



New Horizons Newsletter

"May the Lord show you His favor and give you peace." (Nu. 6:26)

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HAVE YOU BEEN COUNTING YOUR BLESSINGS?

The other day, I heard someone say that they were counting their blessings. I immediately thought: "Have I been counting my blessings?" It is amazing how quickly we can forget those blessings!

Since the financial meltdown in this country, our minds have become preoccupied with finances, bills, mortgages, rents, budgets, and more. O.K., I am probably talking about myself at this moment! Like many of you, I also need reminders.

I hope the word blessing does not go out of our daily Christian vocabulary. In the secular world, the word most often used to replace blessing is "luck."

Did you know that in the Bible, blessing is a theme second only to deliverance? Blessings and deliverance are the two great ways that God relates to all of us. This is God's way of intervening and fellowshiping with you and me.

The words presence, peace, success, and benefit are also Biblically associated with the word blessing in the Greek and Hebrew.

A blessing in the Bible refers to God's friendly approach to all those who are open to receiving His divine generosity. I often end my emails or letters with the words "Bless you." This is because I want to speak a blessing onto the reader. It goes further than just a mere "Thank you."

Anything enhancing your life can and should be considered a blessing: pay check, car, home, friend, family, etc. Certainly, the experience of salvation through Jesus Christ is an eternal blessing.

In the Bible, blessings are conveyed by God and Christ to us either directly or upon request. Any of God's people can evoke a blessing on another. One of the most popular Scriptural blessings is found in a hopeful prayer: ²⁴ *'May the LORD bless you and protect you.*

²⁵ *May the LORD smile on you*

and be gracious to you. ²⁶May the LORD show you His favor and give you His peace.' (Nu. 6:24-26 NLT)

I feel so good when I read this blessing because I read it as if God is speaking directly to me. I feel even better when I can speak it to another. To give a blessing, in whatever form, is one way of asking for God's divine favor to rest upon another.

The blessing offered by you will not only help the other, it will also demonstrate love, encouragement, and provide a model of caring.

After you have counted your blessings today, be a blessing to your family, friends, and others.

Dr. Pierre J. Samaan

Blessings For Your Children

- An acceptance that can never be questioned. (Eph 1:6)
- An inheritance that can never be lost. (1 Pt 1:3-5)
- A deliverance that can never be excelled (2 Co 1:10)
- A grace that can never be limited (2 Co 12:9)
- A hope that can never be disappointed. (He 6:18, 19)
- A bounty that can never be withdrawn. (1 Col 3:21-23)
- A joy that need never be diminished (Jn 15:11)
- A nearness to God that can never be reversed. (Eph 2:13)
- A peace that can never be disturbed (Jn 14:27)
- A righteousness that can never be tarnished. (2 Co 5:21)
- A salvation that can never be canceled. (He 5:9)

(DeHaan, M.R., (1943) *The Chemistry of the Blood*. p 13. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI)

Count Your Blessings; Name Them One By One!

After accompanying a group of college students through the famous and lavish Biltmore Estate near Asheville, N.C., J.C. Macaulay spoke of an enlightened moment he had with the students.

The students were preparing to be missionaries. On their way back from the Biltmore Estate, they began joyfully singing:

"When you look at others with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold; Count your blessings - money cannot buy your reward in Heaven nor your home on high."

Macaulay thought to himself, how much richer are these young people who are investing their lives in the Lord's service than the owners of the most treasure laden castles of this world!

(Lee Tan, P., (1991) *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*, p 680. 12th Printing, Nordica Int., LTD.

Where Do True Blessings Come From?

Gary Hamlin, D.O. was an osteopathic doctor in Joplin, Missouri in 1988. In his new medical practice he offered to see any patient who needed medical care. Those who could not pay were never turned over to the collection agency. In his clinic treated about forty patients a day. To pay for his own unpaid bills, Dr. Hamlin would work on weekends at the local hospital.

He was asked by a Christian magazine what caused him to open such a practice. He said; *"Luke 14:14 introduced me to the founding principle for the clinic. It was God's personal promise to me. 'And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.'"*

(Larson, C. (2004) *750 Engaging Illustrations*, p 535, 2nd Printing, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI

Comment:

None of us are deserving of the eternal blessing Jesus Christ gave us on the Cross. This Easter, more than ever, in our lifetime, we need to be a blessing to each other. "...be you doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (Ja 1:22 NKJV)

Whether it is financially, or through an act of kindness, be a blessing to someone.

Let me pray the earlier mentioned blessing over you for today:

²⁴ *'May the LORD bless you and protect you.*²⁵ *May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.* ²⁶ *May the LORD show you His favor and give you His peace.'* (Nu. 6:24-26 NLT)

"I have been blessed to be a blessing." - Scott Wesley Brown

WE NEED PRAYER PARTNERS

&

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Each year this ministry counsels hundreds of hurting souls. Some may only need a little advice while others require intensive Clinical Christian Counseling.

We need daily prayer partners who will dedicate a moment of each day to pray for the Clinical Christian Counselors and clients.

The need is greater than ever for financial assistance to continue seeing those who are desperate for help. You may not know this, but we do not turn away those who cannot give a donation for their counseling; we do not believe Jesus would either.

But, the fact remains, we have to pay our expenses.

God blessed us with a \$5000 donation last year from Mt. Pleasant United Brethren Church in Chambersberg, PA; Senior Pastor Larry Little. Their mission's donation to this faith based counseling ministry helped us to end the year with expenses paid.

Would you please consider adding us to your budget for giving to this tax exempt counseling ministry?

Credit card donations can be given over the phone or through PayPal on our web page.