



The Blessedness of Fearing the Lord

By Jeff Bedwell on May 17, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Psalm 128

Very often we are tempted to compromise our convictions and follow the ways of the world. However, the Bible tells us that there are great blessings that come from living a life that is pleasing to God.

Psalm 128 is another song of ascent, meaning it was most likely sung by pilgrims as they journeyed to Jerusalem for the annual feasts. It is also known as a wisdom psalm, providing guidance and instruction on how to live a blessed life.

The phrase “fears the Lord” is repeated twice in this psalm (vv. 1 & 4), emphasizing its importance. The fear of the Lord is not just an outward display of obedience, but it is also a heart attitude that acknowledges God's sovereignty and leads us to honor Him in all areas of our lives.

In verse 2, the psalmist compares the fruitful life of the one who fears the Lord to a fruitful vine, a symbol of prosperity and blessing in the agricultural society of ancient Israel. Just as a vine needs the care and protection of its gardener to bear fruit, we too need God's guidance and protection to bear fruit in our lives.

Verse 3 recalls the blessing of family, specifically children. In the ancient Near East, having many children was seen as a sign of God's favor and was also necessary for the continuation of the family line. This verse also emphasizes the role of a wife as a fruitful vine in the home, bringing joy and prosperity to the home.

Verse 4 speaks of additional blessings that come from living an obedient life. The imagery of sitting at one's own table and enjoying the fruit of one's labor was a sign of stability and security in ancient Israel. This verse also implies that when we live according to God's ways, our labor and toil will not be in vain.

In verses 5 and 6, the psalmist speaks a blessing over the one who fears the Lord, specifically praying for the prosperity of Jerusalem. This is a reminder that our obedience to God not only brings blessings to our personal lives, but it also has an impact on the wider community around us.

Psalm 128 is a beautiful reminder that true blessings come from a life lived in obedience to God. As we fear the Lord and follow His ways, we can expect to see fruitfulness, stability, and prosperity in our lives. Let us strive to live a life of obedience, trusting that God's ways are always best for us.

PRAYER: Lord, it is Your grace that teaches me to fear and reverence You properly. Help me to follow Your ways wholeheartedly as I align my life with Your good design and experience the fullness of life and joy that can only be found in You.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Psalm 130

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