WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Twin Truths: Fear and Love

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - Twin Truths: Fear and Love

Part One of Two

August 13, 2025

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Concurrent Realities

Certain biblical truths are inseparable and occur simultaneously, such as faith and repentance, preservation and perseverance, and fear and love.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'A concurrent reality is something that happens simultaneously... it would be impossible to separate them. For instance, faith and repentance are concurrent realities.'

Fear and Love as Twin Truths

Biblical fear and biblical love are not opposites but complementary, both leading to obedience and service.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'These twin truths are fear and love. And when you think about those two things, you normally think that they are opposites, but not real biblical fear and not real biblical love.'

Absence of Fear Equals Despising God

If one does not fear God, he despises Him; if one does not love God, he hates Him, as shown in Malachi 1:6 and Matthew 6:24.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Malachi 1:6: 'If I then be a father, where is my honor? And if I be a master, where is my fear... Unto you, O priest, who despise my name.'

Hypocritical Fear Condemned

Fear taught by the precepts of man is hypocritical and vain worship, as condemned in Isaiah 29:13 and Matthew 15:7-9.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Isaiah 29:13: 'Their fear toward me is taught by the precept of man.'

Servile Fear Condemned

Fear of punishment or man, rather than reverence for God, is condemned; believers are repeatedly told 'fear not.'

Lecture support: Weaver cites Obadiah in 1 Kings 18 as an example of servile fear and lists several 'fear not' passages.

Biblical Fear Leads to Obedience

True fear of the Lord is defined as reverential awe that results in keeping God's commandments, as repeatedly shown in Deuteronomy.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Deuteronomy 5:29: 'O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always.'

No Fear of God Explains Societal Corruption

Romans 3:18 states that the root of human wickedness is the lack of the fear of God.

Lecture support: Weaver asks why there is corruption in government and answers with Romans 3:18: 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.'

Fear of the Lord Identifies True Believers

In Revelation, the saints are described as those who fear God's name, and 1 John 2:3-4 says those who claim to know God but disobey are liars.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Revelation 11:18: '...and to them that fear thy name, small and great.'

Key Arguments

Fear and love are inseparable twin truths

Biblical fear and love are not contradictory but complementary; both are necessary and lead to obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you fear God, you love him. If you love God, you fear him. These are side-by-side in this passage.'

Not fearing God is equivalent to despising Him

Malachi 1:6 shows that lack of honor and fear is despising God; Matthew 6:24 shows that lack of love is hate.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If one does not fear God, he despises Him. If one does not love God, he hates Him.'

Hypocritical fear is based on man's precepts, not God's Word

Isaiah 29:13 and Matthew 15:7-9 condemn worship that is merely lip service, taught by human commandments.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Matthew 15:9: 'But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.'

Servile fear is not true fear of God

Obeying only to avoid punishment, like Obadiah, is not biblical fear; God repeatedly commands 'fear not' regarding such fear.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Obadiah... stayed with Ahab the king and obeyed him out of fear of punishment.'

Biblical fear is reverential awe leading to obedience

The Hebrew 'yare' and Greek 'phobeo' both mean to reverence, honor, and obey; fear of the Lord is synonymous with keeping His commandments.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Both the Old Testament Hebrew word, "yare," and the New Testament Greek word, "phobeo," both point to the realization that biblical godly fear leads to obedience.'

The fear of the Lord is the root of departing from evil

Proverbs 16:6 and Job 28:28 teach that fearing God is wisdom and understanding, causing one to turn from evil.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Proverbs 16:6: 'By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.'

Lack of fear of God explains all societal corruption

Romans 3:18 diagnoses the universal sinfulness of mankind as stemming from no fear of God.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Why are they so corrupt? Look in verse 18. "There is no fear of God before their eyes."'

Profession without obedience is a lie

1 John 2:3-4 declares that anyone who claims to know God but does not keep His commandments is a liar.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 1 John 2:4: 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.'

Scripture References

Joshua 24:14

The foundational text for the message, commanding fear of the Lord, sincere service, and putting away false gods.

Jude 1:1

Mentioned in passing regarding preservation of the saints.

Malachi 1:6

Used to show that lack of honor and fear is despising God.

Matthew 6:24

Used to show that lack of love is hate; you cannot serve God and mammon.

Deuteronomy 28:58-59

Shows that fearing God's glorious and fearful name is linked to obeying His law.

Colossians 3:5

Covetousness is idolatry, implying self-worship when disobeying God.

Job 8:13

Bildad's statement that the hypocrite's hope shall perish, used to illustrate hypocritical fear.

Job 15:4

Eliphaz accuses Job of casting off fear, illustrating the charge of hypocrisy.

Job 27:8

Job's rhetorical question about the hope of a hypocrite when God takes his soul.

Isaiah 29:13

God condemns people whose fear is taught by the precepts of man, not from the heart.

Matthew 15:7-9

Jesus applies Isaiah 29:13 to the Pharisees, calling their worship vain because it is based on human commandments.

1 Kings 18:7-19

The story of Obadiah, who obeyed Ahab out of fear of punishment, illustrating servile fear.

Matthew 10:28

Jesus teaches to fear God who can destroy both body and soul in hell, not those who can only kill the body.

Deuteronomy 20:3-4

God commands Israel not to fear their enemies in battle because He goes with them.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Another 'fear not' command, promising God's presence and faithfulness.

Isaiah 35:4

God tells those with fearful hearts to be strong and not fear, for He will come with vengeance and save.

Luke 12:7, 32

Jesus tells His disciples not to fear because they are valuable to God and it is the Father's pleasure to give them the kingdom.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but trusting in the Lord brings safety.

Hebrews 12:28

Believers are to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, indicating saving fear.

Psalm 5:7

David worships toward God's temple in the fear of the Lord, linking fear and worship.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the concept of 'concurrent realities' help us understand the relationship between fear and love in the Christian life?

Consider: Weaver introduces the idea that fear and love are twin truths that cannot be separated.

2. In what ways might we be guilty of a hypocritical fear of God, based on the precepts of man rather than a heart for God?

Consider: Weaver discusses hypocritical fear as condemned in Isaiah 29:13 and Matthew 15:7-9.

3. What are some modern examples of servile fear, where people obey God only to avoid negative consequences?

Consider: Weaver uses Obadiah in 1 Kings 18 as an example of servile fear.

4. How does the biblical definition of fear (reverence, awe, honor) differ from the common understanding of fear as terror?

Consider: Weaver defines the Hebrew 'yare' and Greek 'phobeo' as reverence leading to obedience.

5. Why does the lack of the fear of God lead to societal corruption, according to Romans 3:18?

Consider: Weaver applies Romans 3:18 to explain corruption in government and society.

6. How can we cultivate a greater fear of the Lord in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver mentions that fear can be increased, though he does not elaborate in this part; he alludes to Scripture reading as a means.

7. What does 1 John 2:3-4 teach us about the relationship between knowing God and obeying His commandments?

Consider: Weaver uses this passage to argue that disobedience proves one does not truly know God.

8. How does the fear of the Lord affect our regard for other people, as illustrated by the unjust judge in Luke 18?

Consider: Weaver argues that if you don't fear God, you won't regard man, using the parable of the unjust judge.

Applications

Examine your fear of God

Evaluate whether your fear of God is biblical (reverential, leading to obedience) or hypocritical/servile.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Do not be fooled. Do not be deceived by individuals who profess to be Christians... but yet they walk in disobedience.'

Obey God as evidence of fearing Him

True fear of God will manifest in keeping His commandments; if you claim to fear Him, your life should show obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver repeatedly states, 'If you fear God, you're going to obey Him.'

Turn from evil through the fear of the Lord

Use the fear of the Lord as motivation to depart from sin, as Proverbs 16:6 teaches.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Proverbs 16:6: 'By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.'

Worship and serve God with reverence

Approach worship and service with a godly fear that recognizes God's authority and holiness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You and I cannot worship aright without fearing God. We cannot serve aright without fearing God.'

Do not trust mere profession of faith

Be wary of those who claim to know God but live in disobedience; apply this test to yourself as well.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 John 2:4: 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar.'

Fear God rather than man

Replace servile fear of man or circumstances with a reverential fear of God, who alone has ultimate authority.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Matthew 10:28: 'Fear not them which kill the body... but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell.'

Teach children the fear of the Lord

Include children in the hearing of God's Word so they may learn to fear Him, as Deuteronomy 31 commands.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I believe the children ought to be there with the parents... God can open the eyes of a child just like he can open the eyes of an adult.'

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling

Actively apply your salvation in daily life with a sense of reverential awe, knowing God is at work in you.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Philippians 2:12-13: 'Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling... God works it in. It's our responsibility to work it out.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Twin Truths: Fear and Love

Part Two of Two

August 13, 2025

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-40 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Fear and Love as Identical Twin Truths

Biblical fear and biblical love are not opposites but identical twins, both producing obedience to God's commandments.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'fear and love are not only twin truths, they are identical twin truths' and later 'fear and love are identical twins. If you fear Him, you love Him. If you love Him, you fear Him.'

Obedience as the Expression of Fear and Love

Both fearing God and loving God are demonstrated through keeping His commandments; obedience is the common outcome.

Lecture support: Weaver repeatedly says, 'the man that fears God obeys God... the man who loves God obeys God as well' and cites Deuteronomy 5:29 and John 14:21.

The Inseparability of God and His Word

One cannot separate God from His Word; to despise God's commandments is to despise God Himself.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'you cannot separate God from His Word... if you despise the Word of God, you despise God' and uses 2 Samuel 12:9-10 and 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

Love Defined as Obedience, Not Sentimentality

Biblical love (agape) is not emotion or sentimentality but active obedience to God's commands toward Him and others.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'love is not sentimentality. Love is not emotion. Love is obedience' and explains Romans 13:8-10.

The Test of True Faith: Keeping Commandments

A person who claims to know God but does not keep His commandments is a liar; obedience is the evidence of genuine love and fear.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 John 2:3-4: 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar' and emphasizes this point.

The General Tenor of a Believer's Life Is Obedience

While believers are not sinlessly perfect, the overall pattern of their lives is obedience, not continual, willful sin.

Lecture support: Weaver explains 1 John 5:18 using Greek grammar to show it means not continually sinning, and says David's sins were the exception, not the rule.

Key Arguments

Biblical fear always leads to obedience

Weaver argues that the fear of the Lord commended in Scripture is inseparable from keeping God's commandments, as seen in Deuteronomy and Proverbs.

Lecture support: He quotes Deuteronomy 5:29: 'O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments' and Proverbs 16:6: 'by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.'

Agape love is a supernatural gift that produces obedience

Spiritual love (agape) is not natural to man but is given in regeneration, and it manifests in keeping God's commandments.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'This love is not in our nature... only comes through regeneration and conversion' and cites 1 John 5:3: 'this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.'

1 John 4:18 refers to unbiblical fear, not godly fear

The fear cast out by perfect love is servile or hypocritical fear, not the commended fear of the Lord, because biblical fear does not involve torment.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'he is not referring to biblical fear. He would be referring to a hypocritical fear or a servile fear' and uses hermeneutical principles.

Love for God is equated with commandment-keeping in both Testaments

Weaver demonstrates from Deuteronomy, John, and 1 John that loving God is defined as obeying His voice and keeping His statutes.

Lecture support: He cites Deuteronomy 11:1: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge' and John 14:21: 'He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.'

Despising God's law is despising God Himself

Because God and His Word are inseparable, rejecting His commandments is a personal rejection of God.

Lecture support: Weaver uses 2 Samuel 12:9-10 where God tells David, 'thou hast despised me' after David broke the commandments, and 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

Professed love without obedience is self-deception

Those who claim to love God but live in disobedience are liars, according to 1 John 2:4, because true love always results in obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'those who say they love God but disobey Him are liars' and reads 1 John 2:4: 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar.'

The believer's life is characterized by habitual obedience, not sinless perfection

Using the Greek present tense in 1 John 5:18, Weaver argues that the born-again person does not continually sin; sin is the exception, not the rule.

Lecture support: He explains, 'whosoever is born of God is not continually and constantly committing sin' and contrasts David's exceptional sins with his overall obedience.

Scripture References

1 John 4:7-8

Introduction of the sermon text, emphasizing that love is of God and those who love are born of God.

Deuteronomy 5:29

Used to show that godly fear leads to keeping God's commandments.

Deuteronomy 6:2

Further evidence that fearing the Lord results in keeping His statutes and commandments.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and understanding.

Proverbs 10:27

The fear of the Lord prolongs days, a blessing of obedience.

Proverbs 13:13

He who fears the commandment will be rewarded; despising the word leads to destruction.

Proverbs 14:2

Walking in uprightness demonstrates fear of the Lord; perversity shows despising Him.

Proverbs 14:26-27

The fear of the Lord provides strong confidence, refuge, and a fountain of life.

Proverbs 15:16

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure with trouble.

Proverbs 15:33

The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; before honor is humility.

Proverbs 16:6

By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

Proverbs 19:23

The fear of the Lord tends to life, satisfaction, and protection from evil.

Acts 9:31

The early church walked in the fear of the Lord, meaning obedience, and was multiplied.

1 John 4:18

Perfect love casts out fear; Weaver explains this refers to unbiblical fear, not godly fear.

Jeremiah 18:17

God will show His back to Israel in judgment because they turned their back to Him.

Jeremiah 32:33

Israel turned their back to God, refusing instruction; God will do likewise in judgment.

Exodus 20:6

God shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments; love and obedience are linked.

Deuteronomy 7:9

God keeps covenant with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Deuteronomy 10:12

What God requires: fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him with all heart and soul.

Deuteronomy 11:1, 13, 22

Loving God means keeping His charge, statutes, judgments, and commandments; hearkening diligently.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding fear and love as 'identical twins' change the way you view your relationship with God?

Consider: Weaver argues that both biblical fear and love result in obedience. This question encourages reflection on how these concepts are integrated in the believer's life.

2. In what ways might we be tempted to separate God from His Word, and what are the dangers of doing so?

Consider: Weaver stresses that despising God's commandments is despising God Himself. This question probes the practical implications of this inseparability.

3. How does the definition of love as obedience challenge common cultural or emotional understandings of love?

Consider: Weaver states that love is not sentimentality but obedience. This question invites discussion on how biblical love differs from worldly concepts.

4. What does it mean that God's commandments are 'not grievous'? How can we cultivate a heart that delights in obedience?

Consider: Weaver quotes 1 John 5:3 and explains that for the regenerate, obedience is a joy. This question explores the believer's attitude toward God's law.

5. How should we understand the balance between the believer's ongoing sin and the general tenor of obedience? How does this affect assurance?

Consider: Weaver discusses 1 John 5:18 and the concept that believers do not continually sin. This question addresses the tension between sin and sanctification.

6. Why is it important to distinguish between different types of fear and love mentioned in the Bible? How does this affect interpretation?

Consider: Weaver distinguishes condemned fears from commended fear, and eros/phileo from agape. This question encourages careful biblical discernment.

Applications

Examine your obedience as evidence of love and fear

Weaver calls listeners to test their profession by their obedience: if you truly fear and love God, you will keep His commandments.

Lecture support: He says, 'those who say they love God but disobey Him are liars' and cites 1 John 2:4.

Reject sentimentality and embrace obedience as the definition of love

Love is not emotional gushing but treating God and others according to His commands. This reorients the believer's understanding of love.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'love is not sentimentality. Love is not emotion. Love is obedience' and illustrates with loving enemies by acting biblically.

Do not separate your attitude toward God from your attitude toward His Word

Since God and His Word are inseparable, how you treat Scripture reflects your heart toward God. Despising His commands is despising Him.

Lecture support: Weaver uses 2 Samuel 12:9-10 and 1 Thessalonians 4:8 to show that rejecting God's law is rejecting God.

Find joy in keeping God's commandments

For the believer, God's commandments are not grievous but a delight. Cultivate a heart that sees obedience as a privilege, not a burden.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 John 5:3 and says, 'I have not grieved. I'm not upset that I cannot lie, cheat, steal... I want to keep His commandments.'

Understand that the general tenor of a Christian's life is obedience, not sinless perfection

While believers still sin, the overall pattern of their lives should be one of keeping God's commandments. This provides assurance and guards against perfectionism or license.

Lecture support: Weaver explains 1 John 5:18 using the Greek present tense to show it means not continually sinning, and says David's sins were the exception.

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Twin Truths: Fear and Love - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01802

Open the formatted lecture online



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01802&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Twin Truths: Fear and Love - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01803

Open the formatted lecture online



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01803&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.