

The Steady Hearted Person

Psalm 112

"I am very fruitless and almost useless, but the Word and the attributes of God are my hope, my confidence, and my joy, and I trust that his glorious designs will undoubtedly be answered."

Missionary William Carey

"If anyone should think it worth his while to write my life ... If he will give me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly. Anything beyond this will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything." Missionary William Carey

"For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news. His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is steady; he will not be afraid..." Psalm 112:6-8

"so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." Ephesians 4:14 (ESV)

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

How do we foster a steady, faithful, maturing, and unrattled presence in a world of conflict and chaos and reactionary volatility?

I. Steadiness Is the Fruit of The Gift of Spiritual Singlemindedness. Psalm 112:1

"Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!" Psalm 112:1 (ESV)

One of the greatest gifts in life is to become by God's grace someone who has a singular ambition or attitude: to supremely fear God and to delight greatly in His Word.

How do we fuel single-mindedness towards the Lord?

- **Our First Responsibility Is to Fuel a Reverence for God and His Word.**

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all

your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?"Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (ESV)

- **Our Second Responsibility Is To Cultivate a Heart of Humble Teachability.**

"Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." Deuteronomy 10:16-19 (ESV)

" Not till we have become humble and teachable, standing in awe of God's holiness and sovereignty acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts, and willing to have our minds turned upside down, can divine wisdom become ours." J.I. Packer

- **Our third responsibility is to refuse to let anything unseat God as your highest priority and greatest prize.**

"You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen." Deuteronomy 10:20-21 (ESV)

"If you don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great." John Piper – A Hunger for God

2. Singlemindedness Brings a Host Of Blessings through the Person Who Fears God. Psalm 112:2-10.

- **A Spiritual Legacy: His Devotion Impacts His Family and Those that Follow. (Psalm 112:2-3)**

"His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever." Psalm 112:2-3 (ESV)

- **A Life of Merciful Generosity: Those In Need Find a Man of Continual Compassion. (Psalm 112:4-6).**

"Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever." Psalm 112:4-6 (ESV)

- **A Testimony of Courageous Stability: Unwavering in the Hardest of Times. (Psalm 112:7-8).**

"He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries." Psalm 112:7-8 (ESV)

- **An Impact That Is Felt Into Eternity: His Life now Makes a Mark that is Felt into Eternity. (Psalm 112:9-10)**

"He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor. The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!" Psalm 112:9-10 (ESV)

Who is this single-minded man but Jesus?

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.'" John 17:1-4 (ESV)

Study Questions:

1. Psalm 112 describes a person whose heart is “steady” and who is not afraid of bad news. What kinds of circumstances, news, or pressures most easily unsettle your heart? What does this psalm say is the foundation of true steadiness?
2. Verse 1 says the blessed person “fears the Lord” and “greatly delights in his commandments.” What is the relationship between reverence for God and delight in God’s Word? How can we grow in both?
3. The sermon described spiritual single-mindedness as refusing to let anything unseat God as our highest priority and greatest prize. What competing priorities or “small things” most commonly crowd out our hunger for God?
4. J.I. Packer said that humility and teachability require us to distrust our own thoughts and be willing to have our minds turned upside down by God. Why is humility so important for spiritual maturity? Where might God be challenging you to become more teachable?
5. Psalm 112 connects devotion to God with generosity, mercy, and concern for those in need. Why do you think a steady heart naturally expresses itself in generosity? What might this look like in our everyday lives?
6. The righteous person is not immune to bad news, but he is not controlled by it because his heart is “firm, trusting in the Lord.” How is biblical courage different from simply being naturally confident, optimistic, or emotionally strong?
7. William Carey described himself as a “plodder” who could persevere in a definite pursuit. What does faithful “plodding” look like in the Christian life? Where are you currently being called to remain steadfast even when you do not see immediate results?
8. The sermon ultimately points us to Jesus as the perfectly single-minded and steady-hearted person, who accomplished the work the Father gave Him. How does looking to Jesus—not merely trying harder—help us become more steady, faithful, and courageous in a chaotic world?