



3/17/26

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Big question... Do you or don't you wear green on this day? And do you wear green even if you're not Irish? I'll be honest. I almost always forget to wear anything green. And I thought I had Irish blood as part of my very diverse range of ethnicities (Italian being the largest piece of the pie). I found out a few months ago that I, in fact, have no Irish blood in my lineage. So, maybe it's wrong for me to wear green anyway. Tough call. What do you think?

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 112

According to scholars more educated and intelligent than me, this psalm is directly linked to the psalm before it. Psalm 111 focuses on the incredible, praiseworthy works of the Lord. Here in Psalm 112, the focus is on those who worship Him. Vs. 1 starts with a praise and a blessing, "Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments!" Praise goes to the Lord. Blessing goes to the person who lives in reverent worship (fear) of the Lord. The evidence of that worship is a heart of obedience. Truly, if I worship the Lord, I will desire nothing more than obedience to Him in gratitude of all His blessings. The rest of the chapter explains the blessings God gives. As I look at these blessings, I ask myself two questions.

- 1. Do I believe this?*
- 2. Does this inspire my praise?*

Before I see the blessings, I need to remind myself that God is eternal and that He always speaks from an eternal perspective. If I only think in the physical, I will be able to poke holes in a lot of what's said here. But truly, does the physical really matter if the eternal isn't true? So I will focus on the spiritual.

So... what are the blessings?

Vs. 2 ~ My children will be mighty in the land and blessed. They will be strong warriors. From a spiritual perspective, I see this as a strength of heart for the Lord. Truly, if my children are just physically strong, but don't know the Lord, what does it matter?

Do I believe that God will bless my children through my worshipful obedience to Him? I believe that God will use me to influence their hearts for Him, but it is ultimately their decision to turn to Him. But my prayer is that I will live a genuinely faithful life for the Lord... and that they will be drawn to Him by my example.

This stirs my worship. I'm so thankful that God gives me the privilege of pointing them to Jesus simply by being faithful to Him. This is huge. Before I do a single work or say a single word to them about how they should live, my first role is to live genuinely for the Lord. If I'm not living for Him in worshipful obedience, my hypocrisy will possibly push them away from Him. I pray that my kids and my grandkids will never have to use my example as "what NOT to do."

Vs. 3 ~ Wealth and riches will be in my house. I would imagine this is a verse that the "health, wealth, and prosperity" gospel cites for their stand on "faith brings wealth." But again, God is a spiritual, eternal God. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The most important treasure I need and receive as a faithful, obedient worshiper of Jesus is "to reach all the RICHES of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the TREASURES of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:2-3).

Do I believe this? The more I grow in Christ, the more I want His heavenly treasures over anything this world has to offer. Does it inspire my worship? Absolutely! God gives me of His treasure, and the greatest treasure is that He gives me Himself. No treasure of His is separate from Him. Praise His name.

Also... My righteousness endures FOREVER. This deeply inspires my worship!!! Romans 5:17 says that Jesus has given me the free gift of righteousness. I get to share in His holiness and Ephesians 2:6-7 says He has a seat waiting for me in heaven. If the righteousness He gives me through faith were not eternal, it would mean nothing. But praise God! It's forever!!! He will never give up on me!!!

Vs. 4 ~ The light of grace, mercy, and righteousness dawns for me. This is Jesus. He is the true light. In Him there is no darkness. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Do I believe this? Absolutely! He is the light. I am the moon. I have no light of my own, but I reflect His glory, His light shining on me. Does this inspire my worship? Absolutely! What is better than having His light shining in my heart??? No physical treasure can match that.

Vs. 5 ~ The righteous person is gracious and generous, and guides his affairs with discretion and justice... and it goes well for him. Why would the righteous person be so selfless? Because he's so secure.

Do I believe this? Yes, but I also know I need to grow in this more. I want to be more eager to give to others in need, whether it's a monetary need or a need for comfort and compassion. I know that the more I grow in the Lord, I will grow to be more generous and careful with my words... because that's who the Lord is. And I worship Him for that.

Vs. 6 ~ The blessing for the righteous is that he won't be moved. Nothing will make the righteous turn from his obedience and worship. God's blessing is that he will never forget the righteous... ever... into eternity.

Do I believe this? Not only do I believe it, but it is my prayer! I long for the day when no circumstance derails me in any way, when I never say a word I regret. Even so, I know that the Lord has given me the righteousness of Jesus, and because of that, He will never forget me. How could I not worship Him for such grace and mercy??? It motivates my resolve to obey Him with my whole heart.

Vs. 7 ~ The blessing is that I never have to be afraid of bad news because I trust the Lord. It's not that bad news never comes. It's that God is always in control and He works all things for my good. I love the quote by Jon Bloom, "Real freedom is the deep seated confidence that God really will provide everything we need. The person who believes this is the freest of all persons on earth, because no matter what situation he finds himself in, he has nothing to fear." Yes, I believe this. Lord, I want to live this!

Vs. 8 ~ Even when he faces adversity from the enemy, he's not afraid. He stands firm in his faith because he trusts that the Lord will protect him and even give him victory over those who stand against him.

Do I believe that the Lord will protect me from the enemy and even give me victory? Absolutely! I only see this to be different in two circumstances. 1. When I'm unwilling to depend on Him. If I refuse to trust Him, He won't force me to follow Him... but He's ready to lead me to victory when I change my mind. 2. When I'm assuming I'm at the end of the story, but I'm still in the middle. If I have not seen the victory and I've been waiting on the Lord, I need to wait some more. The story isn't over. That's reason to worship. God gives the victory.

Vs. 9 ~ The righteous follows the example of the Lord... distributing freely to those in need and giving to the poor. The blessing for such a willing heart is enduring righteousness and

exalted honor. Why? "Humility comes before honor" and "Humble yourself before the Lord and He will exalt you." Do I believe this? I haven't always. I believe God was saying, "Try doing it My way and see how much I will bless you." The more I follow Christ's example of generosity and humility, the more I find His blessing of peace and righteousness growing in me. Does that inspire my worship? Absolutely! I did nothing to deserve this blessing. By its very definition, a blessing can't be earned.

In all these blessings, I can never think I am entitled to anything. How would I demand anything if the very thing that brings the blessing is my worship of a God who I know is abundantly superior to me?

Vs. 10 ~ The last verse speaks of the wicked. This is who I would be if I did not know God. The wicked are simply those who refuse to acknowledge and obey the Lord. The wicked hate to see any blessing come to the righteous. I don't understand why they care, but I do know the story of Cain and Abel. Abel was righteous and Cain was not... so Cain murdered his brother. 1 John 3:12-13 says, "We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you." The wicked may hate the righteous, but it is the wicked that will perish. Let me not be deceived when the wicked come against me. Let me not be moved from my faith when the wicked come against me. Let me stand firm in the Lord... and let me love my enemies and pray for them.

My job is not to look at all the things devoted obedient people do and make a to do list so that I can check off boxes. My job is to worship the Lord and obey Him. He will work in my heart to make all the rest happen. He will bring the blessing. I deserve none of it. He gives generously. O Lord, please grow my faith and my resolve to obey You because I worship You for who You are. Truly, not one of these attributes of a righteous person exists if they don't come from You. My prayer to the Lord is the words we sing from the song, Here It Is... "If all You ever wanted was my heart, Lord, here it is, here it is. I lay it all on the altar... I worship You. I worship You. You're the one I want. You're the one I choose. I worship You.