



“WITH MEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT NOT WITH GOD;
FOR WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.”
– MARK 10:27

St. Basil on the Fear of God

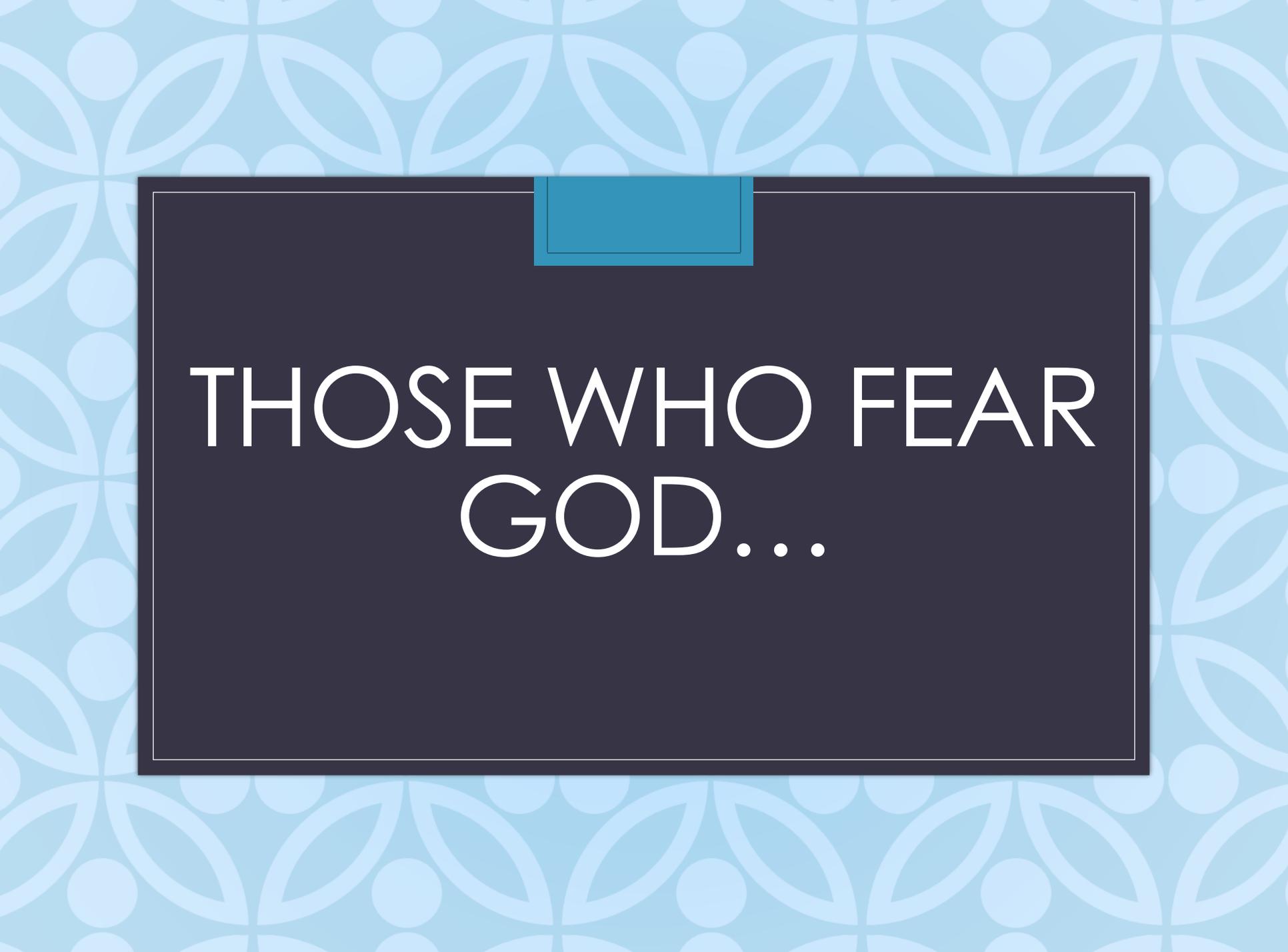
- There are three states by which we can please God:
 1. By fearing hell and following His commandments
 2. By doing His commandments to receive the reward of eternal life or peace
 3. By pleasing God out of love for Him

Dorotheus of Gaza

- Classified the Fear of God into two categories:
 1. **Beginner** – fears God because he is afraid of Hell or punishment
 2. **Saint** – fears God because he seeks to please God whom he loves
 - Perfect love
- Both types of the Fear of God are useful and biblical
 - We ought to fear God
 - Those who fear God

We ought to fear...

1. His majesty, glory, and power
2. His authority over our souls
3. Coming up short
4. Being a stumbling block
5. The wide and broad way
6. Self-approval



THOSE WHO FEAR
GOD...

1. Fear upsetting Him (love)

“There is a twofold species of fear. The first kind is accompanied with reverence. This is the type of fear that citizens show towards good rulers, and that we show towards God. Right-minded children show this fear towards their fathers...The other kind of fear is accompanied with hatred. This is the type of fear that slaves feel towards harsh masters and that the Hebrews felt. For they made God a Master, not a Father.” (St. Clement of Alexandria)



2. Careful to observe His commandments

- *“Where the fear of God is, there is seriousness and an honorable and yet thoughtful diligence.”* (Tertullian)
- Lot's sons-in-law
 - So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. (Gen. 19:14)

3. Are on the path of wisdom

- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Prov. 9:10)
- “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.” (Job 28:28)

4. Persuade others

- “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...” (2 Cor. 5:11)
 - Considering the Judgement
 - When others see the fear of God in me

5. Do not fear men

- “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.”
(Ps. 34:7)
- Ex: Herod feared St. John the Baptist
 - “...for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man...”
(Mk. 6:20)



Three Holy Youth

- “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” (Dan. 3:16-18)



Summary

- “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life.” (Prov. 14:27)
- Those who fear God out of love:
 1. Fear upsetting Him because of love
 2. Careful to observe His commandments
 3. Are on the path of wisdom
 4. Persuade others
 5. Do not fear men