJV: **fear 62 be afraid 23 be afraid of 5 reverence 1 misc 2** [Total Count: 93] from (phobos); to frighten, i.e. (passive) to be alarmed; by analogy to be in awe of, i.e. revere :- be (+ sore) afraid, fear (exceedingly), reverence. Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

Notice how many times phobeō is translated **fear** (62) in the New Testament, **be afraid** (23) **be afraid of** (5), vs. **reverence** (1). We major on the minors and minor on the majors deluding the truth to say more what we want it to say. So we soft peddle God's Word and miss out on the full truth. **Let's Go Up to God's way of thinking" ([Chapter 1](#))!** Look again at all of the benefits of "The Fear of The Lord" no wonder the devil deceives

us into believing that “The Fear of The Lord” is not “The Fear of The Lord.” Look again and see what you are missing out on.

The same thing occurs in the Old Testament. If you study this you will discover the pluralistic meaning repeatedly, here is one example; you need to do the same thing here as the NT.

...And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. "It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. Isaiah 8:12b-13

Yes, in fact we should be exceedingly fearful of Him because He is infinitely more powerful than anything in and out of this world. God can destroy us eternally where the enemy and the world can only kill the physical body. In fact why is Jesus called savior? Jesus saves us from the wrath, eternal punishment that God created for those who do not obey the Gospel of Jesus. In the book of Hosea, we find the exhortation given to Israel 2,800 years ago is the same exhortation that the Lord would give us today if He sent Paul and Hosea to us.

Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, And everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, and also the fish of the sea disappear. Hosea 4:1-3

...dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10a

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." "Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known." **"There is no fear of God before their eyes."** Romans 3:10-18 (NKJV)

... there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Hebrews 4:13

Awe and reverence, yes but is that only what comes to mind when you read these sobering scriptures? Hundreds may have come into the kingdom (including my family) because my father said to my (now born again) Jewish wife Karen. “You are one of

God's chosen people and if you do not embrace Christ Jesus as your Lord & Savior you will die and perish in Hell." This may sound harsh, but this is the gospel truth and it is sobering love from above! I would that someone share a few non-politically correct Christian words lead in love from Jesus, than they would burn in Hell forever and ever!!! How about you, as we soft-pedal the Gospel, make it user friendly and politically correct to the point of not knowing the bad news, how will they ever know what the good news really is? Without knowing what the bad news is. Few will walk in "the fear of the Lord" and will have difficulty living out the Christian life and enjoying it as God intended. Let this Gospel of the kingdom be shared with much fervor, fear and trembling so as not to be without mercy, love, and truth.

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. Proverbs 16:6 (KJV)

"And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.' " Job 28:28

My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:1-5

What is the fear of the Lord? Why is the fear of the Lord such an important essential ingredient to the Christian faith? Why is it so rare to find?

As a result of the knowledge and understanding that comes with "The fear of the Lord" is to hate evil; **"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil"** (Proverbs 8:13a). We do not hate evil, for the most part we embrace it! In our mind we explain away and justify our indulgence because 'we like it', or because we have a right to be entertained. We rationalize this amusement because everyone else is doing it!

What Would Jesus Do (WWJD)? We like to wear these charms and attire. I wish this apparel could speak 'What would Jesus do when we pick up the remote, change the channel and choose a movie. WWJD when we pick up the paper, plan a vacation, choose a vocation, take up a new hobby, pick up a magazine! Let's face it, in America money and pleasure speak louder than the still quiet voice of The Holy Spirit!

Lord, where are those who "fear the Lord" and hate evil? Evil is all around us, we invite evil to be in our homes! When you walk down most streets that have electricity, you are surrounded by evil. At night, one can see the destroying "BLUE GLOW" everywhere, millions upon millions addictively feast their eyes on the abominations of the world! Christians invite the devil into their home daily as a confidant, as great relative or a friendly neighbor. We give him the highest place in the living room, kitchen, bedroom, and for some even in their bathroom! Now, one can carry this influence in the palm of their hand wherever they go. Most will agree how bad movies, the tube and the Internet is, but are not able to cast off this evil addiction through this umbilical cord that comes from the very depths of Hell! Your people, who call you by name drink of this filthy cup

willingly, day after day, night after night, numb to its unending power to eternally destroy them, their family and their friends. Lord, I know you have a remnant that has chosen not to bow the knee to these destroying idols. My concern is for the multitudes of Christians (who for lack of knowing your secret) through willful ignorance, embrace the entertainment gods of this world. This spiritual adultery is no different than that of adulterous Israel who forsook the relationship of her God for the passing pleasures of sin. We must open our eyes by the knowledge and wisdom of God's Word, and be like Moses, repent and turn away from this evil to serve the true and living God!

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. Hebrews 11:24-27

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way, and the perverted mouth, I hate. Prov 8:13

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 2 Tim 3:1-5 (NKJV)

We are naturally bent on evil, either to do it, condone it and or be entertained by it. To possess perfect (complete) love, we need "The fear of The Lord" to turn from evil. The only way to fear The Lord is to know Him and the only way to fully know Him is to fear Him! Yes, this is the dichotomy, the paradox and God's best-kept secret. Now that the secret is out, let us experience it, enjoy all of the benefits that come with it, live what is true life indeed and live it to the fullest!

Do not let your heart envy sinners, But live in the fear of the LORD always. Surely there is a future, And your hope will not be cut off. Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way. Proverbs 23:17-19

Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:6-7

Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding. Proverbs 23:23

How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver. The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watches his way preserves his life. Proverbs 16:16-17

How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Psalms 119:103-104

Removing the poison of the media without a change of heart towards evil will help but not resolve the issue because of our continual desire to be entertained. When we progress to the state of fearing God we will progress to the hating of evil, our passion for the pleasure of entertainment will lessen and our hatred of it's evil will grow. We must re-examine what we allow in our homes, in our lives, and in our minds. Our view of entertainment must be in accordance to God's Word. We must no longer compare ourselves to others. We cannot do what others do and deem it as acceptable and OK. Our passion must shift from the pleasure of entertainment to a passion for truth exposing the evil lies of the devil.

How can this be accomplished? Hating evil can only be accomplished by truly knowing God, seeking His kingdom and His righteousness with a heart that wants to really know Him. How can we truly know God? I need to repeat, we must fear Him. How can we fear Him? We must know Him, that is the dichotomy and quest of the journey that will change your life to love and serve Jesus, His people and enjoy all of the benefits that come from God's Best Kept Secret, "The fear of the Lord".

The following is an example of true repentance; when God's people are living with no fear of God before their eyes and then choose to walk in "The Fear of the Lord"!

Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. For there were those who said, "We, our sons and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain that we may eat and live." There were others who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our houses that we might get grain because of the famine." Also there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. Now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, our children like their children. Yet behold, we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters are forced into bondage already, and we are helpless because our fields and vineyards belong to others."

Then I was very angry when I had heard their outcry and these words. I consulted with myself and contended with the nobles and the rulers and said to them, "You are exacting usury, each from his brother!" Therefore, I held a great assembly against them. I said to them, "We according to our ability have redeemed our Jewish brothers who were sold to the nations; now would you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us?" Then they were silent and could not find a word to say. Again I said, "The thing which you are doing is not good; **should you not walk in the fear of our God** because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? " And likewise I, my brothers

and my servants are lending them money and grain. Please, let us leave off this usury. Please, give back to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money and of the grain, the new wine and the oil that you are exacting from them." Then they said, "We will give it back and will require nothing from them; we will do exactly as you say." So I called the priests and took an oath from them that they would do according to this promise. I also shook out the front of my garment and said, "Thus may God shake out every man from his house and from his possessions who does not fulfill this promise; even thus may he be shaken out and emptied." And **all the assembly said, "Amen!" And they praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.** Neh 5:1-13

Nehemiah's Example of walking in "The Fear of The Lord"

Moreover, from the day that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, for twelve years, neither I nor my kinsmen have eaten the governor's food allowance. But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people and took from them bread and wine besides forty shekels of silver; even their servants domineered the people. But I did not do so **because of the fear of God.** Neh 5:14-15

Come, let us **"Go Up to God's Way of Thinking"** ([chapter1](#)). Oh, that we would truly come to know and experience "God's best kept secret" **"The fear of the Lord"** and come to **"know His Covenant."** Oh, that we would turn from evil, repent from our wicked ways and that it could be said of us (where we are geographically) what Paul Silvanus and Timothy said of the church at Thessalonica:

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, **and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, **who rescues us from the wrath to come.** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14** (NIV)

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.** Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)

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