

The Blessedness of Becoming Like God

Ponder: Becoming like that which you worship

Scripture: “Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments” (Psalm 112:1, NKJV).

I don't know who first said that we become like that which we worship, but Scripture verifies that statement. Psalm 112 has been called a “twin” of Psalm 111 for several reasons. One of those is that many praiseworthy characteristics of God in 111 are reflected in His people in 112. For example, “The Lord is gracious and full of compassion” (111:4), and so is the upright man of God (112:4). And just as God “has made His wonderful works to be remembered” (111:4), so “the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance” (112:6).

The inspired writer of these psalms ascribes blessedness (happiness) to the person “who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.” It stands to reason that one who truly fears (reverences, stands in awe of) the Lord will also delight in His commandments. But the writer takes it a step further – the blessed man delights “greatly” in the Lord's commandments. Scripture speaks only once more of delighting greatly, in 1 Samuel 19:2 where Jonathan delighted greatly in David. How highly did he esteem David? Jonathan risked his own life to warn David about King Saul's plan to murder him. Jonathan's delight in David outweighed his loyalty to his own father, the King of Israel! The blessed man's regard for God's commandments is that strong.

His reverence for God and delight in His word motivates the blessed man to deal graciously and lend (Psalm 112:5). Verse 9 expands on that generosity: “He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor.”

God-fearing people naturally strive to raise upstanding children. Our psalmist says the descendants of the blessed man will be “mighty on earth” (v. 2) Additionally, “wealth and riches will be in his house” (v. 3). Especially in the Old Testament, God pledged material wealth to those who obeyed His word.

Do you reverence the Lord? Do you delight greatly in His word? How do you show that? Are you becoming more like the One you worship?

Song: “Oh, to be like Thee”

Prayer: Great and holy God, we stand in awe of You. Your word is pure and trustworthy. May we become more and more like You as You mold us into the image of Your precious Son, our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. In His name, Amen.