

The Blessings of Fear

Psalm 128

One of the basic desires of the human heart is the desire to have peace, to be fulfilled, and to know joy. That should especially be true of believers. The Lord Jesus Himself said, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). In fact, our Lord Jesus' Sermon on the Mount began with a proclamation of happiness (Matt. 5:3 ff. cf. Psalm 1; 112:1; 119:1). The world may promise fulfillment through possessions, in power, in position and popularity and in prestige, but the Bible makes it clear that true and lasting happiness is found in the person of God in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:11; cf. Phil. 4:4). Because God blesses those who fear him, we must cultivate that fear and become channels of blessing to others.

1. *The _____ of Blessing*

Because God blesses those who reverentially fear him, we must cultivate this fear. The word blessed is used forty-four times in the Old Testament, mostly in the Psalms. The Psalmist is saying that the essence of true piety and true godliness is found in this idea of fearing the Lord. Fearing the Lord is the internal attitude and response of the child of God to the true nature and character of God, particularly, the greatness of God and the majesty of God (Psalm 1,4; 2:11; 19:9; 34:9; cf. Eccl. 12:13, etc.). Such internal reverence to God shows itself by an outward obedience to him (Psalm 128:1; 1:1-2; cf. Deut. 8:6; Prov. 10:9; 14:2). Reverence, holiness and obedience is the key to blessedness and fulfillment in life.

2. *The _____ of Blessing*

Because God blesses the family of those who fears him, we must celebrate our family. The man who fears the Lord experiences God's blessing in the areas of his work and his family (Psa. 128:2-4). For the man/woman who fears God and walk in the ways of God, work and the fruit of labor will be a blessing (Gen 2:15; 3:23; cf. Prov. 14:4,23; Eccl. 5:18-20). The man who fears the Lord also enjoys God's blessing in terms of his marriage. Psa. 128:3 is a description of the beauty of the home with the wife bringing fruitfulness and pleasure and beauty to the home (Prov. 18:22; 19:14; 31:10ff.). Like a fruitful vine in the heart of the home, the wife is tasked with running the affairs at home. The man who fears God is also blessed in his covenant children (v.3; cf. Psa. 127:3-5).

3. *The _____ of Blessing*

Because God blesses our family through the church, we must bless the church by consecrating our lives to be channels of God's blessing to others. Zion and Jerusalem in vv. 5 are where the people of God gathered together to worship Him - the church (Heb. 12:22). As God's people, we are living stones that make up God's temple (1 Pet. 2:5). We are heirs of God (Rom. 8:7), blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3). God deposited every means of grace that is necessary for our growth in grace in order that we might be a blessing to others (Psa. 67:1).

All of God's blessing that is enjoyed here is just a foretaste of what is to come and therefore, we must cultivate that fear on a daily basis, we must enjoy our families each day, and we must seek to bless the church by daily consecrating our lives so that the Lord could use to be channels of His blessing to many others, all for the glory of His name!