

# WHAT'S IN A SONG?

By Sally Campbell



## We Choose the Fear of the Lord

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I think I can guess what you might be thinking. A worship song with negative title is a bit incongruous. It is difficult to admit we fear anything and this would be accurate if we were talking about anxiety or fright. But to fear the Lord is to respect his ways and trust his understanding of things. From this context we can enter a relationship with God that is based on trust and acceptance of his salvation, love, and protection for us. This is a radical concept in 2021, but no less true than it was in ancient times. To fear the Lord is to love of his word; the word he gave us so we could know him.

***“For the fear of the Lord is to hate all evil”***

Evil is destructive. It does not build up, but it tears down. Evil is not designated by our preference, or personal agenda. We don't decide what is evil. It is a course of action or a system designed to destroy life, whether culturally, spiritually, physically, or emotionally. When Jesus speaks to his disciples on the mountain, he states that the lamp of the body is the eye, and if the eye is clear and healthy, the body is full of light. If the eye is evil and unhealthy, the body is full of darkness.<sup>1</sup> It is good for us to reflect on our own hearts and consider if evil lies there. ***“We choose the fear of the Lord.”***

***“For the way of the Lord is the way of wisdom”***

Wisdom is knowledge properly interpreted and applied. We give a lot of credence to the acquisition of knowledge today, but positive application of knowledge can often be lacking. Not to put too fine a point on it, but Solomon wrote “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”<sup>2</sup> To understand the world through God's eye is to make decisions that will be for the betterment of others, as well as the safety of ourselves. Another proverb reads “there is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health”<sup>3</sup> ***“We choose the way of the Lord”***

***“For the word of the Lord shall endure forever”***

The word of the Lord has been with us down through the ages, despite efforts to obliterate it. These days we argue as to whether it's fact or fiction. This is a decision each of us must make and it is predicated on who we place our faith in; God or ourselves. If we believe God is good and loves us then it is not a stretch to imagine that he would have arranged a way for us to meet him up close, through his word<sup>4</sup>. If this is a challenge to believe, then this might be a good place to start, should this journey be chosen. The alternative would be to be afraid of God. ***“We choose the word of the Lord”***

***“We who delight in the word of the Lord will be blessed in all of our ways<sup>5</sup>. For the friendship of God is with those who fear him, so we choose the fear, the way, the word of the Lord”.***

God's word tells us that this path can only be chosen. It cannot be forced on anyone.

1. Matthew 6:22-23 | 2. Proverbs 9:10 | 3. Proverbs 12:18 | 4. 1 Peter 1:23 | 5. Psalm 1:2