

# Psalms 36:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

## Analysis

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The Hebrew structure is complex: 'transgression speaks to the wicked within his heart.' Sin personified delivers its message, convincing the wicked that God is irrelevant. The phrase 'no fear of God before his eyes' is quoted in Romans 3:18 as descriptive of universal human depravity. Fear of God is foundational to wisdom (Proverbs 9:10); its absence produces moral chaos where sin's voice replaces divine authority, making the wicked autonomous moral agents accountable to none.

## Historical Context

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Written by David, this psalm contrasts the wicked's self-deception with God's faithfulness. The concept of 'fear of God' was central to covenant relationship, denoting reverence, awe, and obedient trust rather than mere terror.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What voices compete with God's voice in your heart, and how do you discern them?
2. How does the fear of God function as protection against sin's deceptions?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵין	פֶּשַׁע	לְרָשָׁע	בְּקִרְבִּי	לִבִּי	אֵין
saith	The transgression	of the wicked	within	my heart	H369
H5002	H6588	H7563	H7130	H3820	
כִּי	אֵין	לֵאלֹהִים	לִפְנֵי	עֵינָיו:	
that there is no fear	of God	H5048	before his eyes	H5869	
H6343	H430				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 3:18** (References God): There is no fear of God before their eyes.

**Proverbs 16:6** (Sin): By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

**Psalms 18:1** (Parallel theme): I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.