Ps. 147:10-11: He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. [11] The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

Intro: Psalm 147 is a Psalm of praise to the LORD. It begins with "Praise the LORD!" & ends with "Praise the LORD!" Praise the LORD for what's He has done! And praise the LORD for Who He is – His character & mighty, glorious attributes.

Charles Spurgeon: THIS Psalm, I think, was intended to set forth the singularity of God. In it we are exhorted to praise him who is our God, to give honor & glory to him alone. The psalmist does not dwell here upon those attributes which usually call forth our praise, or the praises of men in general; but he touches some special strings of the harp, from which he brings forth joyous music for the children of Zion, that they may be glad in their King. This is one of the notes of the Psalm, – that, although God himself is so high, he has a very tender regard toward those who are lowly. He turns his thoughts, not to those who are brilliant & attractive, but to those who are broken in heart and wounded in spirit.

Ps. 147:1-20: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. [2] The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
[3] He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. [4] He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. [5] Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. [6] The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground. [7] Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre! [8] He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. [9] He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry. [10] His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, [11] but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. [12] Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! [13] For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. [14] He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat. [15] He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. [16] He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. [17] He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold? [18] He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow and the waters flow. [19] He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. [20] He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the LORD!

<u>The LORD does not delight in earthly power, but in those who fear Him & hope in His mercy.</u>

<u>1. The LORD Does Not Delight In Earthly Power</u>

Ps. 147:10: He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.

a. The LORD does not delight in the strength of the horse: There is great strength in the horse:

Clydesdale horses weigh 1,600–2,400 lbs & are capable of pulling roughly 6,000 to 8,000 pounds

individually. When paired, they can pull 22,000 to 23,000 pounds, with trained pairs capable of pulling over 32,000 pounds. **Secretariat.**

Job 39:19-25: Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane? Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying. He paws in the valley & exults in his strength; he goes out to meet the weapons. He laughs at fear & is not dismayed; he does not turn back from the sword. Upon him rattle the quiver, the flashing spear, & the javelin. With fierceness & rage he swallows the ground; he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet. When the trumpet sounds, he says 'Aha!' He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of the captains, & the shouting. **War Horses.**

All that great strength is not God's delight in comparison to something else.

b. The LORD takes no pleasure in the legs of a man: This is a way of speaking of the strength of men. The strength of foot soldiers & warriors & great armies.

Article: In 1831, the Broughton Bridge in England collapsed, reportedly due to mechanical resonance induced by troops marching in step. As a result of the incident, the British Army issued an order that troops should "break step" when crossing a bridge.

All that great strength does not give God pleasure in comparison to something else.

What kind of worldly power or strength are you hoping in more than in the LORD? Money, power, jobs, people (spouse, police, U. S. Military), your guns, locks, etc.

Ps. 33:16-22: No king *is* saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse *is* a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver *any* by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy, To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; He *is* our help & our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.

<u>The LORD does not delight in earthly power, but in those who fear Him & hope in His mercy.</u>

<u>2. The LORD Delights In Those Who Fear Him</u>
Ps. 147:11: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him . . . .

a. Fearing the LORD means you know God & He knows you: Prov. 2:5: [if you receive God's Word & seek understanding] then you will understand the fear of the LORD & find the knowledge of God. **<u>GOSPEL!</u>**

b. Fearing the LORD means you hate evil: Prov. 8:13: The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.

c. Fearing the LORD means you will keep His commandments: Deut. 6:1-2: Now this is the commandment – the statutes and the rules – that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, [2] that you may fear the LORD your God, you & your son & your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.

Eccl. 12:13-14: The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God & keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

d. Fearing the LORD means fearing Him & nothing else: Matt. 10:28: do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul & body in hell

Heb. 12:28-29: Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, & thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence & awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

e. Fearing the LORD means fearing Him as one who is forgiven & safe: John Piper: If you are his child, fear God not as your enemy, but fear him as one who was once was your enemy & still is infinite in power and holiness. If you were stranded on a windy ledge fifty stories above the street and about to lose your balance and suddenly a policeman grabbed you and brought you to safety inside the building, you would not stop trembling just because you were safe. The height is still in your mind. The wind is still in your mind. The weakness and the vulnerability are still in your mind. But now you are totally secure. This trembling is different than when you were on the ledge.

German Shepherd Dog Illustration

Charles Spurgeon: By the term, “the fear of God,” we understand in Holy Scripture the totality of true religion. We do not mean by the fear of God, the slavish fear which trembles in God’s presence, as the poor slave trembles under his master’s lash, but that childlike fear which fears to offend, which fears to be led into error — a reverential fear such as the angels have when they veil their faces with their wings and cast their crowns before the glorious throne — to have such a fear of God before our eyes as to restrain our wandering passions, to keep our hands from doing evil, and our tongues from speaking the thing which is not right; to have such a fear of God that we feel as though we were in God’s presence, and act, and speak, and think as though we fully recognized the eye that reads the secrets of the heart. When we read, therefore, that the eye of the Lord is on “those who fear him,” we are to understand that he has gracious regard towards those who delight in him, who worship him, and are his children.

f. Fearing the LORD means trusting Him: Ps. 115:11: You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.
- Ps. 20:7: Some trust in chariots & some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God

To fear the LORD is to know Him & to be in a personal relationship with Him & to worship Him

with reverence & awe! It's to turn from your sin & trust in Him & follow Him & obey Him & live for Him & delight in Him above all else!

g. The fear of the LORD is the Christian's delight: Isa. 11:3: his [the Messiah's] delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
- Acts 9:31: So the church throughout all Judea & Galilee & Samaria had peace & was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord & in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

h. Those who fear the LORD are His delight & give Him pleasure: Ps. 147:10-11: He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

Jesus knew & knows God perfectly! He is God! Jesus is God!
Jesus hates evil more than anyone else – perfectly!
Jesus obeyed all of God's commandments, perfectly!
Jesus feared the LORD & nothing else, perfectly!
Jesus feared the LORD in such a way that He was also completely confident in His Father's perfect love for Him! "This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased!"
Jesus perfectly trusted His Father.
Jesus perfectly delighted in the fear of the LORD!
- Isa. 11:3: his [the Messiah's] delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
Jesus feared His Father with perfect fear!
Jesus has a deep relationship with His Father like no one else!
Jesus is our great example of the fear of the LORD, & He died for sinners to save us from fearing all manner of other things more than God.
He died to save us from all our unwise living & to save us from hoping in all manner of other people & things! On that cross, He was counted as if He had no fear of God! Forsaken! Cursed! But then He rose up from the dead . . . for our justification & to empower us to live for Him!

<u>The LORD does not delight in earthly power, but in those who fear Him & hope in His mercy.</u>
Christ Jesus Is LORD And The Fear Of God Foundation
He Bore All God's Wrath And Endured Our Damnation
He Died For Our Sins To Grant Us Salvation
Then Rose From The Dead For Our Justification
Fearing God Is Amazing Causing True Love Elation
The Fear Of The LORD Is Knowing Him In Relation
Through Prayer And The Word Enjoy Fear Contemplation
Fear God In Your Pain And All Tribulation
His Fear Brings You Joy With Preoccupation
In Fearing The LORD There's No Condemnation
It Comes Straight From God Who Saves Every Nation
Oh Praise Him Forever – God's Fear Incarnation!
- Benediction: Jude 1:2: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.