

# THE BENEFITS OF FEARING THE LORD

## PSALM 25: 8-15

Introduction:

Who is the person who fears the Lord? This is the kind of question that you expect to find in the Wisdom literature of the Old Testament. Psalms and Proverbs abound with references to the fear of the Lord. What does it mean to fear the Lord?

The root idea in the expression is reverence and awe. The person who fears the Lord is one who is awed at the reality of God, and thus walks accordingly. The Holman Christian Standard Bible defines it as: The meaning includes worshipful submission, reverential awe, and obedient respect to the covenant-keeping God of Israel.

Those who fear Him are marked by the way they obey the Lord. They conform their behavior to the knowledge of who God is. The word fear is usually replaced with faith in the New Testament. A person with faith is someone who conforms his behavior to what he understands of God.

A theme found often in the Wisdom section is the benefits that such a person receives. This is the theme of the section of this beautiful psalm. He sets forth the benefits that will mark the life of the person who fears the Lord.

The worshipper of the Lord will be blessed in doing this.

I. HE RECEIVES DIVINE GUIDANCE.

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“Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.”

What an advantage in life! God has a special plan for every life, but many people never find it. They live their lives with a sense of frustration—they never feel like they have found their place. But when a person puts their life under submission to God, God begins to direct his steps.

1. By teaching the person what is right.

He does not force you to do the right thing, but He does lead you into an understanding of His plan for your life.

2. By enabling the person to make the right choice.

He will then work in you to give you the will to do His will.

## II. HE FINDS PEACE.

“His soul shall dwell at ease.” Newer versions translate “at ease” as prosperity. The Old Testament word means “peace”. “Shalom” expresses the idea in the word. The root idea of the word is “good”. One version translates it as “well-being”.

1. Life is good.
2. Conscience is good.
3. Life is prosperous.

## III. HE BLESSES HIS CHILDREN.

“And his seed shall inherit the earth.”

As you get older you discover that your prosperity is tied up with the welfare and the walk of your children. Wayward children can destroy any sense of prosperity that you may feel. Children who grow up in a God-fearing home start life with a distinct advantage.

1. His example prepares his children for life.

Some children could wear an armband that said, “What would my parents do?” as well as “What would Jesus Do?”

2. His worship benefits them.

His prayers will cover his children. His faith will bless them. He will speak words of blessing over them.

#### IV. HE ENJOYS COMMUNION WITH GOD.

“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.”

1. God treats him as a friend.

This word means that they become His intimates. He shares with them what He is planning to do—like He did with Abraham before He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

2. God shares his secrets with him.
3. God confirms to him His covenant.

## V. HE AVOIDS SPIRITUAL BONDAGE.

“Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.”

1. The enemy sets traps for us.
2. The Lord delivers us from his traps.

### Conclusion:

This is obviously the way to a good life. To the degree that we walk in the fear of the Lord we will enjoy such benefits. If we have slipped in such a walk, like the psalmist we can ask God, “For thy name’s sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.” And He will. He will renew us in the walk, and restore us to the benefits.

Do you want to live in the fear of the Lord? Let me make some suggestions to you.

1. Set aside some time in each day to read and meditate on the Word of the Lord.
2. Develop the habit of making everything in your life a matter of prayer. Submit your daily schedule to the Lord before you begin each day.
3. Cultivate a friendship with some who fear the Lord.
4. Be prompt in obeying any word that comes to you from the Lord.

5. Keep a short sin list. Any time that you become aware that you have sinned seek forgiveness immediately.

You will begin to be amazed at the benefits that begin to flow your way.