

Next Month

Who is the God and Father of Christ?

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines |
March 2, 2019



I Am Blessed

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines |
February 2, 2019



Today, we will talk about
blessings



How are you?

Are you feeling blessed by God?

Hope things are going well with you!



Today is a good day to look back at the many blessings that have come our way. God is gracious and He is kind unto His people. His love and mercy never fails.



The Lord said in Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to
the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus



2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.



Luke 12

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.

23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!



Luke 12

25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?

26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.



Luke 12

28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.

30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.



Do you feel God's blessings in your life with all these assurances from the Lord?



A Christian life is one filled with joy, positivity,
blessedness and gratitude.



There are many things to thank God for. I have listed down a few things to share with you. And, these are blessings – small and big – that have come our way. These good things come from God.



As the scripture says in James 1:17

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.”



We have received many showers of blessings from God over the course of our lives

Just consider this day:

1. Who on earth has the rare opportunity to spend time with God – to come to Him and learn from Him? Yet, we are here!
2. It is wonderful to spend some marvelous and precious time fellowshiping together and spiritually refreshed and energized by the spirit of God.

These wonderful things by themselves are blessings worth thanking God for.



Now, we will spend some time reflecting on the many blessings that have come our way.

Are you living a blessed life? Would you consider yourself blessed by God?



When talking about blessings, people seem to lock in on financial blessing. Financial well-being is definitely important but it is not everything. There are many blessings in life that have very little to do with money.



There are many blessings that we are aware of and rightfully, we thank God for them. But then there are countless blessings we received from God that we fail to realize and fail to give God due acknowledgment.



In this message, let us focus on some the valuable blessings that we may have failed to recognize.



1. Our Parents



Parents, they are the No. #1 blessing from God!
When we were small, they are the super heroes in
our lives. And , they still are even when we are all
grown up.



Some people feel that you are not blessed with good parents because they failed your expectations. But, they did two (2) of the most crucial things in life right; they are:



#1

They gave you life



#2

They caused you to have a relationship with God.



The fact that you are in God's church today or is seeking out God is because of your parents. They brought you up to look for God. They provided you the fertile environment for you to respond to God's call. That is nurture!



1 Corinthians 7:14

“For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”



Parents are God's blessings. Many do not appreciate their parents in violation of the 5th command. We do not thank our parents or give God thanks for them enough.



2. Our Spouses



The bitter half. Oh yes, without them our lives will be bitter. How often do we thank God for our spouses? The answer is: definitely not enough.



They say marriage is a three (3) ring circus; 1st – the engagement ring; then the wedding ring and finally the suffering.



We may not have perfect marriages, yet we have the comfort of home and the support of our spouses. Very often our vision is clouded with mundane issues and our expectations become unrealistic, but when we strip down to the bare essentials, our life partners are there to support us.



Whether your spouse is in the church or not, he/she is sanctified because of you. Ephesians 5:28

“In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

This is not being selfish. This is a truism: our spouses makes us whole. That is why he or she is the better half.



Our husbands and wives are blessings. It is a blessing to be with someone. Thank God for your spouse as a blessing and wonderful things will happen to your marriage and your family.



Proverbs 5:18

“May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice
in the wife of your youth.”



3. Our Children



Do we often thank God for our children? Do we always ask God to bless them? Our children are great, wonderful, amazing blessings from the Lord. They are a heritage from the Lord.



Psalm 127:3

“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.”



Parenthood is not free from headaches and heartaches. It is not easy being a parent. Nonetheless, children are a blessing to behold.



4. Ourselves



Are you a blessing? Have you ever come to God on your knees and thank God for giving you life?



You are a blessing to your parents, siblings, spouse, children, family and friends – more importantly you are a blessing to yourself.

Are you blessed to be who you are?

You are blessed to belong to the family of God.



Very often we think lowly of ourselves. We compare ourselves to others and we end up feeling inferior. But, the reverse is true. Each person is unique. There is no other you.



Do not belittle yourself. God made you. You are a blessing to yourself at the very least. You are the recipient of God's multifold blessings with your unique talents and gifts.



5. Our Siblings



Oh, your brothers and sisters are blessings. Growing up together is a joy. There shouldn't be any sibling rivalry. Sibling is God's natural support system. The blessing of brother and sister-hood is built into it.



6. Health



Proverbs 10:27

“The fear of the LORD prolongs days.”



Good health is often taken for granted, but it is a great physical blessing that few people realize. When we are young and healthy, we do not think of being healthy as a blessing. We have a tendency to abuse our body and push it's limits.



Good healthy is essential to a sound mind and body.
With good health, you can enjoy life to the fullest.
You can do what you want without doctors,
medicines, treatment and therapy.



Health is a great enabler – a great blessing. While you can still get down on your knees, do it with thanksgiving in prayer. One day, when our knees grow weak, we won't be able to knee down before God in prayer even if we wanted to.



7. Contentment



Feeling satisfied is a wonderful emotional and psychological blessing. The feeling that you lack nothing - feeling of fulfillment, happiness, joy and gladness. Having that peace of mind; the tranquility of the soul and the gladness of the heart is a true blessing.



1 Timothy 6:6

“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”



8. Sharing



It is more blessed to give than to receive. This not only true in boxing but in life. On one end, it is a blessing to receive charity, love, support from benefactors; on the other end, it is a blessing to be able to share with others. More so, if our sharing brings people to God.



Proverbs 14:21

“It is a sin to despise one’s neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.”



Proverbs 22:9

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”



9. Understanding



Proverbs 3:13

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding.”



Do you consider yourself abundantly blessed by knowing the truth and coming to God? Are you not so blessed to be in God's true church?



You may think that you stumbled upon God's church by chance. It's not! It's a tremendous blessing to understand the truth. It blows my mind that God has called us to His truth and to His church – the church of the firstborn.



Matthew 13:16-17

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”



10. Forgiveness



Psalm 32:1

“Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.”



Aren't you happy and blessed that your sins are forgiven? Shouldn't you be overjoyed that the death penalty that hangs over you is lifted? Aren't you feeling blessed that because of Christ you live?



Forgiveness is a two-way blessing. It is a blessing to both the forgiver and the forgiven. In forgiveness there is peace with out hurt, grace bound by love, restoration of relationship.



The capacity and willingness to forgive is greater than the readiness to be forgiven. Therefore, the forgiver is greater than the forgiven. But both are blessed.



Thus, the scripture says in Hebrews 7:7

“And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the
greater.”



11. Chastisement



Hebrews 12

10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.



Trials and challenges make us better. The scripture calls it trial by fire. We learn to resolve, overcome and triumph over problems and adversities. We learn about patience, perseverance, love, mercy, hope and faith. Once we have learned these vital lessons of life, we become a better Christian in Christ.



James 1:12

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”



Once we overcome our trials, we need to thank God for providing a way out and for the life lessons we have gained.



12. Brethren



John 13:34-35

34 Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.



The brotherhood of God is a blessing. It is a blessing that we have each other! We have developed an affinity, a friendship, a brotherhood, a sisterhood that will last for eternity.



Source of Blessings



What is the source of these blessings?

All blessings come from God.



God blesses everyone He considers as an obedient son and daughter. It is just like a father blessing a son. God is no different. He disciplines and He blesses. The source of blessing is our obedience to God's words.



Deuteronomy 6

24 The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

25 And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”



Matthew 7

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 “Which of you, if **your son** asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to **your children**, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!



God's blessing is upon His children –
His obedient children



Deuteronomy 7

12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors.

13 He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers.



Blessings for Obedience



Deuteronomy 28

1 If **you fully obey** the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you **high above all the nations on earth.**

(God will crown you with honor. Everyone will see that the hand of the Lord is upon you.)



Deuteronomy 28

2 All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

(God will grant you success in everything that you do.
He will bless your life.)



Deuteronomy 28

3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

(Wherever you are, whatever you will be, God's providence will accompany you.)



Deuteronomy 28

4 The fruit of your **womb** will be blessed

(Blessings upon your household and family.)



Deuteronomy 28

4 ...and the **crops of your land** and the **young of your livestock**—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

5 Your **basket** and your **kneading trough** will be blessed.

(You will enjoy abundance and prosperity. There will be blessings of productivity and sufficiency. You will always have delicacies and sufficiency on the table. God will bless you so that you lack nothing.)



Deuteronomy 28

6 You will be blessed when you **come in** and blessed when you **go out**.

(God will provide you peace and security. Freedom from strife, danger and stress.)



Deuteronomy 28

7 The LORD will grant that the **enemies** who rise up against you will be **defeated before you**. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

(God will grant protection and victory)



Deuteronomy 28

8 The LORD will send a blessing on **your barns** and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in **the land** he is giving you.

(There will be blessings on the work of your hands.
God will grant you success in everything you do.)



Deuteronomy 28

9 The LORD will establish you as his **holy people**, as he promised you on oath, **if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in obedience to him.**

(There will be spiritual blessings)



Deuteronomy 28

10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you.



Deuteronomy 28

11 The LORD will grant you **abundant prosperity**—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

(There will be prosperity. You shall never lack nor be in want. Abundance and well-being will follow you all the days of your life.)



Deuteronomy 28

12 The LORD will **open the heavens**, the **storehouse of his bounty**, to send rain on your land in season and to **bless all the work of your hands**. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.

(You will experience the richness of life)



Deuteronomy 28

13 The LORD will make you **the head, not the tail**. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.

(Success will be yours)



Deuteronomy 28

14 Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.



There is a particular reason God blesses His people/children aside from simple obedience. The scripture says the blessings will come upon everything you put your hands on to do.



The work of your hands means you are not an idle person. A person is blessed by his industriousness. But, we know blessings from God are not only about abundance and prosperity. It includes many other things such as health, peace, joy, relationship, etc. as we read earlier.



The “work of your hands” may mean your deeds,
actions, actions, behavior, character and conduct.
You are blessed by your deeds.



Purpose of the Blessing



There is a purpose for the blessing. The principle of the purpose can be found in Deuteronomy 28:10 and 4:6-8.



Deuteronomy 28:10

Then all the **peoples on earth will see** that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you.



Deuteronomy 4

6 Observe them carefully, for this will **show your wisdom and understanding to the nations**, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”



Deuteronomy 4

7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?



You are obedient, which makes you righteous. People see your good deeds, they praise God and God blesses you. God will bless you because when they see you they see Christ in you. You have become Christ's model – or as Paul said Christ's ambassadors.



1 Peter 2:12

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may **see your good deeds** and **glorify God** on the day he visits us.”



This concept can be found in Psalms 67. The exposition is very clear.



Psalms 67

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—

2 so that your ways **may be known on earth**, your salvation among all nations.

3 May the peoples praise you, God; **may all the peoples praise you.**



Psalms 67

4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

5 May the peoples praise you, God; **may all the peoples praise you.**



Psalms 67

6 The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

7 May God bless us still, **so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**



Count Your Blessings



We receive many blessings each and every single day. Some may be so small that we often overlook them. The beloved hymn 'Count Your Blessings' reminds us to stop and give thanks for all God has done in our lives.



“Count Your Blessings” is a hymn about gratitude—
it’s finding beauty in the blessings which the Lord has
poured upon each one of us.



The hymn was composed by Johnson Oatman, Jr. Oatman with the tune written by Edwin O. Excell.

Oatman was born in 1856 in Lumberton, New Jersey, and looked up to his father dearly. It was said that his father had the best singing voice in town, and as Oatman grew, he wanted to contribute musically to the faith that he and his father shared.



But, he did not have the voice talent. It wasn't until he was 36 that he realized his musical gifts. "His musical talent was in writing hymns. He could write songs for other Christians to sing. So, every year he penned some 200 songs. He eventually had written more than 5,000 songs."

("Story Behind the Song: 'Count Your Blessings,'" St. Augustine Record, Nov. 20, 2014)



Count Your Blessings Lyrics

1 When upon **life's billows** you are **tempest tossed**,
When you are **discouraged, thinking all is lost**,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.



2 Are you ever **burdened** with a **load of care**?
Does the **cross seem heavy** you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]



3 So, amid the **conflict**, whether **great or small**,
Do not be **discouraged**, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.
[Refrain]



Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;

Count your blessings, see what God hath done;

Count your blessings, name them one by one;

Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.



Summation



There are many more blessings that can be said. There are many more things that we can give thanks to God. We appreciate life when we take time to smell the flowers, right? The Sabbath rest is a wonderful time and opportunity to reflect on these things.



The Book of Psalm begins with these words:

1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,



Psalm 1

2 A man blessed of the Lord is one who keeps away from evil, shuns wickedness, rejects sins and does not enjoy the company of scorners.

(A mocker or scorner is one who is unappreciative, ungrateful and unthankful. Sinners and mockers God won't bless and they are not a blessing to others and themselves.)



2 but whose **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and who **meditates** on his law day and night.

(Blessed are those who derive pleasure, joy and happiness in God's laws, righteousness, ways and life; who sees the blessed providence of God's hands in their lives.)



3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

(The person in who God delights is truly blessed.)



Number 6

22 The Lord said to Moses,

23 “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

24 ““The Lord bless you and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.””



END

