COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS...

Ephesians 1:3-13





…AND IT WILL SURPRISE YOU WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE!

All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted.

COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS ...

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places **in Christ**, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."* **(Ephesians 1:3-6)**

COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS ...

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth." **(Ephesians 1:6-10a)**

COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS ...

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise …" **(Ephesians 1:10b-13)**

What are we "blessed" with? Material blessings …

Blessings	Stress
-Comfortable home	-Rent/Mortgage Payment(s)
-Job	-Job (hours, pay, boss)
-Big savings account	-Financial problems
-Nice retirement	-401K/Pension down
-Ample clothing	-Affording fashion
-Ample food	-Cost of groceries/restaurants
-Family, Friends	-Strained relationships
-Car(s)	-Repair, payment, cost
-Nice vacations	-High cost/spending
-Luxuries	-Credit card debt high
-"Necessary" luxuries	-Maintenance/time and cost

Stress can cause us to be distracted and not truly appreciate our blessings.

"And He told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, "What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." **(Luke 12:16-21)**

Some take their blessings for granted and begin to trust in their riches.

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter." **(James 5:1-5)**

Some are not satisfied with their blessings and always want more.

"For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." **(1 Timothy 6:7-10)**

"*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."* **(1 Timothy 6:17-19)**

Jesus taught us where to store up our treasures.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

"And He said to His disciples, 'For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!'" **(Luke 12:22-24)**

"For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you." **(Luke 12:30-31)**

God is the source of all blessings and is worthy of our thanksgiving.

"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." **(James 1:17)**

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

"… always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father …" **(Ephesians 5:20)**

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." **(Philippians 4:6)**

The Bible's View of Blessings

"Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count." **(Psalm 40:5)**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ …" **(Ephesians 1:3)**

"He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation." **(Psalm 24:4-5)**

Our Blessings are In Christ

- **In Christ**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places ***in Christ****, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will …"*
(Ephesians 1:3-5)

"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." **(Romans 8:1)**

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name …" **(John 1:12)**

Our Blessings are In Christ

• **How do we enter into this relationship?**

•**We are baptized into Christ.**

"*For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."* **(Galatians 3:27-29)**

Our Blessings are In Christ

• **Once we have been baptized into Christ, we become sons (children) through Christ.**

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." **(Galatians 4:4-7)**

• **Once baptized into Christ, we become a new creature.**

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." **(2 Corinthians 5:17)**

• **The blessing of a *New Life***

•**Paul's new life in Christ:**

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." **(Galatians 2:20)**

•**Old life is crucified, new one raised.**

"… knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin …" **(Romans 6:6)**

•**Old self is laid aside, new self put on.**

"Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him …" **(Colossians 3:9-10)**

• **The blessing of a *New Life***

•**Our new life in Christ bears the fruit of the Spirit.**

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." **(Galatians 5:22-24)**

•**Our new life in Christ is created in righteousness.**

"… if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." **(Ephesians 4:21-24)**

•**The blessing of a *New Family***

•**We are members of the household of God**

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household …" **(Ephesians 2:19)**

•**Whole family**

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name …" **(Ephesians 3:14-15)**

•**The blessing of a *New Family***

•**We are children of God, therefore brothers and sisters.**

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is." **(1 John 3:1-2)**

•**Paul speaks of this relationship and value.**

"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." **(Colossians 3:12-15)**

- **The blessing of a ***New Hope***

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead …" **(1 Peter 1:3)**

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil …" **(Hebrews 6:19)**

- **The blessing of ***Joy***

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **(Romans 15:13)**

"… and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls." **(1 Peter 1:8-9)**

- **The blessing of ***Peace***

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **(Romans 15:13)**

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." **(Philippians 4:7)**

- **The blessing of ***Love***

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." **(John 3:16 NKJV)**

- **The blessing of ***Love***

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." **(1 John 4:7-11)**

"We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." **(1 John 4:19-21)**

- **The blessing of ***Forgiveness***

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace …" **(Ephesians 1:7)**

"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." **(Colossians 1:13-14)**

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **(1 John 1:9)**

- **The blessing of Boldness, Assurance, and Confidence**

"By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world." **(1 John 4:17)**

"Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming." **(1 John 2:28)**

"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end …" **(Hebrews 6:11)**

- **The blessing of ***Wisdom***

"… that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." **(Colossians 2:2-3)**

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." **(James 1:5)**

•**The blessing of ***Encouragement***

"… and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." **(Hebrews 10:24-25)**

"Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." **(Romans 15:5-6)**

•**The blessing of a ***New Home/Heaven***

•**We will share in the inheritance.**

"… so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light." **(Colossians 1:10-12)**

•**Our inheritance is eternal.**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you …" **(1 Peter 1:3-4)**

•**The blessing of a ***New Home/Heaven***

•**Jesus has prepared a place for us.**

"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." **(John 14:2-3)**

"… but just as it is written, 'THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.' For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God."
(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

These blessing are found ***only* in Christ. Those outside of Christ are lost.**

"For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."
(Ephesians 5:5)

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

There is salvation in no other name

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." **(Acts 4:12)**

Redemption is through His blood.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."
(Ephesians 1:7)

Salvation is only in Christ.

"For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain ***the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory****."*
(2 Timothy 2:10)

HOW TO BE SAVED

1) Hear the Gospel

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." **(Romans 10:17)**

"Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls." **(James 1:21)**

HOW TO BE SAVED

2) Believe in Jesus

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." **(John 3:36)**

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." **(John 8:24)**

HOW TO BE SAVED

3) Repent of Sins

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent…" **(Acts 17:30)**

"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." **(Luke 13:3)**

HOW TO BE SAVED

4) Confess Jesus as Lord

"… that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved …" **(Romans 10:9)**

"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven." **(Matthew 10:32)**

HOW TO BE SAVED

5) Be Baptized for Forgiveness

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" **(Acts 2:38)**

"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." **(Mark 16:16)**

HOW TO BE SAVED

6) Remain Faithful

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter." **(Matthew 7:21)**

"And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation …" **(Hebrews 5:9)**