



8/28/25

This has been a great week of getting away with family. We rented this home a few years ago and we're back with a few more grandchildren this time... and I have loved every minute of it. One of the sweetest times has been getting up early in the morning before anyone else is awake... and spending time with the Lord outside watching the incredible stars give way to the sunrise. It definitely makes me want to say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul."

*Blessings to you,
Jonna*

Psalm 103:13-22

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me... and forget not all His benefits, all the blessings of being with Him.

In the first half of this psalm, I learned some of the blessings of being with the Lord ~ His merciful forgiveness, His supernatural and sacrificial love, His grace, His slow and short lived anger... and there's more. Now I come to the second half of Psalm 103 and find that the blessings continue...

Vs. 13 ~ "As a Father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him." First of all, I know that not all fathers show compassion to their children. Some are cruel! But not the ones who model themselves after the Lord. God's EXPECTATION and His PURPOSE is that dads would be compassionate with their children.

The message is not that the Lord in heaven is only as compassionate as the cruelest dad, but that the most compassionate dad is starting to understand what it is to be like the Lord.

I also think it's really cool that the Lord is referred to as Yahweh here... His personal name. But He's not referred to as Father. There only a few times in the Old Testament that the Lord is talked about as Father. That's because Jesus hadn't come yet. The possibility of adoption came through Jesus. When Jesus came, He introduced the Lord as Father. It is only through Jesus that I can be His child.

And there's that word "fear" again. The Lord is compassionate to those who fear Him. I don't like that I have a responsibility in this! I just want Him to be compassionate toward me even if I reject Him. But how could He be? I would be removing myself from His presence and denying who He is.

Andrew Murray says in his book, Absolute Surrender, "the condition of God's blessing is absolute surrender of all into His hands. Praise God! If our hearts are willing for that, there is no end to what God will do for us and to the blessing God will bestow." Well, I think, "That sounds impossible! How do I absolutely surrender to God in everything? My flesh has too much power in my life!" Andrew Murray has an answer for that... "Get on our faces before God until our hearts believe that the everlasting God Himself will come in to turn out what is wrong, to conquer what is evil, and to work what is well-pleasing in His blessed sight. God Himself will work it in you." As I offer myself to God with all my brokenness, He does the work in me. He WANTS to bless me... I only need to offer myself to Him. He's patient with me and compassionate as I hand Him all my mess.

In fact...

Vs. 14 ~ "He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." He totally gets me. He understands every part of me better than I understand myself. That's why He's so compassionate! He knows I can't even surrender to Him without His help.

Vs. 15-16 ~ God is not like man. Man is like the grass of the field... here today and gone tomorrow. That's why I can't put my hope in man... not even in myself. My life on earth is just a breath. The only legacy I leave, the only legacy that matters, is how much my life pointed to Jesus.

Vs. 17-18 ~ Even the people I love the most are just a breath. "But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him" ... who worship Him... who love Him with the short days we have. His love for me was always here and it will always be here. The wonderful news is, He's not a weights and measures God. He isn't measuring the level of my worship each day to decide how much He will love me. His love is a covenant loyalty love, unconditional, unwavering, immeasurable. The real question is, "Am I a weights and measures child?" Am I determining how much I will love God today by how much blessing I determine in my finite mind that He's giving?

O Lord, please let my love for You simply be a response of Your incredible love for me. I only have to look to the cross to see how real Your love is. I love You and worship You because You first loved me... a piece of dust.

You pour Your righteousness out on my children and their children because of the covenant I have with You through Jesus Christ. This passage speaks of obedience to the law. Through Jesus, I am already given the free gift of righteousness, and I'm not under the law but under grace. I serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. O Lord,

I pray that this righteousness You've given me will absolutely be poured out on all the family who comes after me. I praise You that my daughters and their husbands know You. I praise You that my oldest grandchild knows You. I pray they will all know You, and their children will know You, and every generation until You take us home. What does it matter if they are successful in life or good, moral people if they don't know You? Lord, I hold to this promise!!!

Vs. 19 ~ Here's why I can anchor myself in You and trust that You're able to accomplish all that You say You will... "The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all." There is no higher authority than Yours. Jesus is on His throne, and no one can remove Him. "At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11). What You have spoken, You will accomplish. It's never a matter of IF, but WHEN. With all the blessings of being with You, why wouldn't I surrender my whole life to You?

Vs. 20-22 ~ The author of this psalm, David, calls out for the highest created beings... the angels who are His mighty army... those who obey His word and who do His will... to bless Him. They stand in His presence and see His awesome majesty, authority, power, and love. They bless Him with their words and they bless Him with their obedience.

Then David calls all His works to bless Him in all places of His dominion. That's everyone, everywhere. There is no place where His dominion does not rule. That isn't fully seen now, but it will be when the time comes for Him to put all evil to an end. I look forward to that day.

All God's works are all His creation. The trees and flowers and all the creation of the earth blesses Him by doing what they were created to do. Ephesians 2:10 says that I'M His "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

I bless Him by doing what He created me to do... glorify Him and bear fruit for Him as I abide in Him (John 15:8). He wants me to be in His presence... in relationship with Him... loving Him as He loves me. As I do that, I will not be able to help but say with tender, grateful love, "Bless the Lord, O my soul."