

Psalm 112

How to be a happy person

¹ I want to brag on my heavenly Father, because He is so good to His children. After all, look at the man who genuinely fears the LORD and is thrilled to hear, learn, and do the Word of God. Notice how happy and fulfilled he is. You might ask, “Well, how did he find such a valuable treasure as real happiness?” The answer to that question has two parts. First, he fears the LORD and shows it by abandoning every sinful practice. As a result, he will not be the recipient of God’s wrath. He also reverences the LORD and shows it by faithfully doing good. That way he will not disappoint his loving heavenly Father. Secondly, he is so thrilled with the Word of God that he simply cannot wait until the next time he can read, study, or meditate upon it. As a result, he will gain the wisdom and understanding he needs in order to practice what he learns to the glory of God. ² Because of his godly example over the years, his children and grandchildren will grow up to be mighty men of God. They will be strong and brave as testimonies to the grace and love of the Father, and their whole generation will be blessed as they follow this happy man’s good, just, and fair manner of living.

How the happy person fares in life

³ The home of this happy man is filled with God’s blessings in the form of all the material things he needs and much, much more. His reputation for doing good and loving the LORD will last forever as a memorial to the grace of God. ⁴ Because of his love of the Word of God and the great amount of time he spends studying and meditating upon it, the truth of who God is and how he should conduct himself before his God is constantly being brought to light as he lives and moves in this dark world of sin. This kind of enlightenment happens to the man who does what is right in the sight of the LORD, and he displays his understanding of God and His Word by doing these three things: 1) **he is gracious** – that is, he is as kind and merciful in his dealings with people as they allow him to be; 2) **he is compassionate** – that is, he has a deep sorrow for the sufferings and troubles of others accompanied by a strong desire to come to their aid¹; and 3) **he is righteous** – that is, he is good, just, and fair both privately and publicly, and people see it in the way he lives. ⁵ It always goes well with the one who shows pity by sharing some of what he possesses with those who have a real need. In doing so, he is lending to the LORD. As a result, the LORD will support, nourish, and sustain him and see that he reaps the same kind of good things as he has sown. This is true because the LORD will not be indebted to anyone. ⁶ Then too, this man will never totter, stumble, or fall as he walks through life, and because he is a truly good man, his reputation will be remembered forever. ⁷ He will not be afraid or even apprehensive when he hears about the possibility of pain, unhappiness, or misery coming his way at the hands of evil men. No, he will not be anxious because he trusts in the LORD with every ounce of his being, and there is no doubt in his mind that the LORD will protect him. ⁸ He can do this because his whole inner being rests in the integrity of the LORD’s promise to care for him. He will not fear evil. In fact, one day he will look with satisfaction when he sees the demise of his enemies. ⁹ Because he freely gives of his time and resources to those in need, he will be elevated to a place of genuine honor, and all the good things he has done will enhance his reputation.

How the wicked person fares in life

¹⁰ The same is not true of the wicked man though. The important thing to remember here is not so much the way God blesses the righteous, but the way the wicked man closely observes how the righteous man is rewarded with good things. The wicked man wants the same blessings for himself but he wants to do it his own evil way. In the end, he always finds that his way doesn't work. As a result, he will become frustrated, and before long that frustration will turn to anger. His anger will fester, and soon he will do something stupid to vent that anger. As his anger and frustration grow more and more intense, you will be able to see it on his face as he grits his teeth in defiance. He will convey an expression that says, "I'll get even with you." Leave him alone though, because it won't be long before he will die a premature death and vanish from the scene altogether. In the end, all of the selfish appetites he sought so hard to satisfy will vanish with him.

¹ Definition of "compassion" www.dictionary.com/browse/compassion