

Psalm 128:1-6 - Guaranteed way for God to bless your children!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Do you know parents enroll for prestigious pre-schools for their children *before they are born*? Others start RESP's *as soon as their children are born*. These parents, over the top as some may be, want to make sure their children have an easy time going through life. They want success for their children.

Adults do similarly. They make sure they get a good education, gain wide experiences, and receive great recommendations for their desired professions because they want to increase the likelihood of success. And there is nothing usually wrong with this.

But surely that is not all the success you desire for your children or yourselves, as nothing you gain by education or money would last. Surely you want success in you spiritual lives...success that would last... So learn today how to get that guaranteed success for you and your children.

Our headings are:

For success you must Fear God

Then you will have Fruitful Lives

Then you will have Future Blessings

Our goals are: **That you will pursue the fear of God for you and your children so you can receive true blessedness and bring honor and praise to the Lord.**

For Success you must Fear God

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

1. This was a song the Israelites sang regularly as they made their yearly journeys to Jerusalem for worship.

They sang this regularly because **this song was instructive** of **what Israel ought to be** and **how they could become** what God wanted them to be. **By singing it, it became part of their psyche.** Children remember what they learn by singing. Adults too!

2. So what is the foundation for blessedness you find in this Psalm?

The foundation of blessedness is learning to fear God. "The fear of God" means you must **know, love, believe in, and obey** the one true God. The fear of God starts with being scared of eternal damnation but it grows into knowing, believing, and obeying.

3. Note 3 things about the fear of God.

a. The fear of God is necessary. Without the fear of God men run to evil.

Proverbs 8:13 The **fear of the LORD is to hate evil...**

b. In order to fear God, you must learn (and your children) what evil is! The "fear of God" is not learned from the Government of Ontario or Canada, or by teachers in school, but by the Word of God alone. (If you rely on the government to determine what evil is, it

seems that “hurt feelings” would be the greatest crime!)

Proverbs 16:6...And by the fear of the LORD one **departs from evil.**

c. In order for you to fear God, you must specifically learn the truth about the God’s mercy and how God provided atonement for man’s evils. This will result in you leaving sin behind.

Proverbs 10:27 The **fear of the LORD prolongs days,** But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

4. What are the results of fearing God?

Not only does the fear of God established his kingdom and bring glory to him, but the fear of the Lord preserves you and your children from hell.

Proverbs 14:27 The **fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,** To turn one away from the snares of death.

3. Consider examples of what happens when people fear the Lord.

a. During the time of the Judges, the Israelites stopped serving God. But later, Israel got their act together and started to fear God when **Saul became a preacher** and put the “fear of God” in the nation. Saul showed Israel a picture of God’s judgment for those who would not obey and he showed them the grace of the Savior!

1Samuel 11:7 So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen." And the **fear of the LORD fell on the people,** and they came out with one consent.

b. Later on in Israel’s history, King Jehoshaphat did not follow in the ways of many of the wicked kings of Judah, and because he knew and believed God’s Word and feared God, God protected him and the whole nation. He then challenged the nation to do the same! He was another **king who became a preacher!**

2Chronicles 19:9 And he commanded them, saying, "Thus you shall **act in the fear of the LORD,** faithfully and with a loyal heart:

4. Lessons:

a. Sing. It is good for you. Yes, it is glorifying to God, and it is instructive to you, your children, and your neighbor. One of the biggest mistakes parents make is to think that when their children are young it doesn’t matter what they learn. If they are taught filth when they are young, they will believe, speak, and live that way! Do it before they are 6 years old! That is often a critical point for youths.

b. You must fear God and teach your children to fear God.

Psalm 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Teach your child that he is a sinner and in danger of hell fire, that God is angry with sinners, that Jesus Christ came to live and die in man's place, and if he puts his trust in Jesus, he would have all his sins forgiven and be restored to a right relationship with God. In other words, **don't presume that your children are saved by virtue of their baptism.** Evangelize them. Teach them to be patient and not ever offend God.

c. The wicked man thinks that if he wins the lottery that that is a blessing from God. He thinks his earthly troubles are over! No wonder most big lottery winners die within 2 years of winning! But that is not the fear of God. Only the fear of God, which results in obedience to God, will save.

d. The world will probably mock you if you say that you "fear God," but let the world mock if it wants. You have true protection in Jesus Christ. You have hope. Yes, ultimate blessings do not come from wives, wealth, children, achievements, knowledge, military might, etc. Ask Solomon. **Solomon wrote: Fear God and keep his commands.**

Then you will have Fruitful Lives

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

1. When you fear God you will have fruitful lives.

This Psalm is first directed to the heads of household, the one who generally works (labor of your hands). This means God will move you away from dependency on others. Calvin: "When you eat the labor of your hands you will be blessed."

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the **fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.**

Proverbs 15:16 **Better is a little with the fear of the LORD,** Than great treasure with trouble.

You get good satisfaction when you work for and pay for your own! This is a blessing from God. **On the contrary, consider what happens when you do not fear the Lord.**

Deuteronomy 28:33 "**A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor,** and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.

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.

2. Your wife will be a fruitful vine.

What a beautiful picture this was to the Jewish mind!
Vines brought money.

Vines brought joy.

Vines brought stability. (Sometimes these grape vines were planted in the house but then they grew through holes and expand to cover the houses.)

Vines brought hope – as these vines lasted for many, many years!

So this fruitfulness is not limited to having children. Vines contribute to Christ's dominion on the earth.

3. Your children will be olive plants.

Olive plants were the perennial trees that remain productive for hundreds, even thousands of years. Olive plants are sturdy and guaranteed the survival of the next generation. Olive plants produce fruits, oil, and leaves- nourishment.

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

4. Your wife and children will be a blessing to you!

To be **blessed is a description of how God sees** you, not necessarily how the world sees you.

5. Lessons:

a. God will not supply everything you want, but he will supply your needs. He will supply everything you need **until** the time he is ready for you to go home. He may give you more than you want, and often does, but that is not always a sign of approval. Crooked people often have a lot.

b. The wife and children who fear the Lord will work – physically and spiritually.

Work is a noble thing. If you can work, you should work. Work is good for you.

c. Now the personal challenges: Are you nourishing your wife and your children? As a wife, are you causing your husband to be blessed by the way you live and work? Are you children causing God to bless your dad by the way you live and honor him?

Then you will have Future Blessings

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!

1. The Lord promises to bless the family, the foundation of the church and society, not just at the present, but in the future also.

2. This blessing includes

a. Blessing on the church of Jesus Christ (Zion). She would expand and be strengthened.

b. Blessings on the family. It would expand. Every child must be trained in the propagation of the church of Christ – internally (in the family) and externally (through evangelism).

c. Peace to the nation. When there is peace in the family and in the church, there is peace in the nation. When there is peace in the nations there is peace in the world.

3. Lessons:

a. God's blessings are huge! They are not limited to health and wealth, as you hear from inept TV preachers. God promises huge blessings for the family, the church, and the state.

b. So if you want your children to be raised in a better society, full of God's blessings, start with teaching them to fear God. (This is beyond the pay grade of Prime Minister Trudeau and President Trump.) And then **spread that message to all those who are around them.** Nothing else will do.

c. Those who are teaching their children to "respect" others...and treat all others equally...to respect other people's property...and be contented...and to protect the freedom of others...if they try to do these things without God, they are fighting a useless battle. Those things might be nice but they won't save. There is no good society without the fear of God.

Conclusion:

Everyone wants his family to be blessed, but **you must want your family to be blessed with real blessings.** To get real blessings **you must fear of God with all your heart.** (Know, believe in, and obey the Lord.)

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Never forget what really matters: The fear of God. This will bring great (sometimes) earthly blessings and (always) eternal blessings. This will be the foundation for the spread of Christ's kingdom around the world.

2. Don't let your children starve in your own home (or children in your church, if you don't have children in your home) when you have the food of God's Word and the children have mouths to eat. Teach your children how to fear God and live for him. Baby Mia needs this!

3. Share this food with others outside your home also. At least give them a Bible. There are many in this world who are starving for truth. If you can't feed them, tell your elders. We will do our best to feed them.

Finally, Christians have a happy future, but if you are not a Christian you have a horrible future – one in which you will have to spend eternity in hell. However, you can escape what seems inevitable now if you ask God to remove your sins because Jesus died on the cross in the place of sinners.