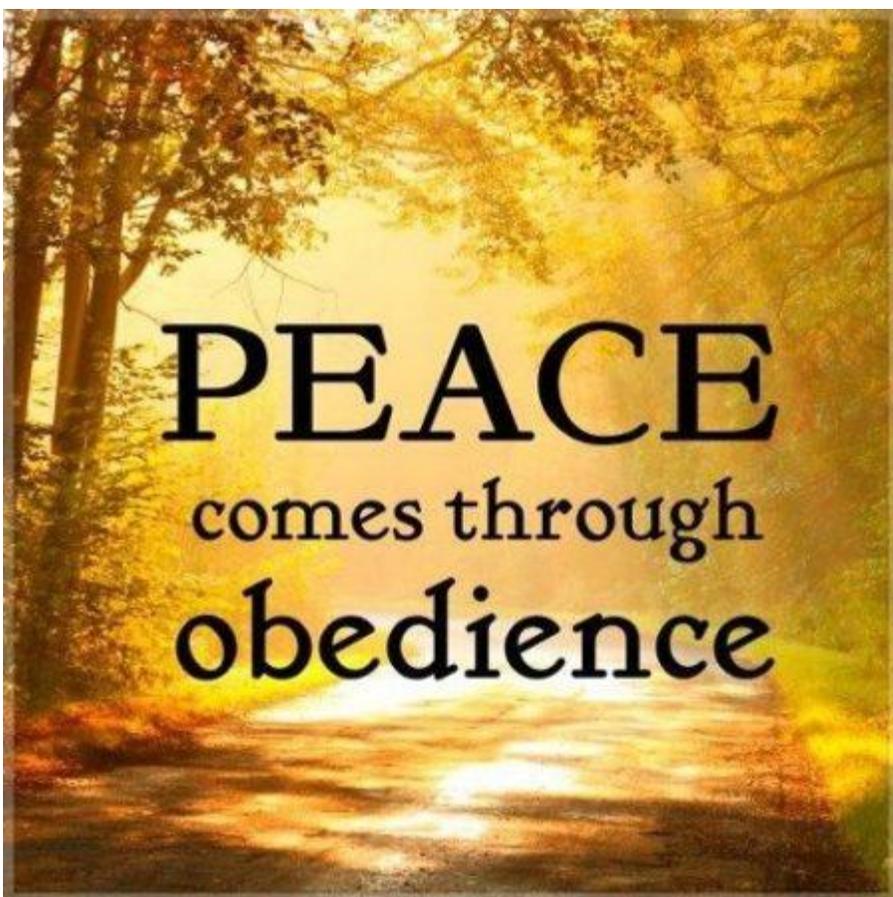


STRIVE FOR A HAPPY HOME - [Psalm 128](#)

[Psalm 128](#): "Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that fear the Lord. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion; and thou shall see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel."

There is so much unhappiness in marriage, and so many families are broken up in a divorce court, that it seems the promise "till death do you part" is taken very lightly by more and more people every day. We pick up the daily newspaper and read of many divorces granted, often for trivial reasons. Still worse, we read of spouses killing one another. Most families break up because they lack religion, or because they are unwilling to bow to God's word. Even in the best Christian homes there is often dissatisfaction and unhappiness, at least temporarily.



The family is the foundation of all Law and Order in the world and without it we would have only chaos. 3 Commandments speak of marriage, so it must be highly regarded by the Lord. God created marriage for man's happiness, and the only thing that good in the Garden of Eden was that man was alone.

Marriage is pleasing to God and it is significant that Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding in Canaan and manifested for his glory. This was indeed a happy wedding with Jesus present; in fact, his presence alone can make a home really happy. Our text, A psalm for the family, describes the blessings of such a home and it is the will of the Lord that all of us should strive to attain a truly happy Dwelling Place.

STRIVE FOR A HAPPY HOME

1. HUSBANDS, BE PIOUS.
HIS FAITH

Our text is addressed first to the husband because he is the responsible head of the home and must answer to God for the ones entrusted in his care. The text assumes that he is a pious father and husband, fears the Lord. A pious man is one who has given his heart to his Savior and believes that He has redeemed him from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. This pious man lives in upright life, showing the fruits of a true faith by trying his best to please the Father in heaven. He loves God and His fellow man. These are the things which make him a happy head of the home.

HIS LABOR

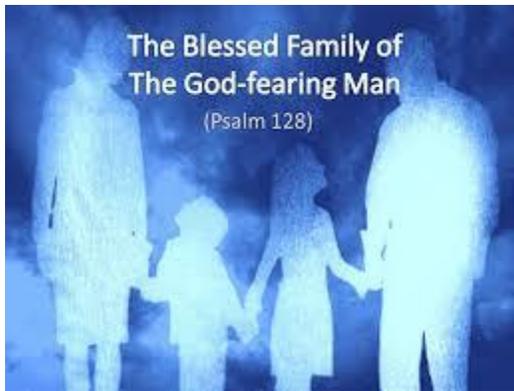
Everyone has a task or a job in life. Even Jesus was a carpenter. Life has no real meaning without some work. Thou shall eat the labor of thy hands; is the will of Him who put us on the earth. A pious husband works hard for his family and is happy in his task. He will never be in great need, for it shall be well with thee. He will often have enough left over to help others in need.

HIS CHURCH

"The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion." The lord of the church will bless these pious men with Grace, Mercy, and joy in His salvation. And they will gladly respond to the Lord's goodness; whenever the church needs anything, they will contribute to its welfare and expansion. What a powerful congregation composed of such pious men!!

HIS HEALTH

"Thou shall see that children's children." Because these pious men are not given over to dissipation, they live a long and healthy life. They use all of the Lord's gifts with moderation and temperance. Fathers and husbands, this text is a good guide for us through life. Where we have failed in the past, may God forgive us for Jesus' sake. Our prayers must always be, "Oh Lord, make us better heads of our homes."



2. WIVES, BE MODEST

HER FAITH

Are text assumes that the wife is of the same faith as her husband, for it was directed to Jews who rarely contracted mixed marriages. Are text presupposes that the wife also "walk in his ways" and "fear the lord." We are very grateful to the Lord for the Christian wives and mothers he has given us. Without them are churches could hardly exist, for they exhort a powerful influence in keeping the family within the church.

HER WORK

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful Vine by the sides of thy house." Her happiness is in her home. Here she is busy with her manifold duties as a housewife. The love of her mother heart fills the home and the husband and the children bask in it, and are happy.

HER PLACE

A wife stands with gentleness and modesty by the side of her husband. She is a tender Vine, and as such is to be handled with love and kindness. Someone has said that Eve was taken from the rib of man; not from his feet that she should be crushed, nor from his head to rule over him. She was taken from man's side to be always next to his heart.

Wives and mothers, are you like the vine in our texts? Do you love your savior above all else in this world? Do you move about in your family circle with meekness and modesty? Do you use your influence to keep the family with the church? Do you pray, "Lord help us overcome our weakness that we may better serve thee?"

3. CHILDREN, BE OBEDIENT
GIFTS OF THE LORD

"Thy children like Olive plants about thy table." God blesses a pious husband and wife with the most precious of gifts, children. They fill up the places around the table and their chatter and laughter permeates the home, gladdening the hearts of the parents. What is a home without children?

TRAINED FOR LORD

Children are to be molded and guided by the parents to go a certain way in life. God gave us children that we should teach them to believe in the Savior as we do. It is Unthinkable that a husband and wife should love the Lord, but not want their children to walk in the way of life eternal. Children learn best by example. If the parent tries to please the Lord, the children will imitate them and, on the other hand, it does little good to send the children to church and instructions, if the parents do not go with them to church.

OBEY PARENTS

Children, we want you to play and enjoy your childhood. But the fourth Commandment must never be forgotten which says, "honor thy father and thy mother." This commandment will not spoil your childhood but really make you happy. Disobedient children can very easily spoil themselves and a good home. If you love Jesus, you will love and obey your parents, for He set us an example by being subject unto his parents.



APPLICATION

May this family song encourage us all to better our home life and make them happier places for all of us. Let us really invite Jesus into our families as he was invited to the marriage in Cana. Then, when trouble arises in our homes, Jesus will reveal His glory to us with His help, as He did when he turned the water into wine. What a great and wonderful day that will be when we and our loved ones will be gathered around the Heavenly Throne, washed pure and white in the blood of the Lamb. Yes, heaven, our eternally happy home, is the final goal of our striving for a happy home on this earth. AMEN.

PRAYER Oh Lord, we ask thee to bless the families in our churches with thy gracious presence. May our parents feel their responsibilities toward their children that they may be brought up in the nurture and

admonition of the Lord. Help our children grow up in thy fear and love so that the future church on earth will have the same love and zeal as in the past. Forgive all sins, dear Savior, and keep us until that great day when we shall see thee face to face. AMEN