

Summer in the Psalms

Fear God and Be Blessed

Psalms 112

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Psalm 112 (KJV) 1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

- The psalmist begins the psalm with a call to worship and praise the Lord
- The psalmist exhorts us to praise the Lord because He blesses those who fear Him and delight in His commands
- As we walk in fear of the Lord, our praise (our hallelujahs) grow in frequency, intensity and sincerity
- The psalmist goes on to say, ***blessed is the man the feareth the Lord and delights in His commandments***
- Our lives are *blessed* (happy) when we fear the Lord
- When God blesses your life, there is joy, contentment, peace, satisfaction, fulfillment, protection, calmness, , assurance, provision, and prosperity
- Being blessed by God is both *inward* and *outward* state of being
- It is inward peace, joy and assurance regardless of your circumstances
- It is an outward joy, happiness, prosperity when we experience the manifestation of the blessings of God
- Being blessed is a gift from God
- The blessings are conditional
- While God favor on our lives is always undeserved, this blessing is based on some action on our part
- God's blessings are not based on works, God's blessings are given to us when live obedient lives and closely with the Lord
- Throughout the Bible, believers are promised specific blessings when we walk in obedience with God
- What does it mean to *fear* the Lord?
- To fear the Lord means to *respect, reverence, and obey* Him as the almighty God
- Fearing God is respect, reverence, and obeying His commands, the Word of God

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

- Our lives blessed not only when we *fear* the Lord, but we must also *delight* in His commandments
- To delight in the Lord's commandments is to gladly obey
- Our delight or joyful obedience to God's commands means we've embraced God's Word not as a restrictive set of "rules", but as a *guide* that leads us to true freedom, peace, and fulfillment
- Delighting in obeying the Lord's commandments means we prioritize the Word above everything else
- Obeying the Lord's commandments is an *expression of our love* to Jesus ***John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.***

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- Our delight in obeying the Lord's commandments give us stability in an ever-changing world
- Our obedience to the Lord's commands is a witness to the world
- Our lives will testify of the God's goodness and attract others to the truths of the Gospel
- Delight comes from a heart that aligned with the will of God
- The only way to delight in the Lord's commandments is to do them
- If we expect the blessings of God in our lives, we must *fear* Him and gladly *obey* Him

The Blessings to Those Who Fear God

God will bless you and your family

² His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

- Because you fear the Lord and delight in His commandments, the Lord promises to bless your family
- People fear the Lord will raise a godly and strong family
- Parents have great joy when their children do what's right
- The children of the upright are blessed, i.e., they are happy and whole
- The fear of the Lord and obeying the Lord's commandments can have a generational impact in your family
- The lives of the upright will have a lasting influence and shape the lives of future generations
- The children of the righteous are *mighty* in the land
- In today's context, mighty means our children will become true believers , soldiers for Christ and will be able to do battle over the forces of evil and prevail
- Godly parents will train and develop their children to live godly and stand against the forces of evil

God will prosper you

³ Wealth and riches shall be in his house:

- When we fear God and delight in obeying His commandments, God will pronounce economic blessings on our lives
- When we think of wealth and riches, we think of those who extremely wealthy
- In the Old Testament having wealth and riches meant you have sufficient or enough possessions to obtain what you need
- Riches comes from a Hebrew word that means to *accumulate*
- The focus is not on just the accumulation of wealth and, material things, but on the provision and stability that God gives the righteous
- More importantly prosperity is the fruit God blessing what you put your hands to do **Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,**

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**that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

God will bless you now and forever

"...and his righteousness endureth for ever."

- When we fear the Lord and delight in obeying His commandments, our prosperity has an eternal quality
- Our good works and right stand with God will be lasting
- Our righteousness will bless lives on earth even after we are gone
- Our righteousness will follow us on into eternity
- Those who fear the Lord are not only blessed in this life, but also in the life to **come 1 Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.**
- Throughout eternity, we will enjoy the rewards of fearing the Lord and obeying His commandments

God will bless you with His guidance

⁴ Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

- When you fear the Lord and obey His commandments, He will bless you with His guidance
- Although we live in a dark world, the upright, those who fear the Lord will be blessed with light in the midst of darkness
- Because of the Lord's guidance we don't stumble in the darkness of this fallen world **John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**
- The righteous are not exempt trials, but we are assured of God's guidance and deliverance
- We don't stumble in a dark world because we reverence the Lord and we delight in obeying His commands **Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**
- As God's Word enters our hearts and minds, it gives us light **Psalms 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.**
- When we are walking in the light of God's Word, and obeying His commands, we become more like God
- The attributes of God's character show up in our lives
- Through the Word, God guides us to treat others the way He treats us

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God will bless you to bless others

⁵ A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

- When we fear the Lord and obey His commandments, we'll be willing to bless others
- Our heart is touched by the needs of others and we do what we can to address the needs of others
- God's *blessings* have made us *able* to lend to others, and His *compassion* have made us *willing* to lend to others ***Deuteronomy 28:12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.***
- God has blessed us when we are able to lend to others
- All that God has blessed us with is not only for us to be hoarded but to be shared with others
- We will also demonstrate our righteousness in the way we do business with others
- God will guide our affairs with discretion, with wisdom and fairness
- We are just and fair in all our business dealings
- We are to be just, fair, and honest, reflecting the character of God in everything we do

God will bless you with a victorious life

⁶ Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.⁷ He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.⁸ His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

- When we fear the Lord and obey His commandments, we will live a victorious life
- Stability and strength are the hallmarks of the righteous
- We will not be shaken because we know the Lord, He is in control, and we believe His Word
- We're not exempt from trials, troubles and tragedies, but God has given us the ability to bounce back
- Your righteousness will be remembered forever
- Your example and influence will live on, in the memories of those you've impacted and in God's eternal record
- Long after our lives on earth have ended, testimonies of our lives will remain
- And because we fear the Lord, we will not be afraid of *evil tidings* or "bad news"
- Bad news may come to us from your family, friends, your health, your job, your finances, or from the news
- God will keep you calm and composed in the face of a troubling situation
- Our heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord

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- Our faith is solid and steadfast, rooted in the fact that God is still in control

God will bless you with generosity and eternal rewards

⁹ He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

- When you fear the Lord and obey His commandments, you don't mind being generous
- Our concern for those in reflects the heart of God for compassion for the less fortunate
- Verse 3 says we are materially blessed, therefore it is important for us to be generous with our blessings
- What God has bless us with, we are to be willing to disperse it to those in need **2 Corinthians 9:9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.**
- The righteousness of those who fear the Lord last forever
- Your generosity creates a legacy that endures beyond your lifetime
- Your horn will be exalted in honor; the horn represents strength and dignity
- God will elevate you because of your generosity both now and throughout all eternity

The Fate of the Wicked

¹⁰ The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

- The blessings of those who fear the Lord and obey His commandments will evident to everyone
- The psalmist shifts from the blessings of the righteous to the fate of the wicked
- The wicked shall *it* and be grieved or angry
- The success and blessings on your life with provoke the anger of the wicked
- Your blessings will make them angry
- They will gnash their teeth because they are so consumed with rage
- The gnashing of teeth is a vivid expression of extreme anger, frustration, and helplessness.
- Everything they hoped for will *melt* or waste away
- Their frustration will lead to their downfall
- The desire of the wicked will perish
- The ambitions of the wicked are temporary
- The may have strength and power for a season, but their influence is fleeting and will come to nothing
- This verse encourages us to maintain an eternal perspective
- As believers, we must keep our eyes fixed on the ultimate reward that comes from a life lived in the fear of the Lord