*The Big Ten, series finale*

The Fear of God

**Exodus 20:18-21**

**Deut. 5 & 6, Psalm 128**

The most frequent command in the Bible is: “Do not fear.” Yet the Bible also teaches us to ‘Fear God’. We need to understand these two ideas, which do not contradict each other, but appear to.

The Hebrew verb yare means to fear, to respect, to reverence, and the Hebrew noun yirah usually refers to the fear of God and is viewed as a positive quality. This fear acknowledges God’s good intentions, is produced by God’s Word, and makes us receptive to wisdom and knowledge. The Complete Word Study Dictionary, 2003

The Greek noun phobos means a reverent fear of God, not a mere fear of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him. Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of OT and NT Words, 1985

Moses refers to fear twice, after receiving the 10 Commandments, when he says: “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” Ex. 20:20

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1:7

To fear the Lord is to hate evil. Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the Lord adds length to life. Proverbs 10:27

Blessed is the one who always fears the Lord. Proverbs 28:14

The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him. Psalm 33:18

The Lord is with me, I will not be afraid. Psalm 118:6

What things/situations/circumstances do I most easily fear?

How can I walk towards deeper trust in the Lord?

How can a healthy fear of God keep me from sinning?