

<https://youtu.be/i-Once1rWRw>

Genesis 1:27-28

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

We often hear people say that they are blessed when things go well with them. People say that they are blessed when they receive money or a promotion or something good happens in their lives. What do people say when they lose their jobs, or someone falls ill, or their car gets stolen? Does that mean that when something goes wrong, they are not blessed anymore? Why do we most often associate being blessed with positive circumstances, wealth, comfort, and the absence of problems?

This brings to question if we really understand what it means to be blessed. We read in Genesis that in the beginning God blessed man. He then said they must be fruitful and multiply, subdue/control the earth, and rule over all the living things. This shows me that being blessed, being fruitful and to multiply are different things. Even though Adam and Eve were in a position of authority, they had control and possession over all living creatures. This was not important to them. God created man in His image, and He wanted man to be fruitful. At this stage there was no sin, so that meant that man could only bear good fruit.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

God wanted man to multiply and fill the earth. Man, that only had fruit of the Spirit had to fill the earth with God's likeness. It is important to note that when God blessed Adam and Eve, He put everything under their control. They were holy and in right standing with God. I then look at the life of Jesus and the disciples. Surely, they were blessed. We never hear of the nice houses that Jesus and the disciples owned. The Word does not tell us that Jesus and the disciples had bags full of gold and silver. There is nothing written about the high positions they filled here on earth. Jesus and the disciples did not pursue all these earthly possessions. The Word tells us not to store up goods here on earth.

Matthew 6:19-21

"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.

From this scripture we see that God is concerned about our hearts. Things on earth will decay but things in heaven are eternal. Is your heart set on the things here on earth or on the things in heaven? The more I read the Word, the more I understand that the things I possess is not an indication of my relationship and positions with God. There are many rich people that do not serve the Lord. These people are not blessed. These possessions are often the reason why people think they do not need God. If we focus on these earthly possessions, our hearts will not be set on Him. It is not wrong to have many possessions. We read that Abraham was extraordinarily rich in cattle, silver and gold.

(Gen 13:2) Possession must not own and control you.

The tree and the Gardener

Luke 13:6-9

And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.'"

Like the tree, many people do not bear fruit. The Gardner gives them more attention and fertilizer to give them the opportunity to bear fruit. But a time will come, like the tree, where they will have to give reckoning. If there is not fruit, they will be cut down. The period of receiving could be mistaken for being positioned correctly. The fruit in a person's life tells us their positioning, not their possessions. Fruit will bring up what is inside. An apple tree can only bring forth apples. The fruit is filled with seeds and multiplies the nature of the apple tree if it is nurtured. The fruit is not for the tree, but for others to receive nourishment from the fruit.

Do we bear good fruit and are we nourishing others with it? Do we spread seed in others so that they can also grow and bear good fruit? Do not be jealous or envious of people that prosper. Do not be dismayed if you did not receive that promotion. God has every detail of your life planned. Who knows, that position or possession could have been the very thing that directs your heart away from God. I have been in the position where I have been skipped for the promotion. The promotion I wanted would have kept me so busy and under stress. God knows best and He protects us from harm. Paul says in, **Ephesian 4:11**, *I do not speak from want, but I have learned to be content in all circumstances*. This shows me that Paul did not place any emphasis on possession, but God supplied all he needed.

The Meaning of Blessed

There are several definitions of blessed in the English language, according to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary:

- "Made holy; consecrated"
- "Endowed, with divine favour and protection"
- "Bringing pleasure or relief as a welcome contrast to what one has previously experienced"
- The Greek meaning of the word "blessed" is derived from from makários.

makários ("blessed") describes a believer in enviable ("fortunate") position from receiving God's provisions (favor) – which (literally) extend ("make long, large") His grace (benefits). This happens with receiving (obeying) the Lord's inbirthings of faith. Hence, faith (pístis) and (makários) are closely associated (Ro 4:5-7,14:22,23; Rev 14:12,13). This describes a believer as being in a position for receiving God's provisions (favor) – as being an extension of His grace. This happens with receiving the Lord as Saviour. Being blessed is a position that God puts us in, holiness, that allows us to receive. Blessed is being set aside and being declared sacred. It is not measured by what we have, but who He is and who we are in Him.

1 Peter 1: 14-19

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Jesus teaches on the mount

Matthew 5:1-12

The Sermon on the Mount; The Beatitudes (Meaning happy and Blessed – Latin)

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

We clearly see when Jesus teaches that he is not referring to blessed as having many possessions. Jesus teaches on our heart's conditions. If our hearts are set on Him, we will be blessed. Our circumstances we go through (good and bad) or face do not determine if we are blessed or not. Being blessed is being positioned accurately in Him.

We are Blessed because:

- 1. of spiritual blessings that far outweigh any earthly blessings.**

Ephesians 1:3

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

No matter what we have or do not have in possessions, we have been given every blessing through the complete work of Christ, His righteousness, resources, privilege, position, and power.

- 2. as chosen and adopted sons and daughters of the King, we will receive the riches, blessings, and very nature of Christ.**

Ephesian 1: 4-6

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.

Could there be a greater blessing than this?! If you are in Christ, you have been chosen before the foundation of the world to be adopted as a beloved son or daughter of the King through Jesus Christ. Chosen and loved, we are blessed beyond measure as we are being made holy through his undeserved grace. There is no greater blessing than this!

- 3. we are redeemed and forgiven, receiving the riches of His grace as He has made known to us the mystery of His will.**

Ephesians 1:7-10

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.

- 4. in Him we have a guaranteed inheritance, and we have been sealed with the promised Holy Spirit until we acquire possession of it.**

Ephesians 1:11-14

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, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Know today that you are blessed, have your hearts set on Him!