

God Bless Our Families!

Franklin Church of Christ
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PM Worship

Introduction:

We began our Fall Family Focus: Built by the Lord, by noticing the following passage.

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman keeps awake in vain.
It is vain for you to rise up early,
To retire late,
To eat the bread of painful labors;
For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.*

Psalm 127:1-2

We learned our homes must be built by the Lord, that is, founded on the Lord's word. We have invested the last five weeks learning how we must work to let the Lord build our homes. As we conclude, we want to remember that our homes can only be built properly when the Lord's hand is with us, when He is blessing us and our homes. We know the Lord can bless us even in our sleep. However, for the Lord to bless us, we must invite His blessing. **Matthew 7:7-11** explains how gracious our Father is and concludes by saying, "How much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" As we conclude our family focus, we want to examine the roles in our families and learn the blessings for which we should be praying. Granted, we may ask for many physical blessings—homes, financial security, health, prosperity, etc. However, in this lesson, we will briefly take note of the spiritual blessings for which we should pray.

Discussion:

- I. God bless our husbands.
 - A. **Ephesians 5:23-25** demonstrates the husband is the head of the home. He is the leader. However, unlike worldly leaders, his leadership is meted out through love. As we seek God's blessing on our husbands, they should tie back to these two aspects of his role in the home.
 - B. As a leader, we should pray that God grant our husbands wisdom to know where to lead (**James 1:5**). We should pray that God grant our husbands understanding of their wives, and by extension their children, to know how to lead (**1 Peter 3:7**). We should pray that God bless them with the humility to serve as a godly leader (**Luke 22:25-27**). We should pray that God bless our husbands with strength to keep watch over our souls as the one who would give account for us (**Hebrews 13:17**). Further, we should pray that God strengthen us to be a blessing to our husbands that he may perform his duty with joy and not grief.
 - C. As one who leads in love, we should certainly pray God bless our husbands with the characteristics found in **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**. May God bless them with patience, kindness, humility, propriety, an even-temper, selflessness, righteousness, strength to bear all things and hope to trust all things.
 - D. Our husbands have a great responsibility, may God, through His word and providence, grant them the blessings needed to accomplish their role.
- II. God bless our wives.
 - A. **Genesis 2:18** demonstrates the wives' number one role is to act as a helper to their husbands. As **Ephesians 5:22**, demonstrates, they are to do so in submission. As we seek God's blessing on the wives among us, our requests should tie back to these responsibilities.
 - B. As a helper, we should ask God to bless our wives with wisdom, knowledge and foresight regarding what is good for their families. **Proverbs 31:12, 21** demonstrates the wives' need for goodness and foresight. We should pray that God bless our wives with discernment to make proper choices of management (**Proverbs 31:16**). We should pray that God bless our wives with the strength and stamina it takes to manage the home (**Proverbs 31:25, 27**).
 - C. As a helper who submits, we should ask God to bless our wives with the humility necessary to submit to a man who is sometimes flawed (perhaps more than sometimes). She needs the humility Jesus had as He voluntarily submitted to the Father (**Philippians 2:5ff**). We should pray

that God bless our wives with the capacity to love their husbands enough to submit. We should pray that God bless them with the characteristics in **I Corinthians 13:4-7**. Especially for those who must submit to an unbeliever, we should pray that God bless them with patience and endurance that they might win their husbands through a proper example (**I Peter 3:1-2**).

- D. Our wives have a great responsibility in the home, may God, through His word and providence, grant them the blessings needed to accomplish their role.

III. God bless our parents.

- A. As **Ephesians 6:4** explains, the parents' job is to bring up their children in God's discipline and instruction and to refrain from provoking their children to anger. As we seek God's blessing for our parents, our prayers should hearken back to these responsibilities.
- B. According to *Strong's Enhanced Lexicon*, the term translated "bring them up" in **Ephesians 6:4**, means "to rear up to maturity." We need to pray that God bless our parents with the foresight to envision what maturity means, to see what their kids need to be by the time they leave the home. We need to pray that God bless our parents with the wisdom to discipline and instruct their children to that point of maturity. Further, we need to pray that God bless them with the wisdom to know when to push the child further and when to accept them where they are. We need to pray that our parents have the self-discipline to pass the torch on to their children (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**). We need to pray that God bless our parents with the ability to manage and redeem the time they have with their children (**Ephesians 5:15-16**).
- C. In order to refrain from provoking their children to anger, we need to seek God's blessing on them to know and administer discipline, correction and punishment in the proper manner to produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness and not to vent anger, assuage embarrassment or accomplish vengeance (**Hebrews 12:7-12**). Further, as with the other roles, we need to pray that God bless the parents with the ability to love their children as **I Corinthians 13:4-7** defines love. Beyond that, we need to pray that they can love their children as **Titus 2:4** speaks of love. That is a brotherly love or a friendship love. This is the ability to look to their children and say, "I like them and want what is best for them." We also need to pray that God bless the parents with the ability to allow their children what God allows them according to **Ecclesiastes 11:9**, to pursue the impulses of their heart and the desire of their eyes, so long as they are remembering their creator. Finally, we need to pray that God bless parents with the humility to say, "I'm sorry, will you forgive me?" when they have done something wrong and the humility to forgive their children, when the children make the same request (**Matthew 18:21-22**).
- D. Our parents have a great responsibility in the home, may God, through His word and providence, grant them the blessings needed to accomplish their role.

IV. God bless our children.

- A. Sadly, in our society children are prompted to be glorified leeches who take and take and never stop taking even when they are no longer children. The role of children in the home, however, is demonstrably different according to two passages. First, in **Ephesians 6:1-2**, they are commanded to honor and obey their parents. Second, in **Luke 2:52**, Jesus exemplified proper childhood growth by "increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." When we pray for God's blessings on our children, we need to hearken back to these responsibilities.
- B. In many ways, it is difficult to pray strictly for the blessings on our children. After all, so many of their blessings will be funneled through their parents. Therefore, we begin to pray for God's blessings on our children by praying for God's blessings on their parents. We need to pray that God bless our children with good role models and instructors for parents.
- C. As we pray for our children to honor and obey their parents, we need to pray that God bless them with the wisdom and longevity to see the good in their parents' discipline (**Hebrews 12:11**). We need to pray that God bless them with the wherewithal to live by their parents' wise instruction (**Proverbs 1:8-9**). We need to pray that God bless them with the capacity to love their parents (**I Corinthians 13:4-7**) and through that the resilience to continue on even when their parents make mistakes.
- D. As we pray for our children to increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men, we need to pray that God bless them with the commitment to hide God's word in their hearts

(**Psalm 119:9, 11**). We need to pray that God bless them with the wisdom to refuse evil and choose good (**Isaiah 7:16**). We need to pray that God bless them with the strength to withstand peer pressure (**Proverbs 1:10**). We need to pray that God bless them with the presence of mind to remember Him, God, even as they stretch their wings and pursue the impulses of their heart and the delight of their eyes (**Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1**).

E. Our kids have a great responsibility as they grow up in our homes. May God, through His word and providence, grant them the blessings needed to accomplish their role.

V. God bless our grandparents.

A. One role we do not spend very much time discussing is grandparents. In our modern society, grandparents are not part of the nuclear family as they once were. Yet, grandparents perform a great role in our families. As demonstrated by Lois in **II Timothy 1:5**, grandparents play a part in passing on the faith. As we pray for our grandparents, we need to hearken back to this role.

B. **Proverbs 20:29** says, "The glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their grey hair." In a society that increasingly discounts our senior citizens, we need to pray that God bless our grandparents with the realization that the wisdom they have from experience is worth just as much, if not more, than the physical work the young and strong can accomplish. We should pray that God bless our grandparents with honor and respect from those of us who have not experienced what they have (**Leviticus 19:32**). We should pray that the grandparents are able to instruct with patience (just as preachers are supposed to, **II Timothy 4:2**) recognizing that it took them time to learn what they know and it will take us time as well. We should pray that our grandparents have the wisdom to pass on what they have learned about serving God, not only to their children but also their grandchildren (**Deuteronomy 4:9**). Certainly, we should pray that our grandparents are blessed with the wisdom to know when not to meddle. At the same time, we should pray that our grandparents are blessed with children who know they can still learn a great deal from the people who raised them.

C. Our grandparents have a great responsibility in our homes. May God, through His word and providence, grant them the blessings needed to accomplish their role.

Conclusion:

Many times we hear about people who pray for hours at a time and wonder what on earth it is they are praying for. If you want to work on increasing your prayer life and becoming a better intercessor for your brethren, why not take the congregational directory and pray for these blessings on our members? If the Lord is going to build our homes, we have to invite Him in through prayer. May God richly bless our husbands, wives, parents, children and grandparents.