

## **THE BLESSINGS OF GOD UPON US**

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IT IS GOD'S NATURE TO BLESS, HOWEVER WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS A GREATER PURPOSE IN MIND THAN WE MAY REALIZE. HIS ULTIMATE GOAL IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN TO JUST MAKE US LOVING, HAPPY, PEACEFUL, JOYFUL, PROTECTED, AND PROSPEROUS.

IN FACT IT IS NEVER THE LORD'S INTENTION FOR HIS BLESSINGS TO END WITH US. BECAUSE HE WANTS THEM TO FLOW OUT TO OTHERS AS PART OF HIS PLAN FOR THE WHOLE WORLD HE WANTS US TO SPREAD THE BLESSINGS THAT WE RECEIVE AS IT WERE. THIS IS THE BLESSINGS OF GOD UPON US TO SHARE THEM WITH OTHERS.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS THE LORD BLESSES US SO THAT HIS SALVATION, HIS WAYS, AND HIS JUSTICE MAY BE KNOWN TO EVERY NATION AND EVERY PEOPLE GROUP AROUND THE WORLD. PSM.67:4-7, TELLS US ABOUT GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR THE NATIONS. THIS IS GOD'S BLESSINGS UPON US TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE LORD IS ALWAYS ACTING WITH THIS LARGER PICTURE IN MIND EVEN WHILE WORKING PERSONALLY IN OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES. KNOWING THIS SHOULD FILL US WITH AN AWESOME YET HUMBLING SENSE OF IMPORTANCE. THAT GOD LOVES US SO THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON FOR US. WHAT A BLESSING FOR US TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

SO EVERY BELIEVER HAS A PART IN HELPING OTHERS KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE ONE TRUE GOD. EACH BLESSING HE GIVES NOT ONLY BENEFITS US PERSONALLY BUT IS INTENDED TO HELP FURTHER THIS CAUSE, THAT HE LOVES AND BLESSES US BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS, OUR FATHER. THIS IS THE BLESSING OF GOD UPON US TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE MAY NOT ALWAYS RECEIVE THE THINGS WE WANT BECAUSE THEY DON'T CONTRIBUTE TO THE LORD'S HIGHER PURPOSE. BUT IF WE ARE WILLING TO FIT OUR REQUEST INTO HIS GREATER PLANS, WE WILL POSITION OURSELVES TO BE GREATLY USED BY HIM, BECAUSE WE MUST PUT THE LORD FIRST IN ALL THINGS, THAT IS WHAT WE MUST SHARE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

SO WHEN THE LORD BLESSES YOU, HE'S NOT ONLY DOING SOMETHING FOR YOU, HE'S ALSO DOING SOMETHING IN AND THROUGH YOU TO AFFECT OTHERS' LIVES. DON'T LET THE PLEASURES AND COMFORTS OF HIS BLESSINGS BLIND YOU TO THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES. THIS IS THE BLESSINGS OF GOD UPON US TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

WE SHOULD ASK THE LORD GOD HOW TO USE HIS KINDNESSES AND GOODNESS AS A WAY TO POINT PEOPLE TO HIM, BECAUSE THAT IS YOUR PURPOSE ON EARTH, TO DO HIS KINGDOM WORK. YOUR JOB IS TO BLESS OTHERS; BY HIS MIGHTY HAND. THIS IS THE BLESSING OF GOD TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

BUT HOW CAN I BLESS OTHERS PREACHER?

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS YOU CAN BLESS OTHERS BY PRAYING FOR THEM AND BEING SPECIFIC WHEN BRINGING PETITIONS TO THE LORD. BECAUSE STRONG REQUEST WITH GREATER DETAIL MIGHT BRING MORE IDENTIFIABLE ANSWERS FROM THE LORD FOR THE ONE THAT YOU ARE PRAYING FOR.

LET US IMAGINE HOW OTHERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED WHEN THEY SEE THAT WE CARE ENOUGH TO PRAY FOR THEM AND THAT GOD CARED ENOUGH TO FULFILL THE REQUEST OF OUR PRAYER. O WHAT A MIGHTY AWESOME GOD WE SERVE.

WE CAN ASK GOD'S FAVOR ON EVENTS AND SITUATIONS TOO, BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT HIS WILL BE DONE IN THESE REQUEST. IT IS ALWAYS APPROPRIATE IN CORPORATE PRAYER TO ASK FOR BLESSINGS OF THE SERVICE AND PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN WORSHIP.

YOU DO KNOW THAT WE CAN BLESS GOD TOO, DON'T YOU. WE DO THIS BY EXPRESSING OUR PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR HIS CHARACTER AND FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US.

PSALM 104:1 SAYS, "BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL. O LORD MY GOD, THOU ART VERY GREAT; THOU ART CLOTHED WITH HONOUR AND MAJESTY."

BUT BLESSING HIM CAN ALSO COME BY OUR OBEDIENCE, SERVICE AND DESIRE TO PLEASE HIM. WHEN WE PLACE HIM FIRST IN OUR LIVES, HE IS HONORED. "I WILL PRAISE THE LORD AT ALL TIMES; HIS WORD SHALL CONTINUALLY BE IN MY MOUTH."

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS WE GET BACK TO OUR TOPICAL TEXT FOR TODAY, THE BLESSINGS OF GOD ON US.

WE SEE THAT PAUL IS WRITING THIS LETTER FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS, TO REVEAL THE PURPOSE OF GOD FOR THE WHOLE UNIVERSE, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE CHURCH TO WALK IN A SPIRIT OF ONENESS AND UNITY: “TO BE YE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE TO ANOTHER, EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST’S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU” (4:32). LET US NOW LOOK AT SOME OTHER WAYS THAT GOD BLESSES US.

BECAUSE I KNOW THAT EVERYONE EXPERIENCES PERIODS OF DIFFICULTY AND DOUBT IN LIFE AND DURING SUCH PAINFUL TIMES, WE MAY FEEL AS THOUGH GOD IS NOT BLESSING US.

BUT EVEN THEN, WE ARE EXPERIENCING MANY OF HIS AMAZING GIFTS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE NOTICING THEM, BECAUSE OF THE PAIN AND DISAPPOINTMENT, WE ARE SUFFERING, HE IS STILL ON THE THRONE. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WE ARE ASSURED HERE IN THE SIXTH CHAPTER OF EPHESIANS THAT OUR ALMIGHTY GOD CHOSE US BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD (v.4). THAT HE PREDESTINED US TO BE ADOPTED AS HIS CHILDREN. (v.5) YES! GOD IS STILL BLESSING US RIGHT NOW.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WE CAN FEEL SPECIAL AND WANTED BECAUSE THE SOVEREIGN OF THE UNIVERSE SELECTED US. WE DID NOT SELECT HIM, BUT HE SELECTED US AND GAVE US TO JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER. WE WERE ADOPTED BY JESUS CHRIST IN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. THIS IS THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD GOD UPON US.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS JESUS PROVIDED OUR SALVATION THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION (v.7).

THAT HE REDEEMED US FROM SIN THAT CAUSES SEPARATION FROM GOD AND ULTIMATELY LEADS TO DEATH. AS A RESULT, WE RECEIVE A BRAND NEW NATURE AND DAILY FORGIVENESS OF OUR INIQUITIES.

FIRST JOHN: 1-9 TELLS US THAT, “IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.” THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD IS UPON US.

THE HOLY SPIRIT RESIDES WITHIN US; JEREMIAH TELLS US THAT IN CHAPTER 31:33-34, AND ALSO CANCELS OUT OUR SINS. HE GUIDES, WARNS, AND FILLS US SO WE ARE NEVER WITHOUT COUNSEL OR COMFORT. AMEN THANKS BE TO GOD.

HE ALSO SEALS US SO THAT OUR ETERNITY IS SECURE IN HIM (v.13). THANK YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST! THIS IS THE BLESSINGS OF GOD UPON US.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS OUR FATHER PREPARES “AN INHERITANCE THAT IS, INCORRUPTIBLE AND UNDEFILED, AND THAT FADETH NOT AWAY, RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU”. 1ST PETER 1:4. THE LORD’S GREATEST BLESSINGS ARE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS.

WE MAY EXPERIENCE MOMENTARY TROUBLES, BUT WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO LIVING ETERNALLY IN GOD’S PRESENCE, WHERE THERE IS JOY AND NO SUFFERING. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT HEAVEN IS OUR HOME. THE LORD’S BLESSINGS ARE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS.

IN THE MIDST OF PAINFUL SITUATIONS; IT MAY BE EASY TO FEEL AS IF GOD’S HAND IS NOT RESTING ON YOUR LIFE.

BUT BELIEVERS HAVE WONDERFUL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS AT ALL TIMES. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT JESUS CHRIST PAID FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND THAT HE IS VERY ABLE TO FORGIVE THEM TOO. THE LORD’S BLESSINGS ARE UPON US AND ARE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS.

IN HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST GAVE US THESE BLESSINGS. WE CALL THEM THE BEATITUDES. THEY ARE KEYS TO HIS KINGDOM WHEN WE FOLLOW THEM.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN: FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK: FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL: FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART: FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS: FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS’ SAKE: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE YOU, WHEN MEN SHALL REVILE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU AND SHALL SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY, FOR MY SAKE.

REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD: FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN:  
FOR SO PERSECUTED THEY THE PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE YOU.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS THE LORD GOD HAS GIVEN US A STRONG  
TESTIMONY BY HIS BLESSING OF OUR INHERITANCE. HE HAS GIVEN US  
WISDOM, REVELATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT. HE HAS GIVEN US THE TRUTH.  
HE HAS FILLED OUR MINDS AND HEARTS REAL, WITH HIS WILL. GLORY TO  
GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS UPON US...