



Bethel South Sermon Notes – “Benefits of the Fear of the Lord”

Speaker: Ps Mike Gowans

Series: Awesome God

Scripture: Mark 4:35–41; Proverbs 14:26–27; Proverbs 19:23

Main Idea

The fear of the Lord is not being afraid of God—it is living in awe of Him, honoring Him, and making His pleasure our priority. When we fear God, we don't have to live afraid of everything else. The fear of the Lord produces **wisdom, confidence, freedom, refuge, and life**.

Magnify God, Not the Storm

In Mark 4, Jesus told His disciples:

“Let us cross over to the other side.”

A violent storm arose while they were crossing, and the disciples became overwhelmed by what was happening around them. Jesus, however, was asleep in the boat.

The disciples allowed the size of the storm to become greater in their minds than the One who was in the boat with them.

We often do the same thing. When circumstances become overwhelming, we can magnify the problem until it becomes all we see.

But the fear of the Lord changes our perspective.

When we understand who God is, the storm may still be big—but our God is always bigger.

Five Benefits of the Fear of the Lord

1. Wisdom

The fear of the Lord changes the questions we ask.

Instead of simply asking:

- **What do I want?**
- **What feels good?**
- **What will make me happy?**
- **What will other people think?**

We begin asking:

Does this please God?

That question brings wisdom into everyday decisions—our conversations, relationships, finances, choices, and priorities.

True wisdom begins when pleasing God becomes more important than pleasing ourselves.

2. Confidence

Proverbs tells us that in the fear of the Lord there is **strong confidence**.

Holy fear doesn't make us timid. It makes us courageous because our confidence is no longer rooted in ourselves.

David could stand before Goliath because his attention wasn't ultimately on the size of the giant. His confidence was in the greatness of his God.

When we know who God is, we can face what is in front of us without allowing fear to control us.

Confidence grows when God becomes bigger in our view.

3. Freedom From the Fear of People

The fear of people is a trap.

When people's approval becomes too important, it begins controlling our decisions. We compromise convictions, avoid difficult obedience, and become more concerned with keeping people happy than honoring God.

But the fear of the Lord breaks the power of people-pleasing.

We don't have to live for everyone's approval when we have made pleasing God our highest priority.

The more we fear God, the less power people's opinions have over us.

4. Refuge and Provision

The fear of the Lord provides boundaries that protect us.

God's commands aren't designed to keep good things from us. They protect us from things that can ultimately harm and destroy us.

The fear of the Lord also reminds us where our provision comes from.

Our confidence isn't ultimately in an employer, paycheck, economy, or circumstance.

God is our source.

When everything around us feels uncertain, we can find refuge in Him.

5. Life

The fear of the Lord leads to life.

Proverbs 19:23 teaches that the fear of the Lord leads to life, bringing satisfaction and protection from evil.

God doesn't call us to fear Him so that our lives become smaller. His ways lead us into the abundant life He designed for us.

When we honor Him, trust Him, and put Him first, we discover that the safest and most fulfilling place to live is surrendered to Him.

Trust Him Through the Storm

Jesus had already said they were going **to the other side**.

The storm didn't cancel His word.

Whatever storm we may be facing, we have a choice about what we magnify. We can allow fear to make the storm the biggest thing in our vision, or we can remember who is with us.

The fear of the Lord gives us a proper perspective:

God is our wisdom. God is our confidence. God is our refuge. God is our provision. God is our life.

Final Challenge

As we close the *Awesome God* series, make the fear of the Lord more than something you learned about in a sermon series. Let it become the posture of your life.

Before making decisions, ask, **“Does this please God?”**

When fear rises, magnify God instead of the storm. When you are tempted to seek people's approval, choose His approval instead. When circumstances feel uncertain, remember that He is your source.

Put Jesus first and trust Him through every storm.

When you fear God, you don't have to live afraid of anything else.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you explain the difference between fearing God and being afraid of God?
2. Which of the five benefits of the fear of the Lord—wisdom, confidence, freedom from the fear of people, refuge and provision, or life—do you most need right now?
3. What is one area of your life where asking, “Does this please God?” could change the way you make decisions?
4. What “storm” are you tempted to magnify right now, and how can you intentionally magnify God instead?
5. As the *Awesome God* series ends, what is one practical way you want to continue growing in the fear of the Lord?