

Fruit of Fearing God

What drives your life? We all have something that drives us. It is something we devote our time, energy, and resources to. Where do you spend your time and money? For some, it's career advancement. For others, it's financial security or family relationships. To some, it is sports, or to some, fashion. We all have one. But Psalm 112 talks about a person whose primary driving force is God and about the blessings of those people. What kind of life emerges when God becomes their driving force? We will check through the Psalm 112, verse by verse.

Praise the Lord! Blessed are those who fear the Lord and find great delight in his commands. As I shared a month ago, the person who fears the Lord is the one who profoundly loves God. Our God is an awe-inspiring God. The realization of a glimpse of His divine nature instills a deep sense of holy fear, which is not repulsive but rather captivating and joyful. This holiness is beautiful and will make you love God more and thirst for Him more! When your love for Him becomes paramount, all other things and what people think about you will become secondary. This heart is centered around God. God should be above all that we love. He has the right to ask for our lives and to be the driving force behind them. Psalm 112 promises to those whose lives are driven by God. It is all that I desire, and I hope it is what you desire as well.

They have great delight in the word of God! There are commandments upon our lives. It doesn't mean that those commandments save us or the people in the Old Testament. They were not saved by keeping the commandments. How then? They were saved by confessing their sins, and by putting their faith in the God who forgives sins, by grace through Jesus. They were looking forward to ultimate sacrifice, Jesus in the future. We are looking backward to the ultimate sacrifice. It is nothing to do with salvation. It has to do with godly life by aligning our lives with His will and purpose for life. In that life, God gives us joy! God's ways become your joy!

V. 2. His descendants will be powerful in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed. Their life will have a great impact upon their children and other godly individuals around. Some of us might think, "I love God so much. Why is my child in such a dark place?" If so, hold this scripture and pray for your child, pouring your heart out. When you pray holding the scripture, God will respond in some way. God cannot come out of His promise.

V. 3. Wealth and riches are in their houses. It doesn't mean prosperity gospel at all. Paul, in his first letter to Timothy, warns against those who treat godliness as a source of financial gain. He condemns this mindset as being rooted in a corrupted mind that has strayed from the truth. However, that was common belief even in the early times of the church. It is not the meaning here in this scripture at all. Instead, it says that the person who made God the driving force of his life, wealth, and riches is in his life.

The meaning of wealth and riches is far greater than the meaning of the earthly measurement. They are treasures of glory that cannot be interpreted by the natural idea of wealth. It is the one that the earthly measurement can't reach or describe at all. God can make people truly rich, even the people in the world can't understand at all. When God is in your center, you own God. How much is God rich and wealthy? It is indescribable. You own God's wealth and richness. Will that be expressible with human words?

V. 4. *Even in darkness light dawns for the upright.* Light dawns even in the darkness! Have you found that to be true? As a believer, we deal with darkness just as the world does. In other words, difficulties come into our lives just like the people who do not care anything for God. What makes the difference? Light dawns in the darkness for the godly. Light eventually dawns. It is like Paul said in Romans 8:28; "God works all things together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." *They are gracious, compassionate, and righteous.* Their heart is united with the heart of God, who is gracious, compassionate and righteous. This person reflect the light of God inside and outside. It sounds beautiful.

V. 5. *Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.* Godly man is visible through their actions toward others. They give generously, they are not a stingy individual. Why do they have that freedom? Because they know God had given them everything. They know the material possession is not to hoard or to hang on to. They are generous in the way they bless others. And they lend other people. If people are in need of something, they are there to help them out.

V. 6. *God promised that the righteous will never be shaken.* God's grace is with them in uncertainty and waiting. Trusting God's faithfulness, they have stability. In God's love and power, their heart is safe and secure. Even difficult times come - they are going to be stable through it all. Even their life comes to an end, people will see how righteous and beautiful they are, celebrating because they are receiving the promise of eternal life.

V. 7. *They will have no fear of bad news.* How is this possible in a world where we're constantly bombarded with troubling headlines in the world and nation, where we receive difficult diagnoses, where financial setbacks occur? The key is in the next phrase: *'their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.'*

They think the bad news is something God needs to work out, not him. They might say, "Lord, you have a problem here; you need to take care of it." They receive God's comfort whether they lost their job or even have a hopeless diagnosis. And they trust the promise of God in Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; ...When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned." For them, Heaven's door is opened so that they may bring their burdens to God. They can sit next to God and rest. That is great! It is the place protected from all human suffering and the place that they can find peace in the love of God. God's promise is

the promise of victory. God's promise is there for them. God's victory is God's life released in them. They can rest in God and rest in peace.

V. 9. *They freely scattered their gifts to the poor.* When their hearts come closer to God, love is born. Love flows from the presence of God. It flows like a river to the furthest place. They can scatter their precious wealth. The word depicts the picture of casting seeds. They can throw out blessings to the poor freely.

V. 10. *The wicked will see and be vexed.* It speaks about ungodly, the wicked are those who live for themselves. The godly will calmly face their every foe until they all go down in defeat.

How is this Psalm? Do you love this psalm? I am praying this life should be mine. I want to share a pastor's story.

Sarah was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in her mid-40s. She had three teenage children and a career she loved as an elementary school teacher. The diagnosis came without warning, and the prognosis was uncertain at best. Sarah experienced all the natural human emotions—fear, anger, confusion, and grief. But as time passed, something remarkable happened. Sarah's faith became her absolute center. She had always known about God, but now she was knowing God in a deeper way through her suffering.

One day, after a particularly difficult round of treatment, he visited Sarah in the hospital, she was sitting up in bed with her Bible open. 'Pastor,' she said, 'I've been meditating on Psalm 112 all morning. It says the righteous have no fear of bad news because their hearts are steadfast. I've received plenty of bad news lately, but I'm finding that my heart is more steady than I ever thought possible.' 'It's not that I'm not scared sometimes, but the fear no longer defines me. There's something deeper now—a certainty that whatever happens, God is with me, and that's enough.' We see here that her heart was the heart so anchored in the love of the Lord that even the worst news couldn't shake her confidence in God's goodness.

Do you think this confession is from a superhuman person, you can't possibly ever be? The answer is no. It is not at all. The psalmist may be talking about a very weak woman. Sara simply had the strength to choose to trust in God. That is what makes a difference.

Their hearts are steady. They are not afraid. The godly will calmly face their every foe until they all go down in defeat. I do not want to miss this amazing blessing while I walk this journey on Earth.

May the blessings of Psalm 112 be ours by immersing ourselves in His Word, meditating on the Word, by cultivating the love of the Lord, by coming closer to God. And may the presence of God become the power to practice His justice and compassion. Let the Word, let the presence become deep peace in our hearts by bringing us even closer to the heart of God!