

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

The writer of this proverb is Solomon the son of David and Bethsheba. He begins this section describing wisdom, as if she were a living thing using the feminine pronoun. He knew what he was penning.

If you look at his life, Solomon, had a clear understanding of the struggle between wisdom and folly (Flesh and Spirit), and in his later writing Ecclesiastes you can clearly see this.

Why does Solomon admonish us to choose the fear of the LORD?

In verse 7 he tells us it's the **beginning** of knowledge, and in chapter 9:10 it's the **beginning** of wisdom.

Aren't we told that fear is wrong, that fear is the opposite of faith?

The Hebrew word used here is Yirah. It often translates into fear, and it can also mean respect, reverence, and worship. It is strongly connected to trembling.

Our understanding of fear causes us to run and hide. It's an unpleasant emotion. But Yirah will stir you, and make you understand, and give you wisdom.

When my kids were young, and they were heading out with friends, and were out from underneath my care and influence. I would always tell them, "Behave as if I'm there with you." I wasn't being mean or mistrusting them, I just wanted them to know that I cared about their well being and I did have an expectation that all they learned at home should go with them. Without even knowing it, I was instilling yirah, not fear. I was giving them the responsibility to bring respect and honour to what they represented, in this case, their family.

While we don't necessarily see GOD physically, in Psalm 19, David writes, The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day to day utters speech and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

Their line (sound or business) has gone out through the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

The testimony of God is all around us! There is a voice! He is here!

Psalm 9a) The Yirah of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.

James 3:17, 18 although these verses are not included in the readings for this week, they are beneficial, 'But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.'

Friends, the yirah of the LORD is the **beginning** of wisdom, knowledge and is clean ... enduring forever!!

Thank You, LORD that when we don't have a clear understanding, You reveal through Your word; Your love, Your plan, Your grace, and Your simplicity. Forgive us for complicating the gospel and making it so difficult for people to receive You.

Help us to be faithful in these times of uncertainty and to trust Your plan for our lives. In Jesus' Precious Name. Amen.