



Lesson #9: The Secret to a Happy Home (Psalm 128)

Today's Psalm is the last in the middle group of Psalms of Ascent. It is significant Psalm to the Israelites because of its topic – the _____.

Psalm 128 reveals to us a secret. The secret is the foundation upon which any stable home rests. It's the best kind of secret because it's a secret that God wants you to know. The secret is revealed in the very first word: "*Blessed.*" That word "*blessed*" or its English derivative appears _____x in the Psalm (128:1,2,4, and 5). That word "*blessed*" could be literally translated "_____." To state the secret clearly: This Psalm teaches us **the secret of a happy home.**

The _____ of the Lord, then, is the essential foundation of a happy home. **True happiness in the family is based on the fear of the Lord.** Whatever your situation God wants you to fear Him and walk in His ways. But what would happen if we truly feared God in our homes? The answers are found in Psalm 128.

GODLY FEAR BRINGS A DIVINE _____ TO THE HOME

We don't normally equate "fear" with things like "happiness" and "peace" but that's exactly what Psalm 128 does here.

A. The fear of the Lord brings _____

Fear certainly doesn't conjure up in our mind the idea of joy. What then does it mean to "*fear the Lord*" (128:1)

- **What fearing the Lord DOES NOT mean:** To fear the Lord does not mean to be afraid of God so that you _____ away from Him.
- **What fearing the Lord DOES mean:** To fear the Lord means to be in awe of God's majesty so that you _____ Him with great reverence and respect.

This is where true happiness comes from. The man who fears the Lord is content in the presence of God.

B. The fear of the Lord brings _____

The opening note of this Psalm is "*fear*" and the final note of this Psalm is "*peace.*" Scripture gives a completely different view of what a peaceful life looks like than the world paints for us. Real peace focuses our hearts on fearing the Lord which in turn motivates our lives to _____ others.

GODLY FEAR BRINGS A DIVINE _____ TO THE HOME

The following verses are general _____ not guaranteed _____. But these principles do outline the divine productiveness of a home that truly fears the Lord.

A. _____ blessings

There is occupational success in the life of the one who fears the Lord. Those who fear the Lord will know the sweet _____ that comes by enjoying the fruits of their labor.

B. _____ blessings

The beauty of the metaphors used in this Psalm are worthy consideration.

1. **The wife of the man who fears the Lord is like a "*fruitful vine.*"** As a vine she is _____ to him and _____ with him.
2. **The children of the man who fears the Lord is like "_____ plants."**

There is a natural order to these metaphors and how they are written. The fear of the Lord begins with the _____ in the home, which leads to the _____ in the home, and then is followed by the _____ in the home.

GODLY FEAR BRINGS A DIVINE _____ FOR THE HOME

We can best glean the truths of verses 5 & 6 by looking at them through the original lense of Hebrew poetry in which they were written. There's a parallel nature to these verses.

128:5a & 6a describe the well-being of the _____ who fears God

128:5b & 6b describe the well being of the _____ who fear God

Future potential is at play in these concluding verses.

A. _____ future wellbeing will flourish

The man pictured here is a happy old man, enjoying God's blessing as he sees his _____ following the Lord. A man who pursues financial success to the disregard of his home will end up with _____ in his soul. A man who follows God's blueprint for the home will end up with _____ in his soul.

B. _____ future wellbeing will flourish

Someone rightly said, "The _____ of the country is measured by the _____ of the families that make it up." You can't miss that the nation is in view at the end of this Psalm. The nation that is built around strong families that follow God's plan will be strong itself but the inverse is also true.

Concluding Thoughts

I called this sermon "The Secret to a Happy Home" but the truth is that this really isn't a secret at all. God has clearly outlined it for us in Psalm 128. John Phillips, in his commentary on Psalm 128, says: "No Psalm in the Hebrew hymnbook needs to be _____ more incessantly than the 128th Psalm." The promise of this Psalm needs to be repeated by all: "_____ is every one that feareth the Lord" (128:1).