

Blessing Your Child's Spirit

By Arthur Burk

Congratulations, Mother, for embarking on the most sophisticated, amazing, building project any human being can do.

All of us are designed to be builders. All of us are supposed to leave the world a better place than when we came. But building another human being is remarkable. It is amazing. It is a work of art and a work of skill, unparalleled by anything that is built after a child comes out of the womb.

There is an interesting paradox and tension here.

Even though you do all the heavy lifting of building and birthing this child, you do not get to design it. God designed your child, and He designed it with fierce intentionality.

You have a lot of wishes, hopes, and desires about your child, but fundamentally the baby that you are carrying is a mystery. You do not know whether they will be a musician, an athlete or a socially engaging leader for a large group of people.

You probably have a lot of wishes. Those wishes are not wrong, but they are not really high impact. God gets to design and that is the bottom line.

Ephesians 2:10 gives us some grid for the reason He designed your child the way He does. It is because the child has to **fit**.

Think of playing Scrabble and having this amazing word, but there is no place on the board to play it.

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God does not have that problem. He is looking at the the world, looking at all of the things that need to be done in a particular generation. He designs us to specifically do a set of good works that fit in the global playing field.

Amazing prescience. Amazing knowledge of what the world is going to be like as your child grows and fills his or her space.

There is some more detail to that in Psalm 139: *"God's eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."*

Then follows a statement of worship. "How precious to me are your thoughts, oh God. How vast is the sum of them."

I think back to birthday parties in my childhood. There were gifts from my siblings and generally we thought very little of them. The odds are, they were going to be cheesy. There were gifts from our parents and our assumption going in is they were probably practical gifts like clothes. And then there were occasional gifts from grandparents, and our anticipation was sky high because those were the gifts that met our selfish consumer desires. We projected onto the gifts our perception of the giver of the gifts.

David was doing somewhat of the same. Sight unseen, he was celebrating the gift of a new person based on his knowledge of the giver.

We can do the same.

After the child is born, you will discover myriad different facets of God's gift to you in this child, and you will celebrate by sight. But now we are going to celebrate by faith.

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A Blessing For Your Child's Spirit

Father God, we come to You as the Creator of every single human being, designed by Your mind, by Your will, developed by Your expertise, Your skill, and crafted to specifically fit into a place in history, a time, a spot.

Without knowing what that spot in history is, where on the Scrabble board our child will fit when he or she is an adult, we can still proclaim Your goodness over the child in the womb and say Your design is amazing, Your intent is spectacular, Your purposes are good.

*We come together, knowing who You are, knowing our relationship with You, knowing the goodness of Your heart, the majesty of Your vision and the skill of Your intent. We call this child in the womb **good** and we celebrate the intricate nuances of that child's design.*

*We do look forward to celebrating by sight. We look forward to the unfolding of the treasure this child **is**.*

But now, we stand by faith on Your nature and say "Yes. Every thought You have thought about this child, every detail of his design is good."

We celebrate by faith the majesty of the gift You have given us in this child who is yet in the womb.

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