

“How joyful are those who fear the Lord — all who follow his ways!” Psalms 128:1 NLT

lectio // Psalm 128

The Bible is filled with advise, that if followed, leads to all kinds of promises. Some are direct, God says, “If - then I will,” which is His promise to fulfill an agreement. We rarely are able to keep our side of the “if” and end up failing the agreement. There are other promises that are indirect. God (and various writers) point out amazing wisdom and advice, then say, “if you follow this, chances are you’ll reap the benefit.” I believe the Psalmist is writing about these promises here. The if...”fear God and follow his ways.” The then...well there’s a list of benefits: You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How joyful and prosperous you will be! Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table. That is the Lord’s blessing for those who fear him.” These benefits are amazing, and personally, we have experienced each one of them as we’ve gotten older. I’m certain my wife “flourishes,” and our “young olive trees” do gather around our table. And, life is good. We continue to fear and follow because that’s what a relationship with a god looks like. I’m not in this for the benefit package 😊

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

You have been SO good to me (to us). There were many times and seasons where I have failed to hold up my end of the agreement or just wasn’t obedient and yet you are so faithful to forgive, pour out your grace and pick us back up again. There is no perfection in my life, our marriage or our parenting, but we did fear (respect/honor) and obey. All that we are and all that we have came from you.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root