Studying the Fear of the Lord in the Psalms

**Premise:** The psalms are largely Hebrew poetry. In Hebrew poetry the rhyme is in the thought not the sound. Hence in studying the intellectual echo we gain insight into what the ancient Jewish people thought. The two halves of each psalm verse echo, or say in different words what the other half expresses. For example in Psalm 2:11 we read: “Serve the Lord with fear” in the first half. And the second half says: “[In other words] rejoice with trembling.” Hence one understanding of the Holy Fear is a joyful almost giddy reverence.

Hence, What do we learn of the “Fear of the Lord” by studying the psalms?

The Fear of the Lord is reverential joy:
**Psalm 2:11** Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

The Fear of the Lord is stable delighting in the Law of God as a sure just guide:
**Psalm 19:9** The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

The Fear of the Lord is to experience the joy of reverential praise
**Psalm 22:23** You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

The Fear of the Lord is to be open to instruction by God.
**Psalm 25:12** Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.

Fear of the Lord is to experience the wonder of God’s revelation
**Psalm 25:14** The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.

The Fear of the Lord is to reverence the Lord
**Psalm 33:8** Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.

The Fear of the Lord is to experience hope and God’s unfailing love.
**Psalm 33:18** But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

The Fear of the Lord is to experience God’s deliverance
**Psalm 34:7** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

The Fear of the Lord is to experience God’s providence
**Psalm 34:9** Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

The Fear of the Lord is to be a beacon of hope to others
**Psalm 40:3** He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

The Fear of the Lord is to experience an undivided heart
Psalm 86:11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

The Fear of the Lord is to delight in praising him and experience his greatness
Psalm 96:4 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

The Fear of the Lord is to experience God’s glory:
Psalm 102:15 The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.

The Fear of the Lord is to experience God’s compassion:
Psalm 103:13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

The Fear of the Lord is to experience God’s love and righteousness
Psalm 103:17 But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children-

The Fear of the Lord is to experience God’s wisdom and to gain understanding of his ways:
Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

The Fear of the Lord is experience delight in the command of God:
Psalm 112:1 Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.

The Fear of the Lord is to trust God:
Psalm 115:11 You who fear him, trust in the LORD— he is their help and shield.

The Fear of the Lord is to keep his commands:
Psalm 128:1 Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways.

The Fear of the Lord is the Praise of the Lord:
Psalm 135:20 O house of Levi, praise the LORD; you who fear him, praise the LORD.

The Fear of the Lord is hoping in the Lord’s Love
Psalm 147:11 the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.