



REVERENCE RESPONCE

SERMON TEXT

Psalm 147:11 (NIV) 11 the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

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Psalm 147:11 (NIV)

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Synopsis / Central Idea / Thesis:

Reverence for God brings favor to individual believers, their families and the community to which they belong.

Objectives:

- I. God's blessing is conditional upon reverence for him
- II. The characteristics of reverence
- III. God responds to those who revere him
- IV. Reverence for God is rewarded
- V. God's blessings on those who revere him are a witness to the nations
- VI. Reverence ensures success in leadership

- Sometimes when I get in a nervous dither over such current problems as inflation, war, taxes, crime, pollution, political intrigue, urban sprawl, population, and whatever, I find myself yearning for 1933, when all we had to fear was fear itself.

—Kiwaniis Magazine

- After buying a \$50,000 insurance policy before a plane trip, the traveler stepped on a nearby scale. Out came one of those fortune-telling cards. The message read: "A recent investment may pay big dividends."

Epigram on Fear

Psalm 147:11 (NIV)

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Introduction:

The fear we read about here in Psalm 147:11 is respect for a superior. Fear is the profound reverence given to a superior which will include ritual observances.

3710 IV. נָרָץ (yā·rē(')): adj. [BDB: qal act.ptcp.]; = Str 3373; TWOT 907a—

1. LN 87.4–87.18 **reverence**, fear, i.e., pertaining to respect toward a superior (Ps 22:24[EB 23]; Mal 3:20[EB 4:2]);

Psalm 22:23 (NIV)

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

Malachi 4:2 (NIV)

² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.

2. LN 53.53–53.64 **worship**, i.e., pertaining to profound reverence to a superior, which may include ritual observance (2Ki 17:41);

2 Kings 17:41 (NIV)

⁴¹ Even while these people were worshiping the LORD, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their ancestors did.

3. LN 25.251–25.269 **fear**, afraid, i.e., pertaining to a being in a state of alarm (Dt 20:8; Jdg 7:3)¹

Deuteronomy 20:8 (NIV)

⁸ Then the officers shall add, “Is anyone afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his fellow soldiers will not become disheartened too.”

Judges 7:3 (NIV)

³ Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’ ” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

There are a lot of things in this world that get our attention. Many things we are afraid of that shape our behavior. There is nothing more fearful than falling into the hands of God. Yet none will escape, will you find justice or mercy in the judgement? You revere something in this world, what is it?

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Sermon Outline

I. God's blessing is conditional upon reverence for him

A. Those who reverence God are in line to receive His favor.

Psalm 128:1 (NIV) — 1 Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him.

B. This favor is not the result of works, it is a response to goodness of God.

Psalm 115:1 (NIV) — 1 Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.

Ecclesiastes 8:12 (NIV) — 12 Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him.

Jeremiah 32:39 (NIV) — 39 I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them.

[Reverence has a certain look to it...]

II. The characteristics of reverence

A. Wisdom is based on reverence for God – wisdom is a characteristic of reverence

Psalm 111:10 (NIV) — 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Proverbs 1:7 (NIV) — 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 (NIV) — 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

B. Reverence is pure and eternal

Psalm 19:9 (NIV) — 9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

C. Reverence will characterize the Messiah

Isaiah 11:2–3 (NIV) — 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

[Parents respond to their own different than those who do not belong to them...]

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III. God responds to those who revere him

Psalm 147:11 (NIV) — **11** the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

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

Malachi 3:16–18 (NIV) — **16** Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. **17** “On the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. **18** And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Acts 10:35 (NIV) — **35** but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

A. Reverence brings God’s special attention and compassion

Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV) — **11** Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.

Psalm 33:18 (NIV) — **18** But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

Psalm 103:13 (NIV) — **13** As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

Psalm 103:17 (NIV) — **17** But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children—

Psalm 145:19 (NIV) — **19** He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

Luke 1:50 (NIV) — **50** His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

B. God is good to those who revere him

Psalm 31:19 (NIV) — **19** How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.

Isaiah 33:6 (NIV) — **6** He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.

C. Reverence brings God’s protection and deliverance

Psalm 34:7 (NIV) — **7** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

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

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Psalm 115:11 (NIV) — **11** You who fear him, trust in the LORD— he is their help and shield.

Proverbs 14:26 (NIV) — **26** Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.

D. God meets the needs of those who revere him

Exodus 1:21 (NIV) — **21** And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

Psalm 34:9 (NIV) — **9** Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

Psalm 111:5 (NIV) — **5** He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

Jeremiah 5:24–25 (NIV) — **24** They do not say to themselves, ‘Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.’ **25** Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good.

[Reverence is reward with prosperity; avoiding judgement; long life and hope...]

IV. Reverence for God is rewarded**A. God rewards the reverent with prosperity**

Deuteronomy 6:24 (NIV) — **24** The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

Job 1:9 (NIV) — **9** “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied.

Psalm 25:12–13 (NIV) — **12** Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. **13** They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land.

Psalm 85:9 (NIV) — **9** Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Psalm 112:1 (NIV) — **1** Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD, who find great delight in his commands.

Psalm 128:4 (NIV) — **4** Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD.

Proverbs 22:4 (NIV) — **4** Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life.

Malachi 4:2 (NIV) — **2** But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.

B. Those who revere God avoid his judgment

Deuteronomy 28:58–67 (NIV) — **58** If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name—the LORD your God—**59** the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering

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illnesses. **60** He will bring on you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you. **61** The LORD will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed. **62** You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the LORD your God. **63** Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess. **64** Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. **65** Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. **66** You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. **67** In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!”—because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see.

C. God rewards reverence with long life and future hope

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

Proverbs 14:27 (NIV) — **27** The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

Proverbs 19:23 (NIV) — **23** The fear of the LORD leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Proverbs 23:17–18 (NIV) — **17** Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. **18** There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Ecclesiastes 8:13 (NIV) — **13** Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.

V. God’s blessings on those who revere him are a witness to the nations

Jeremiah 33:9 (NIV) — **9** Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.’

VI. Reverence ensures success in leadership

2 Samuel 23:3 (NIV) — **3** The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God,

2 Chronicles 26:5 (NIV) — **5** He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

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Acts 9:31 (NIV) — 31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

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Conclusion:

In the early morning of December 28, 1908, an earthquake totally destroyed the flourishing and extraordinarily beautiful city of Messina, Italy, and 75,000 human beings died. We read:
 “Only a few hours before that devastating earthquake, which laid Messina and the surrounding districts in ruins, the unspeakably wicked and irreligious condition of some of the inhabitants was expressed in a series of violent resolutions, which were passed against all religious principles. And the journal *Il Tleefono*, printed in Messina, actually published in its Christmas number an abominable parody daring the Almighty to make Himself known by sending an earthquake! And in three days He did!”

DARING THE ALMIGHTY

Week after week we preach Jesus and Him crucified. We proclaim His teachings without addition or subtraction. We endeavor to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent. Yet week after week how many of us dare God but not obeying His commands. Show Him the reverence He deserves and Hear Him obeying His salvation before it is too late.

Reverence ... God’s blessing is conditional upon reverence for him; it has characteristics; God responds to those who revere Him; Reverence for God is rewarded; God’s blessings on those who revere him are a witness to the nations; Reverence ensures success in leadership

Today is a day to reverence God respond to His Grace.

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Invitation:**Romans 10:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ So faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the word of Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

⁶ And without **faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Acts 17:30 (ESV)

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**,

Acts 26:20 (NIV)

²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should **repent** and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV)

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good **confession** in the presence of many witnesses.

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 3:21 (NIV)

²¹ and this water symbolizes **baptism** that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Revelation 2:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

