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Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom ...

How do I wrap my head around that? Fear of the Lord? I thought we were supposed to love God, to love the Lord. What do I do with this? If God is love... how can I fear love? I never understood this. And then it hit me.

When I was about 8 years old I walked into a room with my father. I believe it was a game room where we were camping and it had pool tables, juke box, pin ball...etc. I only remember walking in and then being right next to some really big guys. These were some big dudes and I was scared. I recall slowly backing up, just looking at them and backing up. I guess I was getting out of there. I backed up until I bumped into my father.

As soon as I bumped into my dad I was ok. It was like being afraid of the dark and someone turns on the light in a dark place for you. You see, my dad was a "tough guy" in my eyes. He had served in Japan in the Army, he was an iron worker, and he had tattoos before tattoos were cool. I knew I was safe and I knew my dad wasn't backing up. Everything was going to be fine. There was no doubt. I was afraid until I was reminded my dad was there. I was afraid because I didn't have the presence of my father on my mind. **CLICK!** There it was.

I was afraid **not** to have my dad. That's how I now think of the fear of the Lord. I'm afraid **not** to have God with me. I'm afraid to walk through life alone. I'm afraid how much I'll mess up if I do things the way I want and not the way God wants. I fear the Lord and am grateful **I know** He is with me. Because of Him and His presence I am who I am.

Father, I thank you so much for your presence in my life. I thank you for always being there and for loving me so much. I pray I will always walk my days with you on my mind and realizing you are at my side. I am peaceful because of you and through you. Amen