

***Antidote to Fear
and Anxiety:***



Fear of God

Eva Peck

**Antidote to Fear
and Anxiety:
Fear of God**

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Dedicated to all
who desire to understand
how proper fear of God
complements and leads to
acquiring the Love of God.

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Introduction

“Fear of God” – what does it really mean?

God is love. Yet, God commands us to “fear Him” and says that He takes pleasure in us when we do. Why? Does he enjoy us being afraid of him? As parents, we don’t want our children to be afraid of us. We want them to love us and enjoy being with us.

So, in what sense are we to fear God, our heavenly Father? Why does the Old Testament frequently, and even the New in a few instances, encourage humans to “fear of the Lord”– 70 or more times throughout the Bible?

By the same token, fear of and by itself is discouraged more than 70 times. What is the difference, and what exactly is the fear of God that we are supposed to cultivate as opposed to the wrong kind of fear, which we are to avoid and which God’s perfect Love casts out?

We’ll examine the Bible texts and insights from spiritual teachers knowledgeable in the

original Greek and Hebrew languages regarding this mysterious “fear” and see what they say. We may be surprised to find that “fear of God” is a very different the fear of man and circumstances, and that it is actually an antidote to the fear and anxiety that many are facing in these times of pandemic, violence, uncertainty, economic woes, natural disasters, political realignments and hot and cold wars.

Let’s find out more about the fear of God that the Bible encourages us to cultivate and the wrong kind of fear that we are to remove from our lives.

What Is the Proper Fear of God?

When the Bible refers to the “fear of the Lord,” it means having a *deep respect, reverence and awe* for God’s power and authority. Rather than causing someone to be afraid of God, a proper “fear of the Lord” leads one to love Him. Hebrews 12:28-29 is a good description of this: “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken [God’s Celestial Kingdom of Love and immortality], let us be thankful, and so *worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*”

To fear the Lord is to stand in awe of God’s majesty, power, wisdom, justice and mercy – that is, to have an exalted view of God, to see Him in all His glory and then respond to Him appropriately, to humble ourselves before Him, to adore Him. God delights in those who fear Him – those who stand in awe of Him – and instead of trusting in their own human abilities or resources, [trust Him](#).

The main Hebrew and Greek words translated “fear” in the Bible can have several shades of meaning, but in the context of the fear of the Lord, they convey a positive reverence.

The Hebrew verb *yare* can mean “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 (Exodus 20:20). ... This fear is produced by God’s Word (Psalm 119:38; Proverbs 2:5) and makes a person receptive to wisdom and knowledge (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10)” (Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament*, 2003, pp. 470-471).

The Greek noun *phobos* can mean “reverential 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 Old and New Testament Words*, 1985, “Fear, Fearful, Fearfulness”). This is the type of positive, productive fear that Luke describes existed in

the early New Testament Church: “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied” (Acts 9:31).

One resource includes this helpful summary: “The fear of God is an attitude of respect, a response of reverence and wonder. It is the only appropriate response to our Creator and Redeemer” (*Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible*, 1997, note on Psalm 128:1). ([Source of Greek and Hebrew analysis.](#))

A healthy fear of God includes the *fear of the consequences of disobedience*. In times of temptation or trial we should think of the consequences of choices we may make (Exodus 20:20). In a longer-range way, a biblical fear of God includes understanding the existence of [judgment](#). The fear of judgment and of the consequences of sin should bring people to repentance – to change their ways of living and to come to God and ask for help.

God is not personally present in wrath and judgment, but only in love – rejoicing not in the suffering of his children because of sin, but rather in their redemption from suffering that the violation of the Laws of Harmony exacts with certitude. However, judgment, although not meted out by an “angry god”, is still to be feared for the immutable law demands exact restoration, and the judgment is inescapable. Memory is the human storehouse of good and evil and it doesn’t die with the death of the body. Instead it becomes fully alive upon the physical, mortal body being discarded.

In addition, Hebrews 12:5-11 refers to God’s discipline of the believer. While it is done in love (verse 6), it is still a fearful thing. When we were children, the fear of discipline from our parents no doubt prevented some evil actions, as well as keeping us safe and out of trouble. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should strive to avoid His discipline, and therefore seek to live our lives in

a way that pleases Him and which is for our own good.

Even though God forgives sins and no one will be sentenced to an eternity of punishment – while hell exists, it is not eternal and all will eventually progress out of it – we still need a reverence and a healthy respect for our Creator. An imperfect analogy is how we feel about the ocean. We are awed by its enormous size, beauty, glory and majesty and appreciate and enjoy it. But at the same time, there needs to be a deep respect of it because if we are not careful, we can lose our life in a big wave, rip tide or tsunami. We fear and revere God in the sense of realizing His power, might and majesty and our smallness. Yet in Christ we can come boldly to the throne of grace and plead for whatever needs we have including forgiveness and mercy (Heb. 4:16).

This reverential fear of God brings us to a humble surrender of our will wherein we become teachable and open to doing His will and following His guidance, trusting Him that

He has our best interests in mind and having made us, knows what is best for us.

To sum up this chapter, God's children are not to be scared of God. We have no reason to be scared of Him. We have His promises that nothing can separate us from His Love (Rom. 8:38-39) and that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). Fearing God means having such a reverence for Him that it has a great impact on the way we live our lives. The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His will, and worshiping Him in awe.

Results and Benefits of the Fear of God

Romans 11:19–21 shows how we not only experience the fear of God as a right way of worshiping Him in reverence and awe, but also as an *incentive not to become proud and run away from him*. Romans 11:19-20 says, “You will say, ‘Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.’ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.” The people of Israel were temporarily denied the offer of salvation because of their unbelief and rebellion, and the Gentiles (non-Jews) were grafted into the Abrahamic covenant in their place. Paul is commanding these Gentile believers who are standing fast in faith to fear. Fear what? Fear the prospect of becoming proud, arrogant, and self-sufficient – the same sin that the first parents succumbed to – and drifting away from the living God in a kind of hard-heartedness.

Philippians 2:12–13 says: “... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” God is working in us, influencing us through His Love in our souls to accomplish His purpose! The sheer realization of God’s awesome presence within our lives working for us, not against us, can produce awe and trembling. We should fear and be awe-struck in the sense that being in God’s grace in Christ [Divine Love] is our refuge from judgment outside of Christ.

So fear functions as a *preservative of a healthy spiritual life*. We don’t want to become conceited presumptuous, arrogant or proud and resist God or worse, run away from Him.

The fear and reverence of God help us to take Him and His beneficial laws seriously. It is the basis for our walking in His ways, serving Him, and loving Him. It is the motivating factor for us to surrender to our Creator. In turn, being in harmony with the spiritual laws that govern the universe and our lives has wonderful benefits

both in this life and the life to come (1 Tim. 4:8; Ps. 16:11).

The fear of God can be a *source of delight* as Nehemiah 1:11 shows: “O Lord, let your ear be attentive ... to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name.” This kind of fear doesn’t drive us away but instead draws us in. This is confirmed in Isaiah 11:2–3, a prophecy about Jesus, the Messiah: “The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And *his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.*” Jesus enjoyed fearing God, yet he had a wonderful, intimate, at-one relationship with his heavenly Father as his soul became fully transformed by God’s Love within.

Other benefits of the right fear of God include:

- The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10)

- It results in wisdom, understanding and humility (Job 28:28; Prov. 15:33)
- It will bring a long life with contentment, honor, prosperity and fewer problems (Deut. 6:1-2; 24; Prov. 10:27; 19:23; 22:4)
- It results in delivery from fear (Ps. 34:4)
- It brings great blessings and protection (Job 1:8-10)
- All needs will be provided (Isa. 34:4-10)
- It is one of the gifts of God's Spirit (Isa. 11:2)
- It is the key to God's salvation (Isa. 33:5-6)

Here are a couple of further scriptural insights:

Ps. 34:4-10 *I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. ... This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.* Taste and

see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the LORD, you his saints, for *those who fear him lack nothing*. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but *those who seek the LORD lack no good thing*.

Isa. 33:5-6 The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. 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*.

In addition to help, provision and peace in this life, the fear of God has spiritual and eternal benefits. It is a key element in repentance and change. It helps us have a proper, humble perspective of ourselves in relation to our awesome God. It helps us in times of temptation when we need to remember the serious consequences of disobeying God. And it motivates us to become more like our loving Creator.

- “Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; for surely *there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off*” (Prov. 23:17-18).
- “The fear of the LORD is a *fountain of life*, to turn one away from the snares of death” (Prov. 14:27).

The ultimate benefit of the fear of God is becoming true children of God for eternity! Consider this biblical analogy: Children learn their family rules partly through fear of correction (Heb. 12:9-11). Of course, when they grow older, they should continue to follow the rules out of love and as a result become responsible citizens and valuable contributors to their society. They too will be able to teach their own children how to live right and avoid getting into trouble with the law.

God, whose family rules are even more important, also trains us to obey for our own good – to avoid the consequences of sin and to reach our fullest potential in the world to come

as His true children possessing His nature and immortality! That is our highest potential. A later chapter will show how to achieve this.

Results of No Fear of God

By way of contrast, the wicked person doesn't fear God – they don't stand in awe, but rather have a low view of God as Psalm 36:1-4 shows:

“Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is *no fear of God before his eyes*. For he *flatters himself* in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; *he has ceased to act wisely and do good*. He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he *does not reject evil*.”

The wicked person doesn't think God can find out their sin. They fail to act wisely or do good because of not viewing God as holy, just and serious about punishing sin. They trust in their own wits and strength. Obviously, the Lord doesn't find any pleasure in the wicked.

The wicked refuses to fear God and the consequences include:

- Sinfulness (Ps. 36:1)
- Despising wisdom and discipline (Prov. 1:7)
- Bad outcomes in life (Ecc. 8:13)
- Gross corruption (Rom. 3:15-18)

These passages elaborate further:

Prov. 1:29-33 Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but *whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.*

Rom. 3:13-18 Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.

The consequence of no fear of God here and now is a life of corruption. Since this life is not all there is, the consequences in the next life in the spirit world will be a period of suffering in hell. There is not just one, but many hells with varying degrees of darkness and suffering, depending on the person's earthly life and their soul condition upon death. Hells are not places of fire and brimstone, as nothing there could keep a fire burning. Yet the horrors and suffering of hell is as humanly inconceivable as the wonders and beauties of heaven. The suffering, however, is not inflicted by an angry or vindictive God. It is rather the result of each person's earthly actions.

The existence of hells is for the purpose of the outworking of the law of compensation. When a person enters the spirit world, they become their own judge and executioner and come under the law of compensation (sowing and reaping) This law is necessary to preserve or restore harmony in the universe. While appearing harsh and cruel, it is a benign and

beneficial law in that it works for a relatively short term when the darkness and suffering are compared with an eternity of light and happiness. Even in hell, there is mercy and goodness of the Father, because the spirits confined there would actually be more unhappy if they were in heaven. The hell that they find themselves is in better agreement with their distorted soul condition.

As mentioned, hell is not a place of eternal punishment, but rather, as all parts of the spirit world are, a place of progression. Eventually, all those in the hells will leave upon being purified and forgiven. However, some may experience hell existence for centuries (humanly speaking, as time in spirit world runs differently) before they awaken and realize that they may become children of light and then start progressing in that direction. So the duration of one's stay in hell varies depending on the individual's soul condition when they arrived into the spirit world and their progress while in hell.

A temporary stay in hell (the length of which depends on the individual's soul condition and progress) enable the spirits to realize that the law of compensation is real and that there is a penalty to be paid for evil deeds and disregard for divine laws. Hell is also a place of [probation](#), purification and [progression](#). Hells assist in cleansing of souls to prepare them for higher realms. Once the penalty has been paid and forgiveness (forgetting the evil deeds, the memories of which add to the individual's suffering in hell) is achieved, the spirit gradually moves from darkness to more and more light.

Difference Between Fear and Fear of God

Fear can result from, among other things, doing wrong (fear of punishment), circumstances (fear of the future), and illness or advanced age (fear of death). It is negative, paralysing, demoralizing, tending toward negative expectations if not hopelessness, producing physical, mental and emotional discomfort, anxiety, worry, dismay, and even terror. It is overall destructive and the opposite of love.

There is also a wrong kind of fear of God, which doesn't produce good results. This terrifying and paralysing fear is likely to be the result of the wrong concept of God and misunderstanding of His loving nature. As a result of misconceptions, there is no caring Father-child relationship with God, but rather one based on perceived harshness, unfairness, demanding nature and a prospect of punishment. God doesn't want us to cower in

fear like slaves, but rather enjoy a sweet peace of our Father's acceptance, care and our security of salvation in His house.

The Bible shows several examples of fear or fear of God gone wrong, for example:

James 2:19 "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" The demons [evil spirits] tremble because of their adversary relationship with God and fear of punishment.

Matthew 25:24-26 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! ...'".

The unprofitable servant was paralysed by fear as a result of seeing his Master as a hard man. Yet his reasoning is inconsistent with his excuse to have done nothing. This shows that a

state of fear and dread not only paralyses us, but also distorts our thinking.

Revelation 21:8 says that the “cowardly” or “fearful” (King James Version) will not be in God’s Kingdom. This may well be for the same reason as above – they have a misguided relationship with God, which in turn leads to misguided actions.

The proper fear of God can be seen as an antidote to the wrong fear. As discussed previously, the fear of God has many benefits, including knowledge, understanding, wisdom, peace and love. It is positive, hopeful, enjoyable and leads to edification and a purer, more righteous life. It keeps us from sinning and hence we are spared unnecessary suffering as a result of sin and disobedience.

The reverential fear of God, where God is seen as a loving parent caring for the wellbeing of His children promotes the formation of a positive relationship. God’s goodness is recognized and reciprocated with gratefulness,

love and obedience. That is what God sought with the people of ancient Israel – desiring to be their Helper, Protector and Benefactor in return for their love and obedience. Unfortunately, however, their sins and disobedience kept separating them from God’s blessings and instead led to penalties.

Time after time, Israel received reassurances from their God that they didn’t have to fear, because they would be helped, protected and upheld if they only trusted God, honored Him, obeyed Him, and yes, had a proper reverential fear of Him. Read, for example, these heart-warming passages from the book of Isaiah.

Isa 41:10, 13 So do not fear, for *I am with you*; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. *I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Isa 43:1-3 But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for *I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.* When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ...

Jesus encouraged his disciples along similar lines:

Luke 12:22-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, *do not worry about your life*, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And *how much more valuable you are than birds!* Who of you by worrying can add a single hour

to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

Luke 12:27-30 “Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, *how much more will he clothe you*, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and *your Father knows that you need them*.

Luke 12:31-34 *But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.* Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Jesus brings the teachings to a higher level. Instead of just obedience to law and reaping earthly blessings, he exhorts to “seeking the Kingdom of God” and building “a treasure in heaven.” He promises other-worldly peace. What does this mean and how can this state be accomplished? This is the subject of a later chapter.

How Do We Cultivate the Right Fear of God

The fear of God is learned. As with most things, we have to be instructed regarding the proper fear of God. This occurs through the teaching of God's Law (Deut. 31:12-13); by seeing or hearing about God's mighty deeds (Jos. 4:24); and by considering God's workings and blessings in our lives (1 Sam. 12:24). The following texts add to these insights.

Deut. 31:12-13 Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns—so they can listen and learn to *fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law*. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

Ps. 34:11-14 Come, my children, listen to me; *I will teach you the fear of the LORD*. Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips

from speaking lies. *Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*

Prov. 2:1-5 My son, if you *accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding*, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, *then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

Prov. 28:14 *Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always*, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Isa. 66:2 This is the one to whom I will look: *he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.*

In a nutshell, cultivating a healthy fear of God involves the following:

- Seek God (Ps. 34:4)
- Hold fast to God (Deut. 10:20)

- Praise, honor and reverence God (Ps. 22:23; 33:8; Ps. 111:10)
- Love God with all your heart, soul and mind (Deut. 6:5, 10:12-13; Matt. 22:37)
- Acknowledge God's steadfast love (Ps. 118:4)
- Remember and meditate on what God has done for you (1 Sam. 12:24)
- Serve God only, avoid idolatry (Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Jos. 24:14)
- Serve God with all your heart and soul (Deut. 10:12-13; 1 Sam. 12:24)
- Listen to God and don't be wise in your own eyes (Prov. 1:33; 3:7)
- Avoid sin, evil, pride and arrogance (Ex. 20:10; Prov. 3:7; 8:13; 16:6)

- Cultivate humility, lowliness and sensitivity of heart, and avoid a hard, unperceptive heart (Prov. 28:14; Isa. 66:2)
- Be upright and blameless (Job 1:8-10)
- Keep God's law – specifically Jesus' new command of loving God and man with the unconditional love of God (Deut. 6:1-2, 24; John 13:34)

Here are a few other relevant quotes:

Deut. 10:12-13 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to *fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD'S commands and decrees* that I am giving you today *for your own good?*

Jos 24:14 “Now *fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness.* Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

Psalm 118:4 *Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever."*

Matt 22:36-37 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

The proper fear of God is not incompatible with the love of God and we can trust the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Rom. 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We learn further that “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” can also be in our hearts and souls and impart God’s nature and immortality.

Rom. 5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

In addition, we are told that “there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18)

So what is the connection between seeking God’s Kingdom and acquiring this love of God in our hearts, both of which free us from fear and worry? That’s the subject of the next chapter.

The Perfect Love that Casts Out Fear

Long before humans appeared on earth, at or before the time that they existed as created souls that hadn't yet gone through the incarnation process, God designed a magnificent plan. All by His grace, God purposed the following – as told to Timothy by the apostle Paul:

2 Tim 1:8-10 ... God who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus [which means “Anointed Saviour”], who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

At the beginning, the first humans were given the opportunity to receive in their hearts and souls, imparted by the Holy Spirit, the divine

essence of the Father's Love which would have made them immortal. After their disobedience resulting in the Fall, this offer was withdrawn and no longer available to them or any of their descendants. They "died" in the sense that the way to salvation and immortality was now closed. (The "tree of life" in the book of Genesis [Gen. 2:9, 3:22-24] from which humanity was barred can be seen as a metaphor for immortality.)

This applied to all humans born until the time of Jesus' coming to the earth – including all the righteous persons mentioned in the Old Testament. When they died, these special people, as a result of the high development of their natural love, reached in the spirit world high spheres of supreme happiness, but not the Kingdom of God – to which they could only start progressing after Jesus' coming.

During his time on earth, Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God being at hand and announced that the way to salvation, immortality, and inheriting the Celestial

Kingdom was again open to humanity. It involved the opportunity to seek unison with the Father that would make a person's nature divine through receiving the Divine Love in the soul. This opportunity didn't come through Jesus' sacrifice or death, but rather through his life – being the first to have achieved the unity with God – and teaching about how to acquire this Love of God and follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Jesus' death resulted from the ingrained beliefs and actions of the Jews who couldn't tolerate his teaching. It didn't appease "God's wrath", for God is a God of Love, not of wrath, wishing to share His Love and nature with humans. Jesus was the first human to possess the Divine Love, exemplify it, and proclaim it, so others too would know how to acquire it and be able to reach their potential as true children of God.

Death – the forfeiture of immortality – came through Adam in the sense that after his Fall, he and his descendants were no longer able to partake of the Father's divinity, become at one

with God, and gain immortality. Jesus brought the gift of eternal life back again. At that time this opportunity became available not only to humans, but also to all the spirits who lived and died without its availability. Jesus was the messenger announcing to both humans and spirits that the way was again open to life and immortality – and hence to God’s Celestial Kingdom of which he is the loving and humble Master.

The first letter of John further confirms our union with God through His Love:

1 John 4:16-17 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him [the Love of God transforms our souls displacing sin, so there is no longer need for fear of judgment].

1 John 4:18-19 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. [God first reached out to His created children with the offer of making them His true children, possessing His Love nature and immortality. It was an unconditional offer made purely from a motive of Love and available to all for the asking.]

So how specifically does love cast out fear? The reverential fear of the Lord is designed to help us grow to become more like God—to grow in love. And this growth and transformation through God’s own Love removes any need to be terrified of God’s judgment.

A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature by Arndt and Gingrich gives an excellent explanation of the use of the word *phobos* in verse 18. In the specific context of the verse, the meaning is “slavish fear ...

which is not to characterize the Christian's relation to God."

The same shade of meaning is applied to the word *fear* in Romans 8:15, "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

A different Greek word for fear is found in 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." The Greek *deilia* means "cowardice, timidity, fearfulness" (Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study New Testament*). *Deilia* is consistently used in a negative manner, unlike *phobos*. Revelation 21:8, referred to earlier, uses *deilos*, the adjective form of this word.

Continuing with Romans 8:

Rom. 8:16-18 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in

his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

So we must never lose our respect, reverence and appreciation for God and His laws. However, we are not in a fearful master-slave relationship with God, neither do we need to be timid or paralysed by fear.

Rather we are in a Father-child relationship and as a loving Father who wants the best for us in every way, He has promised to provide for us, protect us and supply all our needs. While we willingly and out of love and childlike dependence, as well as from a desire to serve God, surrender to God's will, we are always free to choose. And in desiring to be transformed by God's own Love in our hearts and to do His will, there is no need to fear.

Our actions at all times should not be motivated by fear, but rather by God's Love shown to us and working in us. As true children

of God possessing His essence, and Jesus' younger brothers and sisters, *we are the heirs of the Celestial Kingdom of God*. Jesus preceded us and is preparing glorious places for us:

John 14:1-2 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms [*mansions* in some translations]; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

What an incredible and glorious potential we have been given! How then can we ensure to reach this amazing destiny?

How to Acquire the Love that Casts Out Fear

God's transforming Love that eliminates fear and gives peace beyond understanding is available to all for the asking. Sincere prayers from the heart or even unconscious soulful longing will draw the Holy Spirit which is the vehicle for imparting Divine Love and essence into human souls. The next chapter has some sample prayers that can be used, but a person's sincere prayer can be just as effective.

James Padgett, through whom Jesus and other Celestial spirits communicated some amazing truths, was not immune to fears, worries and doubts. Here are some of the exhortations he received in the early months of his ministry that can be helpful to us as well.

Be true to yourself, as I have told you, and you will soon be in God's Love and favor. Do not let worries or disappointments keep you from seeking His Love, and believing that He is waiting to enfold you in His arms of mercy and

love, for He is not only waiting but wants you to call on Him. Do not let the thought that He is afar up in the heavens cause you to think that He is not always near you anxiously waiting your call. (November 30, 1914 – Helen Padgett / Ann Rollins)

Make your daily life one of prayer and aspirations, and you will see that what I have told you is not only true, but you can make it a part of yourself. You have only to *let your desires turn towards God*, and *He will meet you more than half way*, for He never sleeps or closes His ear to the supplications of His children; and those who have sought Him with an earnest and repentant wish, and longing desire of the soul, know that *He has always responded to their call*. (November 30, 1914 – Helen Padgett / Ann Rollins)

You must not be so despondent. Pray to God and he will bless you. *Try not to let the things of the material kind keep you from loving God. You are not doing right by thinking so much of the troubles of earth life. Trust in God. He will*

take care of you and *you will not be left alone to worry* over those things which will soon pass by. Give more of your thoughts to God and believe more in His love and care, and he will help you more than you can comprehend. (December 5, 1914 – Ann Rollins)

Try to let your heart receive more of His Love, for He is always ready and waiting to bestow His Love upon you. He is the one lovely Father for you to long for and keep with you in all your thoughts and aspirations. *Do not let the worries of life keep you from loving and believing that He wants you to become one with Him in Love and Grace.* He is not only waiting for you to let His Love flow into your heart, but He is [*continuously*] knocking at the door of your heart, that you may open and let Him enter. (December 12, 1914 – Ann Rollins)

You are *too much worried by what you think of your earthly affairs.* So I want you to let these things pass from you entirely as I cannot give you the thoughts that I desire you to write, until you are wholly free from your earth cares.

Be more faithful and you will be more in condition to do as I desire. (December 17, 1914 – Jesus)

You needed to *give up all your worries and learn to trust God for all your wants. He will take care of you in every way, and you will not lack for anything that is right for you to have. So, do not worry anymore and you will not only be happy but will be successful in all your efforts of a material kind. Yes, do that and you will feel like a man out of prison, for cares and worries are the things that make a man captive. His love will set you free indeed as Jesus says and he knows. Be true to God and to yourself and you need not care what the future may bring, for it will bring everything which the Father knows to be for the best.* (December 25, 1914 – Helen Padgett)

I am here, Jesus. You are my dear brother, and I will tell you what I desire you to do at this time. *You must not let the worries of your business life keep you from giving your thoughts to God in worship and in prayer, and*

from believing in me and loving me as your friend and teacher, for I am; and wish only to have you *do those things which will make you more at-one with the Father* and love me more. (December 25, 1914 – Jesus)

Let me tell you now that no matter what you may think will happen to your business affairs and work, *I will look after you and remove all obstructions* so that, as I say, you will soon be able to commence your duties. (December 25, 1914 – Jesus)

You are very near the Kingdom as your grandmother says, for you have a faith that will soon bring you so close to God that you will not let worries or the things of earth trouble you very much. *Give all your thoughts to God and to His Love and you will soon realize that only His Love is necessary for you to become a very spiritual man* and one whom the Master will soon use to carry out his work of teaching the people what truth and love are. So do not hesitate to give yourself to God unreservedly

and without doubt. (December 27, 1914 – Helen Padgett)

Do not let the things of earth keep you from getting more of your Father's Love and Grace in your soul. Be steadfast in your faith and you will not want for anything that will enable you to become His true son and my own loving disciple in spreading the glorious tidings of joy and peace to mankind. Your love is now so great that you will soon be at-one with your Father and receive from Him the outpouring of His love and the Pentecost of His Holy Spirit. Be a man that will not let anything of earth or heaven keep you from doing the work which I have set before you to do. I am your true helper and protector, and you will not suffer for want of anything that will make you free and happy. Be more earnest in your efforts to obtain the great boon which your Father has promised to give you, and you will not be disappointed. (January 5, 1915 – Jesus)

So do not doubt any more. You I have selected and you will be my true disciple and

messenger of truth. *You have my help and love to the fullest*, and no man can take it from you. In all eternity you will be with me. *God answers your prayers because you have faith and are my own disciple*. So *continue to pray* and He will hear you and answer your prayers. No, only *believe and trust Him – He will never forsake you or let you want*. You must *love God with all your heart and soul and mind and your neighbor as yourself* – this is the great commandment. So observe this and you will be happy and free. (January 12, 1915 – Jesus)

You have great faith and I am somewhat surprised at it myself, but you have it, and God hears and answers your prayers. *You must continue to pray and believe*. You must not doubt that I am with you and wrote to you; *neither must you doubt that I can help you in every time and need*. (January 13, 1915 – Jesus)

And concluding with a Bible passage in the same vein: Philippians 4:19-20 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious

riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father
be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers for Divine Love

The following are example prayers for the receipt of the Divine Love. None of them have to be prayed verbatim, but they can give ideas how to approach the Father who is always happy when His children ask for His Holy Spirit which imparts the Divine Love (Luke 11:13).

It is important to be consistent and continue to pray for the Divine Love, as soul transformation doesn't happen all at once, but is a process.

“Prayer Perfect”

The prayer below contains the basic truths given to humankind by Celestial Spirits.

Our Father, who are in heaven, we recognize that You are all holy and loving and merciful, and that we are Your children, and not the subservient, sinful and depraved creatures that our false teachers would have us believe. That we are the greatest of Your creation, and the most wonderful of all Your handiworks, and the

objects of Your great soul's love and tenderest care.

That Your will is that we become at one with You, and partake of Your great Love which You have bestowed upon us through Your mercy and desire that we become, in truth, Your children, through love, and not through the sacrifice and death of any of Your creatures.

We pray that You will open up our souls to the inflowing of Your Love, and that then may come Your Holy Spirit to bring into our souls Your Love in great abundance, until our souls shall be transformed into the very essence of Yourself; and that there may come to us faith — such faith as will cause us to realize that we are truly Your children and one with You in very substance and not in image only.

Let us have such faith as will cause us to know that You are our Father, and the bestower of every good and perfect gift, and that only we, ourselves, can prevent Your love changing us from the mortal to the immortal.

Let us never cease to realize that Your Love is waiting for each and all of us, and that when we come to You, in faith and earnest aspiration, Your Love will never be withheld from us.

Keep us in the shadow of Your Love every hour and moment of our lives, and help us to overcome all temptations of the flesh, and the influence of the powers of the evil ones, which so constantly surround us and endeavour to turn our thoughts away from You to the pleasures and allurements of this world.

We thank You for Your love and the privilege of receiving it, and we believe that You are our Father — the loving Father who smiles upon us in our weakness, and is always ready to help us and take us to Your arms of love.

We pray this with all the earnestness and longings of our souls, and trusting in Your Love, give You all the glory and honour and love that our finite souls can give. Amen.

The following is a list of other Prayer Perfect resources:

- [Video version](#) of the prayer
- [Sung version of the prayer](#) accompanied by piano.
- Illustrated PDF file of the prayer is at [Prayer for Divine Love](#)
- For an illustrated JPG image, [go to this page](#).
- For an outline of the prayer, go to [Prayer Perfect Outline](#)
- To see the structure of the prayer, go to [Prayer Perfect Structure](#)
- A [7-part slide show](#) of the prayer combined with the spiritual practice of *Lectio Divina*
- A slide show combined with [reading of the prayer](#)

Prayers from the Bible

Here are four personally inspiring Bible passages which are prayers of thanksgiving attributed to the apostle Paul (though the exact authorship is not important). They are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible and are easy to read. I have bolded the parts that particularly speak to me, and have also

inserted notes in brackets that parallel information in this book.

Ephesians 1:16-19:

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that **you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** [*prayer for increased soul perceptions*] in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, **the riches of his glorious inheritance** [*Celestial Kingdom*] in the saints, **19 and his incomparably great power** [*Divine Love that transforms our souls from divine image to divine substance and mortal to immortal*] for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ...

Ephesians 3:16-21

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being**, *[soul growth and soul perceptions through Divine Love]* **17** so that Christ *[Divine Love]* may dwell in your hearts through faith. *[Divine Love in the soul]* And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, **18** may have power, together with all the saints, to **grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. *[all aspects of Divine Love]* **20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us *[how awesome!]*, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Philippians 1:9-11

9 And this is my prayer: **that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight**, [*prayer for growth in Divine Love and soul perceptions*] **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. [*through Divine Love transforming the soul.*]

Colossians 1:3-6, 9-14

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** because we have heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints** – **5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven** [*again, Divine Love?*] and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel **6** that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and

growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood **God's grace in all its truth**. [*Divine Love is a gift of grace*] ...

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding**. [*again, soul perceptions*] **10** And we pray this in order that you may **live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way**: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully **12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light**. [*Celestial Kingdom reached through Divine Love*] **13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son he**

loves, [*Celestial Kingdom of which Jesus is the Master*] **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [*through praying for and receiving the Divine Love*].

Conclusion

The fear of God is a healthy awe and reverence for our Creator, Life Giver, Sustainer, Provider and Savior. We are nothing without God – we wouldn't even exist or have physical life without his life-sustaining Spirit, and we definitely cannot save ourselves from our sins. So God is certainly due awe, worship and reverence.

This is totally different from the negative, tormenting, paralysing fear that many are experiencing – fear of the future, of eternal damnation, of not having enough, of getting sick, and on and on. In fact, the “fear of God” can be seen as an antidote to the unhealthy human fears of all kinds. It involves a loving parent-child relationship with God, submission and obedience to His will, asking for and receiving God’s help, and reaping God’s blessings.

The highest form of this both reverential and intimate relationship is being open to God’s

offer of the Divine Love which results in a soul transformation into true children of God possessing divine nature and immortality and a life of unlimited growth in the Celestial Kingdom of God. Our heavenly Father, being infinitely more loving than the most loving human parent, is always delighted to give His beloved children the Divine Love which when cultivated in one's soul will bring the human or spirit into at-onement with God and make them an inhabitant of the Celestial Kingdom. What a wonderful potential destiny we all have! Truly, as the apostle Paul said to the congregation in Corinth – and us all:

1 Cor. 2:9-10 ... as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit [imparting the Divine Love]. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1 Cor. 2:11-12 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the

thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world [which is a spirit of fear – 2 Tim.1:7] but the Spirit who is from God [and is of power, love and self-discipline – 2 Tim.1:7] that we may understand what God has freely given us [through our soul perceptions].

As we grow in God's Love and soul perceptions, we'll have a better idea of the glorious future that awaits us, but it will still be infinitely more beautiful and glorious when we get there.

Appendix: More Bible Texts on Fear of God

Gen. 20:11 Abraham replied, “I said to myself, ‘There is surely *no fear of God in this place*, and they will kill me because of my wife.’”

Ex. 20:20 Moses said to the people, “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.*”

Deut. 6:1-2 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may *fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.*

Deut. 6:13 *Fear the LORD your God, serve him only* and take your oaths in his name.

Deut. 6:24 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.

Deut. 10:20 *Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.*

Jos. 4:24 He did this [dried up the Jordan] so that all the peoples of the earth might *know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.*”

2 Sam. 23:3-4 The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one *rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning*, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.’

Job 1:8-10 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is *blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.*” “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his

household and everything he has? *You have blessed the work of his hands*, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.”

Job 28:28 And he said to man, ‘*The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.*’

Ps. 22:23 *You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*

Ps. 33:8 Let all the earth *fear the LORD*; let all the people of the world *revere him*.

Ps. 36:1 An oracle is within my heart concerning *the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes.*

Ps. 111:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom*; all who *follow his precepts* have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Prov. 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge*, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Prov. 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; *fear the LORD and shun evil.*

Prov. 8:13 *To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*

Prov. 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Prov. 10:27 *The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.*

Prov. 14:27 *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.*

Prov. 15:33 *The fear of the LORD a teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*

Prov. 16:6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through *the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.*

Prov. 19:23 *The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.*

Prov. 22:4 *Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.*

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

Eccl. 12:13 Now all has been heard; here is the *conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

1 Pet. 2:15-17 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; *live as servants of God.* Show proper respect to everyone: *Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.*

Rev. 14:7 He said in a loud voice, "*Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.*"

References

References drawn on in this book are:

[Angelic Revelations of Divine Truths](#) (print copy available [here](#))

<https://www.christianity.com/theology/theological-faq/why-should-i-fear-god-11531786.html>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/mark-altrogge/what-does-it-mean-to-fear-god.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/fear-God.html>

<https://lifehopeandtruth.com/god/who-is-god/fear-of-the-lord/> -- this is an excellent reference as to the meanings of the original Greek words

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-does-it-mean-for-the-christian-to-fear-god>

Further Reading

More about this and related subjects can be found on the author's website as well as the following:

- [Universal Spirituality website](#)
- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. I](#)
- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. II](#)
- [New Birth website](#)

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- *Salvation*, Eva Peck
- *Problem of Evil*, Eva Peck

- *Answers to Prayer*, Eva Peck
- *The Bible as a Guide to Life*, Eva Peck
- *Life After Death*, Eva Peck
- *Jesus Christ – A New Look at His Identity and Mission*, Eva Peck and Michael Nedbal
- *Fulfillments of Old Testament Types*, Eva Peck
- *Who and What Is God?* Eva Peck
- *Nature of Soul and Spirit*, Eva Peck
- *Discerning Truth and Divine Guidance*, Eva Peck

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- *Artistic Inspirations - Paintings of Jindrich Degen* arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
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- *Faces and Forms Across Time – Artwork of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Variations – Art Exhibition of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck
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- *Nature's Beauty – Art Photography of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck
- *Volné verše*, Jindrich Degen (Czech poetry)
- *Verše pro dnešní dobu*, Jindrich Degen (Czech poetry)

Pathway Publishing

Seeking truth and beauty



Antidote to Fear and Anxiety: Fear of God

"Fear of God" - what does it really mean?

God is love. Yet, God commands us to "fear Him" and says that He takes pleasure in us when we do. Why? Does he enjoy us being afraid of him? As parents, we don't want our children to be afraid of us. We want them to love us and enjoy being with us.

So, in what sense are we to fear God, our heavenly Father? Why does the Old Testament frequently, and even the New in a few instances, encourage humans to "fear of the Lord"?

By the same token, fear of and by itself is discouraged more than 70 times. What is the difference, and what exactly is the fear of God that we are supposed to cultivate as opposed to the wrong kind of fear, which we are to avoid and which God's perfect Love casts out?

This book shows how fear of God leads to the Love of God, which in turn casts out fear.

Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister and trustee in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. She has written and published a number of books on spiritual themes, as well as building and maintaining several websites. Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Alex.



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