

HAPPY IS THE MAN WHO FEARS

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"Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments" (Psalm 112:1).

INTRODUCTION:

1. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this summer series.
2. Thank you for your continued financial support of my work at the Brown Trail School of Preaching.
3. Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement!
4. The topic for my lesson today is, "Happy Is the Man Who Fears."
5. In this lesson, we will briefly examine the following points of discussion:
 - a. Explanation of terms for a better understanding of our lesson.
 - b. What it means to fear God.
 - c. The blessings of fearing God.
 - d. Practical principles on how to cultivate fear in our hearts.
6. As we study this lesson, please keep in mind James 1:22, and let us be doers of God's Word and not hearers only!

WHY TOPICS SUCH AS THIS ARE MUCH NEEDED.

1. God's people need to understand what true happiness is.
 - a. True happiness comes when we fear God.
 - b. Some Christians think that happiness is found in the things of the world.
 - c. Some think happiness is found in earthly possessions.
2. God's people need to understand the blessing of fearing God.
3. Topics such as this one remind us of our main goal in life (Eccl. 12:13), *"Fear God and keep His commandments."*
4. I am confident that the rest of the topics that will be presented during this summer series will be of great spiritual benefit to all.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR LESSON.

1. **The term "Blessed/Happy":**
 - a. The Hebrew term is ASHREY meaning: How happy! A heightened state of happiness and joy, implying very favorable circumstances and enjoyment.
 - b. The man who fears can experience in his life a great spiritual joy!
2. **The term "Man":**
 - a. The Hebrew term is ISH, which denotes a male or a female; a human being.

- b. This is like the term in Greek ANTHROPOS, which denotes male or female.
- c. Men and women who fear the Lord can experience great spiritual joy in their lives!
- d. Not just the man!

3. The term "Fear":

- a. The Hebrew term is YAREH, which means: Reverence, that is, pertaining to respect toward a superior.
- b. It also relates to worship, that is, pertaining to profound reverence to a superior, which may include ritual observance.
- c. It may also refer to being afraid or being in a state of alarm.
- d. The Greek term is "Phobos," which denotes reverence as well as being afraid or trembling.
- e. This word appears 441 times in the entire Bible.
- f. In a sense, man should be afraid of God for He is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29; 10:31). This is not the sense that will be used in this lesson.
- g. This lesson will focus more on having reverence and respect for God.

Let us now answer the question...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "FEAR" GOD? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SHOW REVERENCE AND RESPECT TO GOD?

1. *It means we acknowledge Him as the Creator of Heaven and Earth (Gen. 1:1; Psalm 19:1; 33:6).*
 - a. We stand amazed at His presence!
 - b. We cannot show God we respect him when we do not recognize Him as the creator of heaven and earth!
2. *It means we acknowledge His Holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16).*
 - a. We cannot show reverence to God when we do not recognize how Holy He is (Hab. 1:13), "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness..."
3. *It means we acknowledge and Love His Word and put it into practice (Psalm 119:97; James 1:22-25).*
 - a. Psalm 112:1, "Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.
 - b. There is no way we can show God we delight in His Word when we neglect the study of His Word!
 - c. We must read it (1 Tim. 4:13), memorize it (Psalm 119:11), and allow it to dwell in our lives richly (Col. 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:18).
 - d. We cannot show reverence to God when we neglect His Word!
4. *It means we will live our lives in such a way as to cause others to glorify God (Matt. 5:16; Rom. 2:24).*

- a. We cannot show God we have reverence towards Him when we are not careful on how we live our lives!
- 5. *It means to live our lives as Job did (Job 1:1).*
 - a. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil**" (Job 1:1).
 - b. It means to live faithfully before the presence of God!
 - c. God cannot be revered when we do not live faithful lives!
- 6. *It means to love Him with all of our being (Mk 12:30).*
 - a. This means God will always be first in our lives! (Matt 6:33).
 - b. This means our love for God will not be shared with the world (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4).
- 7. *It means to teach our family reverence for God (Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6:4-6).*
 - a. We will cultivate in our children love, respect, and reverence for God!
 - b. We will be a good example to them about what it means to love God! (Illustration about Father, children, and baseball game).
- 8. *It means to allow God to receive the honor and glory He deserves!*
 - a. Gal. 6:14

Let us now consider briefly the blessings of fearing God

THE BLESSINGS OF THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD.

- 1. They get to enjoy true spiritual happiness (Psalm 112:1; 128:1).
- 2. They experience great delight in the Word of God (Psalm 112:1).
- 3. They get to experience walking in God's commandments (Psalm 128:1).
- 4. They become great examples to others and encourage them to do the same!
- 5. They get to enjoy the blessing of the hope of eternal life!

112:1 Praise the LORD!

Blessed *is* the man *who* fears the LORD,
Who delights greatly in His commandments.

2 His descendants will be mighty on earth;
 The generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches *will be* in his house,
 And his righteousness endures forever.

4 Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;
He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

5 A good man deals graciously and lends;
 He will guide his affairs with discretion.

6 Surely he will never be shaken;
 The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings;
 His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

8 His heart *is* established;

He will not be afraid,
Until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies.

9 He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted with honor.

10 The wicked will see *it* and be grieved;
He will gnash his teeth and melt away;
The desire of the wicked shall perish.¹

128: A Song of Ascents.

1 Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD,
Who walks in His ways.

2 When you eat the labor of your hands,
You *shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you.

3 Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine
In the very heart of your house,
Your children like olive plants
All around your table.

4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the LORD.

5 The LORD bless you out of Zion,
And may you see the good of Jerusalem
All the days of your life.

6 Yes, may you see your children's children.

Peace *be* upon Israel!

Finally, let us examine the practical aspect of our lesson

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES ON HOW TO CULTIVATE FEAR IN OUR LIVES SO THAT WE CAN BE HAPPY/BLESSED.

To cultivate/develop fear for God, we must...

1. Be diligent **students of the Word** so we can learn more about God and by doing so, give Him the glory He deserves.
2. **Pray to God** that He may grant us a heart that shows reverence and respect for Him!
3. Make great efforts to **always love God** and show Him how much you respect Him!
4. We must continually **think about ways** on how we can show God reverence!

¹ [*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ps 112:1-10.

5. We must strive **to be obedient** to His will!
6. We must continually think about the terrible consequences of NOT showing God we respect Him!
7. We must continually think about the great blessings of showing God we love and respect Him!
8. These things will definitely help us to cultivate fear for God in our hearts!

CONCLUSION: