
Use the message notes and [Discussion Guide](#) to dive deeper into this message from Pastor Eric Gilbert. This message premiered 2/2/2025 on [3trees.Online.Church](#) and the [3trees Church Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

You can download the [DISCUSSION GUIDE](#) here:
“The Blessing”

Psalm 112:1-10 NLT Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. 2 Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. 3 They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever. 4 Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous. 5 Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly. 6 Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. 7 They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. 8 They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. 9 They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor. 10 The wicked will see this and be infuriated. They will grind their teeth in anger; they will slink away, their hopes thwarted.

Psalm 112 paints a picture of a life in-sync with God’s blessings.

- It is a life filled with joy, stability, confidence, and influence.

The psalm highlights FIVE key areas of blessing:

1. Children
2. Finances
3. Relationships
4. Emotions
5. Influence

Let’s break it down...

1. A Blessing Upon Your Children

Psalm 112:2 NLT Their **children** will be successful everywhere...

What is your status with children?

- Don't have children?
- Children already grown?
- Don't want children?

Children are like FLOWERS in a vase...

- ...one is always pointing in the wrong direction...
- PICTURE TIME???

Do You Have Blueprints for Your Children?

Proverbs 22:6 tells us, *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

- But how do we discern that “way”?
- Do we merely raise our children, or do we invest in them with intention?

A prime biblical example is Hannah and Samuel.

- Hannah prayed fervently for a son, and when God gave her Samuel, she dedicated him to the Lord's service.
- Samuel grew to be a mighty prophet who anointed Israel's first kings (1 Samuel 1-3).
- Hannah didn't merely raise a child—she released a prophet.

The question is, are we raising children, or are we releasing world-changers?

- Many parents today no longer “bring up” their children; they simply finance them.

2. A Blessing Upon Your Finances

Psalm 112:3 NLT They themselves will be **wealthy**...

One guy said: *"I never worry about money. I have enough to last me the rest of my life – as long as I don't buy anything."*

Tozer said: *"The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One."*

Hudson Taylor's Faith in God's Provision

- Hudson Taylor, the founder of China Inland Mission, once faced a severe lack of finances in his ministry.
- Instead of panicking, he alternated between reading the Bible and praying.
- When his wife asked how they would manage, Taylor famously said:
- ***"We have twenty-seven cents—and all the promises of God!" —Hudson Taylor [1]***
 - That is wealth!
 - Taylor understood that God's provision isn't limited by our resources.

Psalm 112:5 further says, *"Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly."*

- The full context of this text implies that financial blessing isn't just about accumulation; it's about distribution.
- **God's aspiration seems to be that we will be a LENDING institution:**
 - More than just enough!

A New Testament Model: Acts 2:42-47

- The early church thrived on generosity.
- They shared everything, ensuring that no one had unmet needs.

-
-it was sacrificial generosity.
 - And what was the result? *"The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."* (Acts 2:47)

The principle is clear: We are blessed to be a blessing.

- Likewise, we learn that money doesn't determine success—relationships do.

If God blesses you FINANCIALLY, you can be certain RELATIONSHIPS will be involved.

According to the **Stanford Research Institute**, the money made in any endeavor is determined only 12.5% by knowledge, and 87.5% by your ability to deal with people. But also...68% of customers quit shopping with you because of an attitude of indifference toward them by an employee... (The Winning Attitude, John Maxwell, Nelson Books, 1996)

3. A Blessing Upon Your Relationships

Psalm 112:4 NLT They are **generous, compassionate, and righteous**.

⇒ **Blessed to be a blessing!**

Psalm 112 reminds us that true prosperity isn't measured in possessions, but in:

- Generosity, compassion, and righteousness.
 - All three of those things directly affect our relationships.

John Wesley was certainly a man who was known to live a life exemplifying all three of those things.

- At one point in his life, he earned a substantial income.

-
- But instead of hoarding wealth, he capped his personal expenses and gave away the rest.
 - When he died, he had only a few coins to his name, but he had funded countless ministries, orphanages, and missions.[2]
 - However, despite his insistence upon there being no excess at the time of his death, his funeral procession was attended by over 10,000 people. (See notes at end.)

On the other hand...

John Ortberg tells the story in his book, "When the Game Is Over, It All Goes back in the Box."

- Armand Hammer was the President and CEO of Occidental Petroleum for many years. He was a giant of capitalism and a confidant of world leaders. He was a towering figure on the world scene.
- But after his death, the true picture of this man became clear.
- He got his start laundering money for the Soviets.
- After he made his money, he paid authors to write fictitious autobiographies of his life to impress other people.
- When he was a young man almost ready to graduate from medical school, he performed an abortion and almost killed the woman.
- His father took the blame for this and spent two years in prison, and the son never spoke up and said he did it.
- He neglected his own son and never acknowledged the daughter he conceived out of wedlock.
- He had no friends in his company where he freely fired his executives.
- When his brother died, he sued his brother's estate for \$667,000 of the \$700,000 estate, keeping the money from his brother's children and brother's wife who was

in a nursing home.

- When he died, his own son did not attend the funeral, and the only people who carried his casket were those who were paid to take care of him in his home.

Thankfully, the second part of this verse states: *"light shines in the darkness for the godly..."* (v. 4)

- Because our most troubling DARKNESS is often in our EMOTIONS...
 - Specifically, the emotions that derive from
 - raising children
 - managing finances
 - and nurturing relationships...
 - Every relationship struggle traced back to some sense of emotion...pride, greed, comparison, discontentment

4. A Blessing Upon Your Emotions

Psalm 112:7 NLT They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.

*"WORRY is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind.
If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained."*

Nenien C. McPherson, Jr., says that:

- The fear of FALLING and the fear of LOUD NOISES are the only fears that are natural to us.
 - There are only two...all the rest are learned.

Psalm 112 says, *"They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly."* (v. 8)

Martin Luther's Confidence in God

- During the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther faced severe opposition—excommunication, threats on his life, and trials before political and religious authorities.
- When summoned in 1521, Luther boldly declared:
 - “Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason... my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other.”[3]
 - Luther's confidence wasn't in human approval but in God's sovereignty.

Fear is the enemy of faith, but trusting in the Lord removes fear's power.

⇒ The world needs fearless believers who leave a lasting impact.

5. A Blessing Upon Your Influence

Psalm 112:9 NLT They will have **influence** and honor.

The Example of the CONFIDENT - FEARLESS - UNMATCHED... Influence of Jesus Christ:

- Philip Schaff, a 19th-century historian, once wrote of Jesus:
 - “Without money and arms, he conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon;
 - without science, he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined;
 - without the eloquence of schooling, he spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects beyond the reach of orator or poet;

-
- without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.”[4]

Acts 17:6 declares, *“Those that have turned the world upside down have come here also.”*

- Your voice matters.
- A drip can start a flood.

When we live in obedience to God’s commands, our influence will endure beyond our lifetime.

CONCLUSION:

If we desire a meaningful life, we must understand the power of legacy.

- Psalm 112 reminds us that the righteous will be remembered forever.

Psalm 112:1-10 NLT Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. 2 Their children will be successful everywhere; **an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.** 3 They themselves will be wealthy, **and their good deeds will last forever.** 4 Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous. 5 Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly. 6 Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. 7 They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. 8 They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. 9 They share freely and give generously to those in need. **Their good deeds will be remembered forever.** They will have influence and honor.

Psalm 112:10 The wicked will see this and be infuriated. They will grind their teeth in anger; they will slink away, their hopes thwarted.

Footnotes

-
- [1]: J. Hudson Taylor, *Spiritual Secret of Hudson Taylor* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1954), 101.
- [2]: John Wesley, *Sermons on Several Occasions* (London: J. Paramore, 1788), 2:213.
- [3]: Martin Luther, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* (New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950), 185.
- [4]: Philip Schaff, *The Person of Christ* (New York: American Tract Society, 1913), 12.

Bibliography

Luther, Martin. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950.

Schaff, Philip. *The Person of Christ*. New York: American Tract Society, 1913.

Taylor, J. Hudson. *Spiritual Secret of Hudson Taylor*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1954.

Wesley, John. *Sermons on Several Occasions*. London: J. Paramore, 1788.

The Funeral of John Wesley: A Historical Account

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, passed away on March 2, 1791, at the age of 87. His life had been one of tireless preaching, organizational leadership, and a radical commitment to Christian holiness and social reform. His death was met with widespread mourning, particularly among the thousands who had been influenced by his ministry. Wesley's funeral on March 9, 1791, was a deeply solemn yet profoundly significant event, marking not just the passing of a man, but the continuation of a movement.

1. Wesley's Final Moments

In his last days, Wesley was surrounded by friends and fellow Methodists at his home on City Road, London. Though physically weak, he remained spiritually strong. His final words, spoken softly but with conviction, were:

"The best of all is, God is with us." [1]

As he lay on his deathbed, those present sang hymns, including Charles Wesley's "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath." Wesley tried to join in but was too weak to sing. He continued to affirm his trust in God, quoting Psalm 23 and Isaiah 26:3, which reads:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." [2]

His final word was simply "Farewell." Shortly after, he passed into eternity.

2. The Funeral Procession and Service

On March 9, 1791, Wesley's funeral was held at City Road Chapel in London, a church he had established. Though Wesley had requested a simple and inexpensive burial, thousands gathered to pay their respects. The chapel was filled to capacity, and crowds estimated at 10,000 people stood outside in the streets to honor him.[3]

A Simple Burial

In keeping with his lifelong humility, Wesley was buried in a plain white coffin, carried by six poor men whom he had personally helped during his ministry.[4] His body was laid to rest in the small cemetery behind City Road Chapel.

Funeral Sermon and Eulogies

The funeral sermon was delivered by Dr. John Whitehead, a Methodist preacher and physician. He emphasized Wesley's tireless efforts in spreading the gospel, stating:

"He lived to serve others and died with the joy of the Lord in his heart."[5]

In addition to Whitehead, several prominent Methodist leaders spoke, recounting Wesley's extraordinary impact on England, America, and beyond. His life had transformed not just individual souls but also social structures, advocating for prison reform, education for the poor, and the abolition of slavery.

3. The Public Response to Wesley's Death

A Nation in Mourning

News of Wesley's passing spread rapidly across England, Ireland, Scotland, and even America. Many Methodist societies held memorial services, and newspapers published glowing tributes to his life and legacy.

One tribute read:

"He was the best loved man in England... He was little in stature, but his soul was great."[6]

No Wealth, Only Legacy

Despite leading one of the most significant Christian movements in history, Wesley left behind no personal wealth. Throughout his life, he had donated nearly all of his earnings to charity, often saying, "If I die with more than ten pounds, may every man call me a thief!"[7]

Instead of wealth, Wesley's true legacy was the worldwide Methodist movement, which had over 100,000 members at the time of his death.[8]

4. Wesley's Final Resting Place

Wesley's tombstone was inscribed with the following words:

"To the memory of the venerable John Wesley, A.M., late fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, the founder of the Methodist societies..."

It concluded with a message that reflected his humility:

"Reader, if thou art constrained to bless the instrument, give God the glory." [9]

Conclusion: The Death of a Leader, the Birth of a Legacy

Wesley's funeral was not merely the end of a life; it was the passing of a torch. His influence did not fade with his death but rather expanded, as the Methodist movement continued to grow.

Philip Schaff once described Wesley's impact:

"He being dead yet speaketh, and his words and deeds continue to move the world." [10]

John Wesley died with empty pockets, but he left behind a world full of changed lives.

Footnotes

[^1]: Richard Green, *The Life and Death of John Wesley* (London: Wesleyan Methodist Book Room, 1905), 276.

[^2]: *Ibid.*, 277.

[^3]: John Telford, *The Life of John Wesley* (London: Charles H. Kelly, 1900), 403.

[^4]: Luke Tyerman, *The Life and Times of John Wesley* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1872), 602.

[^5]: *Ibid.*, 604.

[^6]: Green, *The Life and Death of John Wesley*, 279.

[^7]: John Wesley, *Works of John Wesley* (London: John Mason, 1831), 12:142.

[^8]: Telford, *The Life of John Wesley*, 405.

[^9]: Green, The Life and Death of John Wesley, 281.

[^10]: Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church (New York: Scribner, 1885), 5:696.

Bibliography

Green, Richard. The Life and Death of John Wesley. London: Wesleyan Methodist Book Room, 1905.

Schaff, Philip. History of the Christian Church. Vol. 5. New York: Scribner, 1885.

Telford, John. The Life of John Wesley. London: Charles H. Kelly, 1900.

Tyerman, Luke. The Life and Times of John Wesley. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1872.

Wesley, John. Works of John Wesley. London: John Mason, 1831.