

Flourishing & the Family

Psalm 128:1-4 & Deuteronomy 6:1-9

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The gospel touches every area of our lives, resulting in human flourishing. The gospel is not just the good news that Jesus gave His life on the cross for our salvation, but also the reconciliation between God and men through the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross. The gospel not only saves us, it also shapes the way we live our lives (Gal. 2:20). When the truth of the gospel touches our lives, it impacts our faith; we no longer strive to be saved by good works and righteousness. Because of the gospel, we can flourish in all areas of our lives (John 10:10b). It is absolutely biblical to pray for the flourishing of our family (Ps. 92:12-13).

How do I bring flourishing to my family?

1. The Importance of family

The institution of family is God's design and masterpiece. Artists are often recognised by their works and creation. While creation reveals God's magnificence and beauty, the forming of the family reveals His passionate and patient devotion towards us. It was within the nurturing care of Jesus' earthly family that He grew in wisdom, stature and favour with God (Luke 2:52). Our family gives us our identity. Before we are individual citizens or voters, we are first and foremost part of a family. No matter our role, it is possible for us to bring flourishing to our family.

2. The Key to bring flourishing to our family

Psalm 128:1-4 - A song of ascent was a song sung by Israelites as they made their way to worship and offer sacrifices at the temple. It was a family affair; the journey would remind them that God delights in blessing the man

whose heart belongs to the Lord. Psalm 128 is a picture of flourishing, fruitfulness, and abundance flowing all through the family. The fear of the Lord makes family life wonderful. The fear of the Lord is the key to flourishing your family. The wrong kind of fearing God leads us to withdraw and hide from Him (Gen. 3:10). *"Adamic fear is ultimately a kind of aversion to the consequence of sin, and it is often marked by a refusal to take responsibility for one's own condition. Mosaic fear on the other hand is a healthy orientation toward God that draws us deeper into relationship with Him and all that this relationship entails."* - Daniel Castelo. The right kind of fearing God leads to intimacy with and obedience to God (Deut. 12:10-13). The right fear of God leads us to a regular reflection of our holy God who became sin for us so that we can turn to God for healing and restoration (2 Cor. 5:21).

3. The Practice of flourishing

How do we lead our families into a place of flourishing (from Deut. 6:5-9)?

#1 The flourishing of your family begins with you - it must begin with you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

#2 The flourishing of your family requires your witness - we do this through our words and actions, being a witness for Christ in the regular rhythm of life.

True flourishing comes when we walk in the fear of the Lord, when we choose His ways instead of our own. Seek the flourishing of your family by walking in reverent fear of the Lord!