

Psalm 112 NKJV
Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
And delights in His commandments

The Story of Psalm 112:

Psalm 111 is about a righteous God. Psalm 112 is about the man that God makes righteous. The word “righteous” in the Bible is a special word. It means “always doing what is right.” Only God is righteous. But the people that love and obey God are also righteous. They are not righteous because they always do what is right. They are righteous because God gives them the gift of righteousness. This means that when God looks at them, he sees them as righteous! Often, their family and friends do not see this, but God does. Righteousness is a gift that God gives to people. He gives it to people who:

- Are sorry that they have done wrong things.
- Promise to try not to do them again.
- Take the help that God gives to them.

True and perfect righteousness is not possible for man to attain on his own. The good news is that true righteousness is possible for humankind by:

- Cleansing of sin by Jesus Christ
- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Christians possess the righteousness of Christ, because “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). On the cross, Jesus exchanged our sin for His perfect righteousness so that we can one day stand before God and He will see not our sin, but the holy righteousness of the Lord Jesus.

We are accepted as righteous and treated as righteous by God on account of what the Lord Jesus has done:

- He was made sin; we are made righteousness.
- On the cross, Jesus was treated as if He were a sinner, though He was perfectly holy and pure, and we are treated as if we were righteous, though we are defiled and depraved.

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- Because of what the Lord Jesus has endured on our behalf, we are treated as if we had entirely fulfilled the Law of God and had never become exposed to its penalty.

We have received this precious gift of righteousness from the God of all mercy and grace. To Him be the glory!

It is unknown who wrote Psalm 112. This Psalm may have been written after the exile ended. That was five hundred years before Jesus Christ came to the earth as a man. The exile was when the King of Babylon took the Jews to Babylon. They were there for 70 years. Psalm 111 was about the righteousness of God. So, someone wrote Psalm 112 to describe the man that God made righteous.

In the previous psalm, the writer exalted the Lord for His great and marvelous works and ended by admonishing us to fear the Lord and obey His precepts (111:10). The blessings of obeying that admonition are described in Psalm 112. God's Covenant with Israel is that He will bless them if they fear Him and obey His Word (Leviticus 26:1-13; Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

The believer described in this psalm had times of darkness (verse 4), occasionally received bad news (verse 7), had his enemies (verses 8, 10), and had to consider the justice of his decisions (verse 5).

We who live under the new covenant have in Jesus Christ every spiritual blessing that we will ever need (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3-4), and we have the promise that our God will meet our needs according to His riches and Glory (Philippians 4:19).

2 Peter 1:3-4 The Message Bible

3-4 Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also given absolutely terrific promises to pass on to you—your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust.

The attributes of God, given in Psalm 111, become the character qualities of the godly believer in Psalm 112, for becoming more like Jesus Christ is the greatest reward of a faithful life of obedience (2 Corinthians 3:18). We want more than the blessing; ***we want to be like the One who gives the blessing.***

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2 Corinthians 3:18 New Living Translation

“So, all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image”.

Question – Do you want to be more like Jesus? Like the One who gives the blessing?

- The Blessing of Obedience (112:1-9).
- The Emptiness of Sin (112:10).

Verse 1 - Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who delights greatly in His commandments.

Psalm 112 begins with Hallelujah! This was both the personal praise of the psalmist and an exhortation to others to praise Him. We can praise God by singing, praying to Him, lifting our hands to honor Him, sharing our gifts and talents to worship Him, and sharing the Good News to others. We can praise the Lord by reading His Word daily so that we can know and learn more of Him.

Psalms 111-112 may have been composed together; they are certainly set together in the collection on purpose. Psalm 111 ended with the idea that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; now the psalmist explains the blessedness of the one who does fear the LORD. When we fear the Lord, this is speaking of us having reverence (respect) for Him and revering Him.

This blessed one does not fear God in a sense of misery and reluctant obligation. This psalm speaks of one who delights in God’s commandments. Here are several verses from Psalm 119 on delighting in God’s commandments:

New Living Translation Psalm 119:

4 You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully.

7 As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should!

14 I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches.

16 I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

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92 If your instructions hadn't sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery.

So, what are the two greatest commandments?

Matthew 22:36-40 New Living Translation

36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

The person described in this psalm praises the Lord in worship, respects the Lord, delights in fellowship with the Lord, and seeks to obey the Lord. This kind of life brings blessings to the entire family (Psalm 34:8-14; 37:25; 127:3-5).

Verse 1 should not be used as a 'charm' to ward off the troubles of life, for Job had the qualities listed in verse 1 (Job 1:8) and still suffered greatly. This kind of godly character does not protect us from pain and trials, but it does enable us to use those trials to glorify the Lord and grow in grace (1 Peter 4:12-19).

1 Peter 4:12-19 The Message Bible - Glory Just Around the Corner

12-13 Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

14-16 If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter.

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But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name!

17-19 It's judgment time for God's own family. We're first in line. If it starts with us, think what it's going to be like for those who refuse God's Message! If good people barely make it, What's in store for the bad? So, if you find life difficult because you're doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he's doing, and he'll keep on doing it.

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

- o He or she is God-fearing (who fears the LORD).
- o He or she is a lover of God's word (delights greatly in His commandments).

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

His children: his descendants, they shall prosper; be honored and distinguished among people. They will be distinguished for their virtues, for their influence, for their success in life. The best security for the virtue and success of children is the virtue and the faithfulness of parents.

Psalm 25:13 "They will live in prosperity, and their children will inherit the land."

Psalm 37:25-26: **25** Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread. **26** The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing.

The psalmist pronounced blessing on the descendants of this man, the one who is upright. Such promises are to be expected to be fulfilled in general. The seed spoken here is believed to be the seed of Abraham.

Genesis 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. (Old Testament)

Galatians 3:29, "And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you". (New Testament)

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

- o **He or she makes a home for their family (their descendants...their house)**

Verse 3 - Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

The psalmist also pronounced a blessing on the economic life of the one who fears the LORD. Their life of obedience and honor to God means God's blessing will also come to their financial dealings. This also signifies spiritual riches, the riches of grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ, durable riches, and righteousness.

Ephesians 1:3 says that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. What are these spiritual blessings, and what do they do for us? Contrary to some beliefs, they are not some mysterious power or cosmic connection reserved for a select few. **They are the key benefits of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.**

The word blessing in Ephesians 1:3 is a translation of the Greek word eulogy, and it means "to speak well of." Since God is the one acting in this verse, we can say that God has spoken good things about us or pronounced good things for our benefit. We can outline several of these spiritual blessings by looking at some of the verses in Ephesians 1:4–13:

- Verse 4 – "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes".
- Verse 5 – "God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ".
- Verse 7 – "He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins".
- Verse 8 – "He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding".
- Verse 11 – "Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan".
- Verse 13 – "And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago."

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This blessed man's good works and right standing with God are lasting. They will not fade in this world or the world to come.

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

o He or she is prosperous (wealth, riches, spiritual blessings)

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

The psalmist recognized the darkness that often fills the world, but the upright one who fears the LORD will be blessed with light during the darkness.

“The relationship of God to the godly person is like the relationship of the sun to the moon. The sun shines in its own glorious light. The moon does not, but still it shines, and the way it shines is by reflecting the light coming to it from the sun.” (Boice) So our light is a reflection coming from the Son of God.

Although he may be subject to many of the troubles and calamities of life, as others are, yet they will be far from making him unhappy, for God will give him all the needful support and comfort in the midst of them, sanctifying them to him, and causing them, in many ways, to work together for his good, and in due time will grant him a happy issue out of them; whereas the wicked sink under their burdens, and their present miseries usher in their eternal destruction.

The light received from God shines through the righteous one, and he displays to others the grace, compassion, righteousness, and generosity God has granted to him. The good or upright man, exercises meekness, sweetness, and gentleness to those that provoke him; forgives offences and shows mercy to persons in want and misery; while he acts justly and righteously toward all, and will not be prevailed upon, by any temptation, to do anything dishonest, cruel, or unkind.

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

o He or she is loving and kind (gracious, and full of compassion)

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

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Finding himself in circumstances which enable him to spare a little of his wealth he lends judiciously (wisely). Providence (wisdom) has made him able to lend, and grace makes him willing to lend. He is not a borrower, for God has lifted him above that necessity; neither is he a hoarder, for his new nature saves him from that temptation; but he wisely uses the talents committed to him.” (Spurgeon)

Psalm 37:21 New Living Translation

“The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers.”

Psalm 37:26 New Living Translation

“The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing.”

He will guide his affairs with discretion (justice). He will act the part of a good economist; so that he may be able to support his family with credit and reputation. He has something to give to the relief of those in want. He lends to some and gives to others. He takes care that they to whom he gives are proper objects of charity. He gives to people seasonally, and in proportion to his own ability and their wants.

If we are a Christian in the true sense, then we are a believer in, and a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. A Christian should be as much like his Leader (Jesus), as possible. We should do the same things He would do.

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

- o He or she is a helping person (deals graciously and lends)
- o He or she is wise (will guide their affairs with discretion).

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

Because of His character and wisdom, the one who fears the LORD will be firmly established. Though he may, for a season, be afflicted, yet he shall not be utterly and eternally destroyed, as wicked men shall be. His remembrance will last, with nothing to fear from evil tidings (communication). As he trusts in the LORD, his heart is established and, in the end, he will see victory over his enemies.

Though, while he lives, he may be exposed to the censures (criticisms), slanders, and contradictions of sinners; yet, after his death, his memory shall be precious and honorable, both with God and men, his very enemies not excepted.

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Proverbs 10:7 New Living Translation

“We have happy memories of the godly, but the name of a wicked person rots away.”

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

- o He or she will be established (will never be shaken)
- o He or she will be remembered (everlasting remembrance)

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

Evil tidings (bad news) are all around us and come to us every day. Evil tidings may come to us from our family, from our health, from business, from the unfaithful, from the culture around us, or from politics. Yet the one who fears the LORD will not be afraid.

His heart will so fully confide in God that he can commit all calmly into his hands. He will feel assured that all will be well; and that in all which does take place He is able to sustain the sufferer. There is nothing so well suited to make the mind calm as trust in God. What has a man to be afraid of who does trust in Him?

Proverbs 1:33 New Living Translation

“But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm.”

His heart is steadfast; he is supported by the strength of his Maker. He is neither fickle nor cowardly. When he is undecided as to his course he is still fixed in heart: he may change his plan, but not the purpose of his soul.

Because of him trusting in the Lord, this is the reason “why” his heart is “fixed” or firm. It is not any native courage or resolution. It is not any firmness of his own; it is simply because he has confidence in God and feels assured that all things will be well.

Psalm 57:7 New Living Translation

“My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident. No wonder I can sing your praises!

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

- o He or she is strong in the Lord (not afraid of evil tidings)

Verse 8 - His heart is established; He will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies.

“His heart is established”: The word means to sustain; or to support. The idea is that there is some basis of support, some strength, which is not his own.

“He shall not be afraid”: When enemies attack him.

“Until he sees his desire upon his enemies”: This implies that he had nothing really to fear. He would certainly overcome his foes. In the meantime, he might look calmly on all their efforts to destroy him, for those efforts would be vain. So, the believer now looks calmly on all his spiritual foes. He has nothing to fear, for he will overcome them all. He will certainly triumph; he will trample them all under his feet. He may well, therefore, endure these conflicts for a brief period, for the issue is certain, and the conflict will soon end.

Psalm 59:10 New Living Translation

“In his unfailing love, my God will stand with me. He will let me look down in triumph on all my enemies.”

The sad thing is that there is a day coming when the enemy of the Christian and the enemy of God will feel the wrath of Almighty God. God is longsuffering, but there will come a time when He says, “It is enough.” If we are established in the Lord, the small tribulations of this earth should not stagger our faith.

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

- o He or she are overcomers (they shall not fear)

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

This psalm has much to say about the generosity of the one who fears the LORD. Since he is blessed regarding material things (Psalm 112:3), it is important that he is generous with his blessings. He is also wise; dispersed implies a wise and thoughtful distribution as part of the discretion that guides his affairs (Psalm 112:5). Paul quoted Psalm 112:9 in 2 Corinthians 9:9 to encourage Christians to be generous: As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad; He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

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The followers of the Lord will be quick to distribute the blessings the Lord has showered upon them. The difference in the world and the believer is that the believer cares for the poor. We know the Lord Jesus said, “inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these, ye have done it unto me.” We cannot directly do great things for the Lord, but when we help the needy and the widows, we are doing it as unto the Lord.

The profile of this man (or woman) who fears the LORD is remarkable. It reflects the character of God Himself, even as the moon reflects the sun’s light. It is partially fulfilled in the godly man or woman, and perfectly fulfilled in the man Jesus Christ.

He or she is God-fearing (who fears the LORD).

He or she is a lover of God’s word (delights greatly in His commandments).

He or she makes a home for their family (their descendants...their house).

He or she is prosperous (wealth and riches).

He or she is loving and kind (gracious, and full of compassion).

He or she is helping (deals graciously and lends).

He or she is wise (will guide their affairs with discretion).

He or she will be established (will never be shaken)

He or she will be remembered (everlasting remembrance)

He or she is strong in the Lord (not afraid of evil tidings).

He or she are overcomers (they shall not fear)

He or she is generous (they have dispersed abroad).

He or she does not abuse power (their horn will be exalted with honor).

He or she is hated (the wicked will see it and be grieved).

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“His horn” is a symbol of strength, power, and dignity. It denotes peace, prosperity and God granted success. This is applied figuratively to the righteous.

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

- He or she is generous (they have dispersed abroad)
- He or she does not abuse power (their horn will be exalted with honor)

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

In contrast to the enduring blessing upon the upright man, the wicked man will melt away. His misery will be all the worse as his desire is frustrated and he sees the blessings that come to those who fear the LORD. The wicked may not gnash their teeth in this life, but they certainly will in the age to come (Luke 13:28).

Luke 13:28 New Living Translation

“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out.”

Notice that it is not the believer that gnashes his teeth. It is the evil one. The wicked will see the blessings that God showers on the believers, and then he will be sorry he did not believe, but it will be too late. The wrath of God will fall on the wicked, and they will beg for the rocks to fall upon them. They will seek death, but it will not come. God gives them ample time to repent, and they do not. Each terrible happening that comes upon them is followed by another, and they repented not.

To summarize this lesson, we see that the blessings of God are reserved for the believers. The believers have the same heart as their Lord and Savior. They try to do the things that are the will of God for their lives. They face trials and tribulations but learn to trust God. At the end, they will reign with Jesus over the evil. The evil will awaken to their mistake in not receiving the Lord, but it will be too late!

May we continue to Reach the Lost, Train for Service, and Change our World!

Question: Do you want to be like the One that gives the blessings?

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