

September 9, 2021

**Ps. 128:1, “*Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to Him.*” (NIV)**

The Hebrew term for *blessed* is **ashrei** which means *how very happy or full of the LORD's joy*. It is a blessing that is set for those who will fear, honor and reverence the LORD. The connection of this blessing is to everyone who fears the LORD. Remember, this word fear is not in the context of being scared or panicked, but instead it is to hold the LORD in the high esteem that He deserves. This brings the blessing. And, **Neh. 8:10b** reminds us: “***Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.***” (NIV) The very same joy that resides in the Father can also reside in your heart. The LORD loves us so much that He desires for us to be filled with His love and joy.

The addendum to this blessing is - ***who walk in obedience to Him.*** (NIV) I wonder how many people want the blessings of the LORD without the obedience to the LORD? This passage characterizes a faithfully obedient person. This is one whose heart is bent on following the LORD. Their motto is found in **James 1:22**, “***Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.***” (NIV) In other words, let's not say we love that LORD and yet continue to follow our own path and desires. We truly deceive ourselves if we think that what we say is always what we do. The LORD lavishes His blessings on those who will fear Him and walk in the way of obedience. Lastly, this also means to continue in obedience. Not just randomly or selfishly when it fits into our desire, but even when we don't really want to do what He says. That is the full measure of obedience.

**Dear LORD, You have blessed us beyond measure. You lavish Your blessings upon us in so many ways. Help us to walk in reverence and in obedience to Your magnificent plan and purpose for our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen**