THE WHYS OF GOD'S BLESSING

ccf chronicle

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LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Recently, #blessed has been trending on social media. But what does that word really mean? For some, it may be winning the lottery, getting that coveted visa, or completing that dream home. However, receiving these material things may not turn out to be good for you at all. The Bible has much to say about God's blessings.

us with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). God wanted to show His love to us even before we were born, because He is gracious and wanted to adopt us into His family. We have an inheritance in heaven, sealed for the Day of Redemption. In addition, there is also a material side to God's blessing (2 Corinthians 9:8) so that we have an abundance to be able to do what He wants us to. Indeed, He promised to supply all our needs, and the context of this was Paul's ministry needs that were provided for by the Philippians (Philippians 4:18-19). When we are looking after others' needs, God will bless us.

The "Whats" of God's Blessing

In the Old Testament, "berakah" is used to refer to material blessing, victory, and even the presence of God. Other terms used for or related to 'blessing' include "shalom" (peace, living in the presence of God) and "tzedez" (righteousness, fairness in accordance with God's character and will).

His blessing has a bigger purpose, it's not just for us (Psalm 67:6-7). The most commonly known blessing in the Old Testament was when the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land after 40 years (Deuteronomy 28:1-10). God's promise as given by Moses goes with a condition: if the Israelites obey God, He will bless them in the Promise Land — not just materially, but in their families, so that all the other nations will know that they are God's people. God blesses us so that other people will know what it means to have a great God.

Obedience brings blessings. But in the same chapter that we learn about God's blessings for Israel, we also learn about the curses that will befall them if they fail to follow God fully (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). God was serious when He warned them about what will happen if they do not obey.

Even in the New Testament, God wants us to pursue His righteousness first, then the things we need will be added to us (Matthew 6:33). This gives us the right mindset of seeking not just the material blessing, but God's Presence. When we are blessed by God, it is grace that He gives to us, even though we don't deserve it. The Beatitudes uses this same word (Matthew 5:3-12); you are blessed when you are poor in spirit, when you mourn, if you're gentle, etc. These are the values that Jesus wants us to have if we want to be blessed!

Another aspect of blessing is spiritual. God has blessed

The "Whys" of God's Blessing

God promised Abraham great blessings so that all the nations will be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3). Twenty-five years later, Abraham still wasn't a "great nation" because he didn't have a son, though he tried to do things his way. So God told Abraham that He will fulfill His promise, but Abraham has to do it God's way (Genesis 18:17-18). Several years later, God told Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son, Isaac, and when Abraham obeyed Him, God provided His own sacrifice (a ram) and reiterates the blessing for Abraham so that all the nations will be blessed through Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ. We are blessed today because Abraham obeyed God. The Lord gave the same promise to Isaac, and to his son, Jacob with the same purpose --- that all the nations and families of the earth shall be blessed in them, and in their descendants (Genesis 26:4, 28:14). This thread of promise runs through the whole Bible (Isaiah 42:1,6, Galatians 3:13-14). God planned that through Abraham's seed, all the nations, not just Israel, will be blessed. All nations will be touched with the gospel of Jesus Christ (Psalm 67:6-7).

The most secure place in the world is to be in the center of God's will. And part of God's will is for us to be a blessing to all the nations. The Philippines is at a very strategic part of the world where 90% of unevangelized peoples live in an area known as the "10/40 Window". Truly, we have been blessed so we can be a blessing to the world! We must do our part in praying for, giving to, and serving in our church's missions efforts. This is not just a ministry within the church, this is our ministry as a church (Matthew 28:19-20)!

last week's memory verse

God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

PSALM 67:7

discuss this message

How do we fail to look to Jesus (i.e., ask Him) for our mission outreach? Are we "doers" before "askers"?

What is the Lord asking us to respond to in complete obedience? Are we quick to respond when it doesn't make sense?

How often do we fail to give thanks for what the Lord has done? Do we have proactive ways to remember God's goodness in and through the outreach He allowed us to be involved in?

DOWNLOAD THIS CHRONICLE ONLINE!

ccf.org.ph/chronicle/

DOWNLOAD THIS SUNDAY'S 4WS EVERY MONDAY! ccf.org.ph/4ws/

Hope in Jesus, He is forever faithful.

See you at the Welcome Center and let's discuss about it.

STEP INTO THE COMMUNITY

WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

SPECIAL EVENT WITH A WOMAN'S FORUM Beholding Beauty: Alive to Awe with Earl Beja-Paolo and AWF Team August 1, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

Of ccfwomen2women

CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

B1G MINISTRY SINGLES

Call of a Witness: Pursue Your Calling

August 2, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

▶6 B1GMinistry

NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

Walk in Love

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM G/F CCF Center (ages 4-12)

ZOOM: for ages 7-12; 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM message us at facebook.com/ccfnxtgen

to sign up

ONLINE: Bible Lesson Video Premiere

9:00 AM at ♠ Ccfnxtgen

LEARN MORE ABOUT

Get ready to graduate!

GLC Graduation is on August 16, 2024! Open to all GLC Level 1, 2, or 3 finishers including in DGroups & in Self-Paced format!

For GLC in DGroups, please ask your DGroup Leaders to email abigail.ayos@ ccf.org.ph for other requirements.

Apply now: bit.ly/GLCGraduation2024

Be equipped with GLC! GLC LEVEL 2

Book 8: Survey of the Bible

ONSITE: July 28, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 2A ZOOM: August 1, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Can't attend GLC F2F or on Zoom?

Use the Self-Paced Online format or do GLC in vour DGroups!

Register: bit.ly/GLCinDGroupsSignUp Enroll Here: glc.ccf.org.ph/online

Visit glc.ccf.org.ph for more info on GLC trainings and schedules.

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

God is holy.

YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT! God brought you here

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps**

His covenant and His lovingkindness to

for His purpose.

God loves you.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His cross for our sins and be raised to life for

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. - John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.



SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHTS 5:00 РМ

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, and 3:00 PM

ONLINE LIVESTREAM □ ccfmainTV 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

Visit ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/ for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.

God keeps His promises.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13