**RIDING GOD PIGGYBACK**

***Children As A Heritage From the Lord***

Are you familiar with the passage which says, “*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord*?” I’m sure most of you have heard it many times. But did you know the context in which it is found? To parents who are serious about homemaking it will open your eyes to a great truth. Read Psalm 127 with me:

​ 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;
 Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.
 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late,
 To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.
 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.
 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.
 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed,
 But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Solomon, known for writing 3000 proverbs, is also known for writing 1005 songs (see I Kgs. 4:32). But the only two Psalms in the Old Testament that possibly were written by Solomon were Psalm 72 and this one in Psalm 127. Let’s break this one down.

In verses 1-2 he claims three things as “vain” or worthless unless God is in the plans:
1) Building a house.
2) Guarding a city.
3) Working long hours.

In and of themselves these activities are not wrong. In fact, you probably will get the house built, warn the city successfully, and be a great businessman or farmer. But from the viewpoint of eternity they are all works that are in “vain” when you leave God out. But when he says at the end of verse 2, “*for so He gives His beloved sleep*” he tells us something about how God gets involved in our projects. When God calls us His “beloved” He is stating a truth that is much deeper than what we see at first glance. I had read that phrase many times and simply observed the Passover (i.e. I passed right over it). But go below the surface and dig deeper. God’s “beloved” (Hebrew YADID) carries clout far greater than owning a Visa card.

Deuteronomy 33:12 says, “*Let the beloved* (YADID) *of the Lord rest secure in Him, for He shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between His shoulders*.” What a magnificent thought! God’s beloved ride piggyback! Like a small child who is trying hard to keep up with his parents as they walk or go on a hike, the father scoops the lad up and puts him on his shoulders, carrying him easily to where they are going.

When my daughter was a small little peanut I took her snow sledding on a steep hill near our house. I would let her lie on my back as we flew down the hill. But then, of course, we had to go back up. She tried to hike back up once but it was too hard. So I carried her on my shoulders while I pulled the sled. We did that for several hours. She loved it! But I’ll never forget what she said after we had done it about fifty times and I was worn plum out. “Daddy, let’s do it again, I’m not tired at all.” No sweetheart, you’re not tired. But daddy is.

But God isn’t, for He can carry all of us combined on His shoulders all day long without tiring at all. While resting, or even in sleep, we make progress because God is at work bearing the heavy burden Himself. Our projects, if done within God’s will, are destined to be prosperous because God is working behind the scenes even when we sleep. I love it!

Solomon gives us a case in point in verses 3-5. “*Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is his reward*.” Are we working with the Lord in the raising of our children? If not, we labor in vain. They, along with ourselves, will likely be last. But if we work with God, He will carry us piggyback when we become weary or lack wisdom during moments when we must make crucial decisions. Our prayers and Bible study will be seen and heard by our Father. He will bless us in our quest to save our children.

There are things I do not fully understand about Psalm 127. But one thing is clear, the time and energy we spend as parents on our children is one of the few projects on earth that will be rewarded both here and in the hereafter. It is a labor of love in which I know for certain God is with me.

Let me give you a prayer I said often when seeking to raise my children as a heritage from the Lord:

“Abba, Father. As I try to raise this child, knowing he (she) is merely on loan from You, and that he (she) is my heritage from You, bless me Lord with success. Please dear God, work with me and his (her) mother that our labors will not be in vain. As Your beloved, when I falter and fail in my decisions that could be detrimental to this child’s future, please Lord, carry me piggyback. When I come to life’s end, Father, may this child live as my heritage. May he (she) also be Your beloved, and may You give him (her) rest between Your shoulders until we meet again before Your throne. In Jesus precious name I pray, Amen.”

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