

GOD'S BLESSINGS NOT YET RECEIVED

Ephesians 1:3

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Sad, but true, Christians miss out on so many blessings that God wants to give them. It is true, however that every Christian is blessed in many ways but they miss out on so many more that they could have. It seems that every Christian should want every blessing that God wants to give him/her. It isn't sinful to "want" more blessings as some might think, but it borders on being sinful to NOT want all the blessings God wants to give. Why should any Christian be content "as things are?"

I. GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES

1. Those that come immediately upon being saved.

- Forgiveness, Justification, Regeneration, Adoption into God's Family.
- These are given before a person knows that he/she has them but learns about them later.

2. Those that come to the believer by "inheritance."

- These cannot be "enjoyed" until the Lord Jesus returns.
 - Mental and moral perfection, new body, restored to the original likeness of God, admission into the very presence of God.
- They belong to the believer NOW and there is no need to pray for them while living down here.
 - God has reserved these blessings for the time when Jesus comes for God's Children.

3. Those that come ONLY when the believer makes a strong attempt/effort to get.

- Deliverance from daily sins, victory over SELF, constant flow of the Holy Spirit in one's life, productivity in the service of the Lord, aware of God's presence, growth in grace.
- These and others do not come automatically nor when Jesus comes back for God's family, but are to be obtained as Israel received their Promised Land, they had to go get it, so must the believer put forth effort to obtain these and other blessings.

II. STEPS TO GETTING MORE OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

1. You have to "go after" some of God's blessings.

- God won't force His blessings on anyone.
- Remember, Joshua had to fight to get the Promised Land, it didn't automatically come to him.
 - We also must work at defeating sin, whatever stands in the way of having God's blessings.
- We must renounce and denounce the things of the world frequently, not just once.

2. You can have as much as you really want of God's blessings.

- God told Joshua that *"...every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you..."*

- Many others mentioned in the Bible worked, pushed, pressed hard to claim this and that and got it from God. (Caleb, Daughters of Zelophedad, etc.)
- When our requests are those that will honor God, then we can ask as **LARGELY** as we want.

3. You can have as little as you will be satisfied with.

- God is willing to give to every Christian liberally but God's generosity won't necessarily make that person more "godly" than he/she wants to be.
- Some Christians are satisfied with a "ho-hum" Christian life and don't really care for more from God.
- Some are content to follow the Lord from a distance and never care about being too close to Him so they are willing to settle for an empty, unfruitful life with little involvement with the Holy Spirit.
- Sadly, many, many Christians are living this kind of a life. They just don't want to do very much for the Lord and therefore are satisfied as things are, to have less than they could have.

4. Right now, most Christians have as much as they really want!

- Think about it - every person is really as close to God as he/she wants to be.
 - As holy and as full of the Holy Spirit as he/she wants to be.
- Jesus said, "*...Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled...*"
- What would happen if every Christian suddenly became hungry and thirsty after righteousness and the things of the Lord?
- "Wanting" means seriously desiring and making efforts to have that "want."
- "Wishing" is something that has no "feet," no activity, unwilling to meet God's conditions to have.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, you were blessed the moment you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Christian, you have uncountable blessings awaiting you that you will receive and begin to enjoy when the Lord Jesus comes for you and takes you to the place He has been preparing for you.
3. Christian, there are many, many blessings you could be enjoying this very moment if you would only put forth the effort to have.
4. God has placed before His children uncountable spiritual riches/blessings that they do not have because they don't want to go to the trouble to have them.
5. Christian, go to God and tell Him that you are ready to do whatever He wants in order to be blessed with all the blessings He has to pour out upon you.