

With regards to having *khashyah* of Allaah, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* comments on the statement of Imaam Ahmad ibn Hanbal *rahimahullaah*:

*“The foundation of knowledge is *khashyah* (fear and awe) of Allaah, the Most High”.*

And this statement of Imaam Ahmad is correct: the foundation of knowledge is *khashyah* of Allaah. And *khashyah* of Allaah is fear of Allaah which is built upon knowledge and glorification (of Him).

And for this reason, Allaah the Most High, said: **It is only the people of knowledge from amongst His servants who have *khashyah* of Allaah.**

Soorah Faatir (35) aayah 28

So if a person has true knowledge of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, and if he has true awareness and knowledge of Him, then *khashyah* of Allaah will inevitably be established in his heart.

(This is) because if he has knowledge of that, having knowledge of a Lord who is *'Adheem* (Tremendous), of a Lord who is *Qawee* (Perfect in strength), of a Lord who is *Qaahir* (Invincible Subduer), of a Lord who is All Knowing of that which the person keeps secret and hidden, then you will find him (that person) establishing obedience to Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic in a complete manner.

It is only the people of knowledge from amongst His servants who have *khashyah* of Allaah.

The scholars have said:

The distinction between *khashyah* (fear and awe) and *khawf* (fear) is that *khashyah* occurs due to tremendous greatness of the one being feared – and *khawf* occurs due to the weakness of the one who has the fear, even if the one being feared (with *khawf*) is not tremendous and great...

So in summary, *khashyah* is more tremendous than *khawf* - but sometimes it is said, '*have khawf of Allaah*'. He, the Most High, said:

So do not have *khawf* of them, but rather have *khawf* of Me if you truly believe.

Soorah aale 'Imraan (3) aayah 175

And this is (being said) in direct opposition to the action of those who have *khawf* of the people.

(Sharh hilyah taalib il 'ilm p23 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen rahimahullaah)