Devotion #292

**A Gift From God**

**Psalm 127:3 (NASB)** *“Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward*.”

I’m sure that if you are a parent you remember very well the day you brought your little bundle of joy home for the first time. But even before that, you probably remember the day you first learned you were going to be a parent. Then, after the shock, and joy of course, you settled in to the new life you were about to embark on. Things were not routine necessarily, but you adapted to the new normal. Then as the day of the baby’s arrival was getting closer, a new kind of panic set in - one of joy and anticipation, and one that would say, “This really is going to happen.”. Finally there he or she was, and you couldn’t stop looking at them - almost the same as sitting around a campfire and being mesmerized by the flame. So cute, so tender, so adorable, so innocent. You felt so protective because you didn’t want anything to happen to your precious little one.

Then something happened. They started changing. They started crying. A lot. And they didn’t care what was going on in your life, they just wanted you to take care of whatever they needed. Immediately. If it was the middle of the night, and you were finally getting some much-needed rest, they woke you up with a scream as if to say, “Feed me, now”!! Or when you needed to take care of other life details, and you put them down for a nap hoping to get a couple hours to yourself. But just when you were getting started, you heard it, that little sound that quickly turned into a much louder sound and then a cry. And all the wind was suddenly taken out of your sails.

But through it all you didn’t mind, because they were yours. They were your responsibility. This is what you signed up for, and, so, you do or did what every parent does - you sacrifice everything for them simply because you love them. And they need you.

Sadly, some say, if they were honest, “This is too hard. I need a break”. And somewhere along the line they forget, in all the business of caring/feeding/clothing, etc., that each child is a gift - a gift from God Himself. That’s what the Lord says through the Psalmist. In fact, not only does he say that a child is a gift from God but also a child is a reward. Now you may not feel like children are a blessing or a reward, but that’s because your sinfulness has clouded your understanding, but the truth is that God has blessed you with something only He could trust you with. He didn’t give your child or children to anyone else. He gave them to you. A gift from Him.

Amazing isn’t it? That sinfulness could be so persuasive that there could be times when a person is so tempted to believe their child is not a blessing but is, instead, a curse. That is the power of Satan. But that is also a lie. A lie that many parents believe as truth. And when that happens, in the extreme of it all, children are abandoned - left with no one to nurture and care for them, bouncing from home to home at times and wondering what a real parent/family is.

But God is never that way. His love is always unconditional. Not that He will let anyone stay in their sin and get away with it, but He never turns from anyone who wants His love. And that’s the way He wants every parent to be. To live in His love so much that they want nothing more than to pass on the same love He has for them to their own children. To love them unconditionally. Again, not accepting their sin, but to love them as human beings, as priceless treasures.

Beloved, if you are a parent or hope to be a parent, never forget that children are never given from God as a curse or irritation or intrusion in your life, but each one is a gift to you from Him. Could there be any greater joy for anyone than to be blessed so much by God that He would entrust the life of another person to you? I think not. So, praise God for your children today, and thank Him for the joy of being a parent.