

## How To Pray When you Fear for Your Children.

S. R. Psalm 12:1 – 4

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Intro. What kind of world will our children and grandchildren find as they return to school?

- Psalm 12 serves as a model prayer: A Generational Psalm of David
- 12:1 Prayer – godless generation - vs. 8 “vileness is exalted among the sons of men”

What hope is there for our children in the realm of education.? Psalm we need to pray.

- 1 An analysis of the assault against our children.
- 2 A Strategy for prayer and action
  - a. 2 Cor. 4:4 “in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

Three brands of deception: To assault us and our children:

1. Vanity Psalm 12:2
  - a. Lies – “speak falsehood” - (KJV vanity) emptiness to his neighbor
  - b. Hebrew - in the sense of *desolating*; *evil* (as *destructive*), literally (*ruin*) or morally (especially *guile*); figuratively *idolatry* (as false, subjectively), *uselessness* (as deceptive, objectively; also adverbially in *vain*): - false (-ly), lie, lying, vain, vanity.
  - c. Cultural and Media Hyped – “News”
  - d. Trivia blinds you from what really matters. Orwell and Huxley – Brave New World
    - i. George Orwell – 1984 - we will succumb to a totalitarian regime.
    - ii. Aldous Huxley – book *Brave New World*
    - iii. 1985 Neil Postman: “Amusing Ourselves to Death.”
2. Satan’s Second Device: Flattery
  - a. Flattery – saying only what other people want to hear and hearing only what you want other people to say.
  - b. Psalm 12:2b – 3 “With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, The tongue that speaks great things;”
  - c. Satan’s second great tool of deception (2 Cor. 4:4). “blinding the minds”
  - d. Flattery is the spoken language (political correctness) of a culture of vanity.
  - e. 2 Tim. 4:1 – 4
  - f. Isaiah 30:9 – 11 (Context – going back to Egypt)
  - g. Flattery is a powerful addiction – Desire only affirmation and personal approval.
3. Blasphemy: Psalm 12:4
  - a. 12:4 Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"

- b. We say, I am the Lord (master) of my life and no one will tell me what to do or think and no one must be allowed to condemn any of my actions regardless of how much harm they cause.
- c. Blasphemy is the act of insulting God and claiming for self the privileges of deity
- d. It says You are your own God. You are absorbed by the vanity and flattery of this world.
- e. Satan used these three on Jesus when tempted in Matthew 4.
- f. I am intolerant of any thinking or action that suggests a supreme Creator to whom I must give an account.
- g. 12:5 **God will rescue us** from the oppression of the Vain, Flattering and Blasphemous pressures surrounding our children – grandchildren.
- h. Are we seeking God’s rescue?
  - i. Is Bible class more important than school class?
  - ii. What would our children say based upon our priorities?
- i. Analysis of the world in which our children are growing up.

Move From Analysis - to Strategy for How to Move future generations:

**Need to pray for our Children: Lord – help – save us from the godless** “Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.” (NIV)

- Ask others to pray for our children. Offer to help teach the children.
- God Speaks - God’s Words Psalm 12:6 “pure words” “The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.”

It is of Supreme value – Silver – refined – 7 times (2 Cor. 4:6)

**Far more imperative than being or becoming smart is the need to become pure and holy. You only learn that from the teaching of the will of God.**

Psalm 12:7 You, LORD, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked,

- God will protect those who are fully His.

12:8 The wicked and the vile “strut about” and “exalt vileness”.

How will we prepare our children to enter the battlefield of vanity, flattery and blasphemy on a daily basis?

**Stragies: Beside praying for your children and grandchildren:**

- Pray for their teachers:
- Pray for the teacher’s family.
- Pray that teachers feel appreciated: (Romans 12:6 – 7)
- Praying for God’s influence in the teacher’s life as a conduit of God’s blessing to our children.