

The Blessings of God.

James 1:17 – 18 *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (18) Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”*

The Bible is full of truths and as Christians, I sometimes call them “diamonds hid in the scriptures”, and we overlook them, we almost never think of pausing to examine them; we mostly take them for granted. But in taking them for granted, we also lose much; when they meet us in our reading or hearing of Scripture, they are apt to fall dead on our ear; we receive a vague meaning to them; we never perhaps interpret them to ourselves. In this we miss so many blessings of God, because we fail to see God’s true meaning or overlook them all together. We fail to see God’s commandments, we fail to understand the blessings of God, because His blessings are in our receiving the word of God in Truth. Gods or God’s blessings are not temporal but eternal. Even if some of them are temporal our use of them are our eternal reward and blessing. God gives us and we return to God those blessings that bring glory to God.

JH Text had this thought, *“No one can read Holy Scripture without being struck by the variety of gifts which are bestowed by God. It was He who breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, so that man became a living soul. Wherever we see life—life in the plant, or in the bird that sings to us, or in the little child that is playing in our nurseries—there we see the handiwork of God. He makes men able to seek out curious inventions, and gives us also what is beautiful and wonderful in art...But God's greatest and most glorious gift is the gift of His beloved and only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. It is only in Christ Jesus that all these heavenly gifts and graces are ours—sins forgiven, hearts renewed, righteousness and adoption, honor and immortality, an inheritance incorruptible, and an eternal weight of glory.”*

Romans 8:28 applies to us, we often fail to see the blessings in this single verse, but they are deep. It is a fact that everything God gives us good, He not give us trials, sorrows, separations, sickness, bereavement, death, and yes all these are good gifts from our Father, just because we do not see them doesn’t make it not true.

A. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,”*

1. God said in **Hebrews 7:7** “*And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.*”
 - a. First, “*without all contradiction*” means – This is a point about which there can be no dispute.
 - b. Second, it is a fact that “*he that blesseth is greater in that respect than he that is blessed by him*” Melchisedec the High Priest blessed Abraham and Melchisedec was greater than Abraham, God blesses us, and God is greater than we are.
 - c. The less, (that is us) are blessed of the better (that is God) His blessing is to us because of His grace to us.
 2. Since God is the giver of gifts or blessing, He is the greater and we are the lesser. In everything in life, we need to remember that whatever blessings we have it is of God’s grace, even if we feel we worked all our life for it.
 3. Paul used this in **1 Corinthians 15:10** “*But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*”
 - a. “*by the grace of God I am what I am*” – Paul was a great man of God and a great servant of God. His blessings from God are also extended to us.
 - b. People in our life, their blessings from God are extended to us. But all blessings circle back to God who is the giver of all blessings as Paul said, “*I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*”
 4. God blesses one so that one can bless another or many others. But we never forget that the first blessing came from God.
 5. However, as the recipients of God’s blessings we cannot allow them to be used in vain. As Paul said, “*his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain*”
- B. All things belong to God, even if we feel they are ours.
1. God blesses us for a purpose, to bless others or to return the blessing to God, or both.
 2. If we work all our life to gain what we have, if we save for a life to gain what we have, it is still God’s gift, and God’s gifts are to be returned to Him.
 3. It is this knowledge that should humble us as believers. Everything we understand that God is the supplier of all needs. **Philippians 4:19 - 20** “*But my God shall supply*

all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (20) Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

4. As Christians we must understand that whatever God gives us is our blessings to return glory to Him. And if misused then we fail.

C. Our Storehouse in Heaven.

1. We worry about our storehouse here on earth, but what about heaven? Jesus said in, **Matthew 6:19-21** *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*
 - a. Where is our heart, is it bringing glory to God with His blessings to us?
 - b. How does your storehouse in heaven look, I can imagine we all know how our bank account looks like.
2. Are we looking to our judgment? **1 Corinthians 3:9 - 10** *“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. (10) According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.”*
 - a. When God runs our works through judgment by fire, will ours be burned-up? **1 Corinthians 3:15** *“If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”*
 - b. The trying of our works is to see if they brought glory to God. **1 Corinthians 3:12** *“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.”*
3. Jesus said, **Matthew 5:16** *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* – Letting our light so shine, is shining the grace of God in our life. Showing that God gives blessings to us so we can shine them back at Him.

4. **John 15:8** “*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*” – These fruits are God’s grace and work in our lives, they are to glorify God and not ourselves, however, if they glorify God than they will also glorify us. **1 Corinthians 10:31** “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*”
5. **1 Corinthians 6:20** “*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*” - And this you are bound to do, it is not a request, all that God blesses us with is to be returned to Him. Let us bring glory to God through our heart and hand, mind and mouth, faith and feet, spirit, soul, and body.
6. Is God commanding too much of us? With all we have been given from God, is He commanding too much? If you are blessed, then why would it be? Luke 21:1-4 “*And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, **Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:** For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.*”
7. Do we give enough, not just money, but all our worldly good’s that are God’s blessings. Do we bless God enough.