

HAPPY LANDINGS
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When we go to the movies we love happy endings. We want the right guy to get the girl. We want the world saved from extinction. We want the hero to win. The same is true in real life. We want a happy ending.

Ecclesiastes 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.

Solomon closed Ecclesiastes from his death bed by sharing the secret of “happy landings”. Unfortunately, Solomon failed to follow his own advice. He lived his own way and concluded a miserable life with the observation: “*I hated life!*” (Ecclesiastes 2:17).

Solomon was a wiser man as he proclaimed that fearing God and obeying His commands are the only way to happy landings and living happily ever after.

1 KINGS 11:1-9 GIVES GREAT INSIGHT INTO WHERE SOLOMON WENT WRONG.

“FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE [DUTY] OF MAN.”

There is a dimension of the “Fear of the Lord,” which means “to scare the pants off of someone,” or to be “filled with great dread.”

Isaiah 6: Isaiah fell down in terror when he saw God mighty and lifted up.

Matthew 14:22-33: The disciples were more afraid of Jesus when he stopped the storm than they were of the storm.

James 2:19: “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

The “Fear of the Lord” sounds like a negative thing. But, according to the Word of God, it is the best living that can happen to us. The Fear of the Lord is more a descriptive phrase which identifies a particular type of lifestyle:

Proverb 10:27: The fear of the Lord adds length to life.

Proverb 28:14: Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord.

Proverb 15:33: The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom.

Proverb 14:16: A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil.

Proverb 14:26: He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Proverb 14:27: The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

Proverb 19:23: The fear of the Lord leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

God’s commandments are not capricious. They are completely for our best benefit: “*Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God*” (Deuteronomy 12:28).

The ten commandments illustrate how God’s commands are best for us and for society (Exodus

20:12-17).

“FOR GOD WILL BRING EVERY DEED INTO JUDGMENT, INCLUDING EVERY HIDDEN THING, WHETHER IT IS GOOD OR EVIL.”

Ecclesiastes 12:14: “For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

Luke 12:5: “Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.”

Judgment for Christians is different than Judgment for Non-Christians.

Judgment for Christians for sin is handled at the cross.
The “evaluation” of Christians is described in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.
Judgment Seat: Bema—reward stand at the Olympic games.
Rewards based on profitable or unprofitable service.
We never see our sins again because of Grace.

Judgment for the sins of Non-Christians is handled at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). Settle your case with God “out of court” by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior while you are still alive and have time.

“FEARING GOD AND OBEYING HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER. GOD’S ‘PERFECT LOVE’ IS ABLE TO BANISH ALL FEAR.”

1 John 4:18: “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.”

If we are still afraid of God long after we have become Christians—if we are not experiencing a deepening love relationship with God—then our experiencing of God’s love still has a ways to go!

Jesus easily mixed the concepts of Love and Fear and Commandments in Matthew 22:34-40: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

The fear of God and the love of God mix well all through the scriptures: “Let those who fear the Lord say, ‘His love endures forever’” (Psalm 118:4).

What might experiencing “perfect love” feel like?