

1. [Phi 2:12 NKJV] Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
2. This, to me, was a terrifying scripture. And when I finally read it with what I now feel is a correct interpretation, it was frightening for a few reasons. One of the causes for my alarm is that scripture had never really scared me before. Most of the Biblical teaching that I had been exposed to at that time focused almost exclusively on the fact that God loves us. And indeed he does, that is unquestionably true. In fact, He most clearly revealed his great love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)
3. However, this is only one aspect of His multifaceted, divine nature. The Bible also identifies the Father as an infinitely-powerful, fiercely jealous, (Exo 20:5, Deut 5:9) consuming fire! We see that the intense jealousy of God is almost always directly connected to the adultery of his chosen people in either worshiping other gods, or in their attempts to worship Him using traditions from pagan religions. And since so much of the Bible uses the metaphor of marriage to describe the covenant relationship between God and His people, these feelings of jealousy seem completely understandable and valid. Any husband who desperately loves his wife would be provoked to jealous anger upon discovering her adultery with someone else.
4. Furthermore, the Bible records numerous examples in which the Father demonstrates his willingness to abruptly extinguish human life when his children are disobedient or rebellious and stir up his anger. From our perspective, this often seems a tragically severe punishment, but we must remember, as the creator and sustainer of all life, it is well within his right to do so. Especially since we all know that according to Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death.
5. But it's very uncomfortable to think about God in this way. I would much rather have focused strictly on him loving me no matter

what. No one likes to think about their father being upset or disappointed with what they've done. This is even more true for our Heavenly Father. Who wants to entertain the thought that the God of all creation might be displeased with what they are doing or angry about what they're not doing. So rather than venture into uncomfortable theology, I would often placate myself with the well rehearsed mantra "Jesus loves me" and snuggle up to my Teddy Bear God who only ever made me feel good about myself.

6. But then I would read Paul's words again: work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. I could not escape what seemed to be an obvious implication that my salvation might require more than I previously realized. Up until that point, I had been consistently reassured that my salvation was eternally secured because I said a single prayer. But in testing that notion against scripture, I could not find a single verse that seemed to confirm it. In fact, it was quite the opposite. The more I searched, the more I began to see a theme harmoniously woven throughout the entirety of scripture that is perhaps most evident in the example of our Savior and how he lived His life here on earth. I was starting to see that my belief in the Bible, my faith in Jesus, or as he's known in the Hebrew, Yeshua, and my relationship with our Heavenly Father, requires consistent and intentional action in obeying the commandments of God, also known as the law of Moses. For an introduction to how our salvation by grace through faith is related to our expected obedience, I would invite you to watch my video, [The Biblical Importance of Good Works](#).
7. There is certainly an abundance of scripture that teaches our Father is faithful, long-suffering and full of love, mercy, kindness and forgiveness. However, there is also a wealth of scripture that teaches He is worthy and deserving of not just our reverent respect, but our genuine, authentic fear. Throughout scripture, a fear of God is always associated with a person who is considered wise. And more often than not, that fear and wisdom is also connected with obedience to God's law. Put simply, smart people are afraid of God and do what he says because they don't want to upset him and end up like Nadab and Abihu (See Lev.

10:1-2). It stands to reason, if our greatest fear in life actually was upsetting the Most High God, the maker of heaven and earth, we would be extremely motivated to be as obedient as we could, no matter what it cost. Especially when we understand that the true Biblical definition of sin, is transgression of the law, or lawlessness. If you're interested, I discuss this more in my video, Fear of the Lord.

8. There is, however, one more extremely important point that must be considered in this discussion. The Bible makes it very clear that one day we will all be judged based on what we've done.
9. Romans 2:5-8, But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.
10. Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.
11. Revelation 20:11-13, Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works
12. As I began to put all of this together, I was powerfully convicted by the truth I was beginning to see. Paul tells his readers to work out their salvation with fear and trembling. Repeatedly we are told that the fear of god is the beginning of wisdom, and this wisdom is

often associated with obeying God's law.. We read over and over in the old testament how the Father eventually becomes angry at the continued disobedience of his children. 1 John 3:4 teaches us that sin is the transgression of God's law and Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death. Yeshua comes and gives His life as an atonement for our sin, but then also tells us in John 14:15, if we love him we will keep his commandments. And finally, we are warned that one day we will be judged according to what we have done.

13. With all of this in mind, let us now read Hebrews 10:26-31 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
14. In other words, after I received the knowledge of what sin actually is according to the Bible, a transgression of God's law, if I were to go on deliberately breaking his commandments, there would no longer remain a sacrifice of sins for me, only judgement. And that's because I was saved BY GRACE through my FAITH in the atoning death of the Messiah, which was for the forgiveness of sin, which is breaking God's law. And if I truly understand that, and keep on sinning anyway, I'm trampling on the blood of Christ which cleansed me and making it meaningless, and I'm insulting the Grace of God by which I was saved. And then all that remains is the coming judgment of the living god.
15. If it feels like I'm just sharing all of this to try and scare you, please know, I actually am. When I came to this understanding, there

was much about it that was indeed very scary. Mainly because I realized there was several things I needed to change about how I was relating to my Heavenly Father, and even more frightening, that some of what I had been doing was storing up wrath against me. That's a terrifying thought and it definitely provoked me to take action and begin to learn how to make the necessary changes. In other words, I began to work out my own salvation with fear and trembling.

16. However, please know this as well. My attempts to scare you and provoke you to action are done out of love for a fellow brother or sister in Christ. This entire YouTube channel is an attempt to humbly live out Hebrews 10:24-25, And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. I don't know about you, but I'm certainly seeing the Day approaching, and we all have work to do in order to make ourselves ready.
17. In closing, I want to also note that as I began to make these changes and continued to study further, I also began to realize that this was a remarkable opportunity to draw closer to my Creator, because obedience is how we can express love and gratitude to the Father. The Bible is very clear on this point, and I cover it in more detail in the video Our Heavenly Father's Love Language.
18. Just like any good parent sets rules or boundaries for their kids, as children of God, we do actually have specific expectations placed on us by our Heavenly Father when we are adopted into his family. And these expectations are not meant to be difficult or oppressive, but rather, they are intended to be blessing. And as an earthly parent can attest, an obedient child is a treasure that is greatly cherished.