

**Thompson Road Baptist Church**  
Journey of Joy: Songs of Blessing  
Psalm 128 (also 127 and 133)

1. Introduction

- a. Proposition: Fearing God leads to blessing, both for the individual and the church as a whole

2. The Cause of Being Blessed (v.1)

- a. “The truly happy person is happy because God showers him with favor.” (C. John Collins). This is what it means to be blessed (and specifically, blessed by God)
- b. Q: But why does God shower him with favor?
  - i. A: Because he fears the Lord and walks in his ways (v.1); cf. Ecclesiastes 12.13, “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”
    - 1. Fearing the Lord refers to the awe that a person ought to have before God; cf. Psalm 33.8, “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”
    - 2. Walking in his ways means following his commandments, obeying his Word. This is what man has been called to do all along, and how we got ourselves in trouble in the first place; cf. Genesis 2.16-17, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

3. The Results of Being Blessed

- a. Individually (vv.2-4 and Psalm 127)
  - i. Three areas where the individual may experience blessing for fearing the Lord are in his work, spouse and children
    - 1. Work
      - a. Under the curse, work became a burden; cf. Genesis 3.17-19, “And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
      - b. However, with God’s blessing, work can be pleasurable and prosperous; cf. v.2, Ps. 127.1-2

## 2. Spouse

- a. Another curse of the fall is tension in the marriage relationship; cf. Genesis 3.16b, “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” (compare with desire in Gen. 4.9)
- b. Yet, the blessed person experiences joy in marriage; cf. v.3a (“a fruitful vine” produces much joy)

## 3. Children

- a. Finally, we see that children—though not a curse—do come about through much pain, and are often a source of much distress; cf. Genesis 3.16a, “To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children’” and Cain and Abel.
  - b. But once more, the man who fears the Lord finds much joy in a multitude of children; cf. v.3b, Ps. 127.3-5
- ii. Note: Blessing is not guaranteed in any of these areas, but in as much as we experience it we should know that it comes from God.

## b. Corporately (vv.5-6 and Psalm 133)

- i. Just as blessing comes on the individual who fears the Lord, so to it is found in the community who fears him together. These blessings are found in both peace and prosperity

### 1. Peace

- a. Too many churches are filled with in-fighting and disunity that kills joy (not to mention, their outreach); cf. 1 Corinthians 6.5-7a, “I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you.”
- b. But the church that joins together in their fear of the Lord will experience peace; cf. v.6b and Psalm 133

### 2. Prosperity

- a. Likewise, many churches lose track of what’s most important and lead to their ruin; cf. Revelation 2.4-5, “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”
- b. The church that thinks first and foremost about fearing God will find prosperity both in terms of success today and in the years to come; cf. vv.5-6a

## 4. Conclusion