



## Understanding the “Fear Factor”

Wisdom: Responding to the questions of life with the answers of God.

Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

*The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

Proverbs 1:7 (NIV)

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

### Understanding the “Fear Factor” -

#### I. Fear is foundational to wisdom.

Psalm 11:3 (NIV)

*When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*

- A healthy fear of God is wisdom’s most neglected step.

Psalm 119:120a (NIV)

*My flesh trembles in fear of you;*

Revelation 1:17 (NIV)

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.*

#### 2. Fear is a proper response to God’s power and position.

Mark 4:35-41 (ESV)

*On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.”<sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.<sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.<sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”<sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.<sup>40</sup> He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”<sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*

#### 3. The irony of fear.

Psalm 14:1 (NIV)

*The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.*