

Fear, Obedience, and Blessing

They shall be My people, and I will be their God;

Then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them.

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from me.

--Jeremiah 32:38-40

I remember as a child, I feared my father. I knew he loved me and wanted what was best for me but sometimes I wanted my way. When I wanted my way, I usually acted on it. When those situations arose, I knew I would be disciplined and it would not be pleasant. Since I feared my father's firm hand, I wanted to obey him. Later that fear changed to one of a fear of displeasing him. I wanted him to be delighted with my behavior. It was important to me that he was pleased that I was his daughter.

I also knew that my behavior reflected on my parents. If I was known as an unruly child who was always misbehaving, I knew it would make people think that my parents were not good people. I tried to obey not only to be known as a good child, but so that others would know that my parents were good, also.

Our life may determine what others think of God. God wants us to fear Him so that we will not depart from His word. He wants us to desire His way not our own way. He promises that when we have a heart that seeks to glorify Him, He will not turn away from doing good for us and for our children.