

## **Questions for discussion**

### **1. What do you expect from blessings and curses?**

People do believe they deserve a break. Why? They say this is the era of entitlement. I suppose this generation should be offended. We raised them this way. Do people think there are more curses in the world because in reality things should be better? What do you expect. The Bible says we should expect worse conditions until the end of times. Others expect things to improve because we should be getting better at life. What do you expect from blessings and curses.

*“I have been a blessing and a curse to many people in my life. I suppose writing a book on these two ideas could result in a far longer book than I am willing to give them. My goal has been to get your creative juices flowing. How do you see a curse? What do you expect from a blessing? Further to that, what do you expect from those around you? Do you think you deserve a much better fate in life? I saw a list of reasons we deserve and are entitled to blessings: it was blank.” Chapter 9, p, 1*

### **2. Can curses be helpful?**

Once bitten twice shy. We live and we learn. I understand bouncing a check by the penalties I received from the bank. I did not study and failed the test. Frankly our effort does not always produce results. Good teams lose. Better teams win because they have tasted defeat. A curse can be helpful. It produces hope, dreams, and anger. Fueled anger can produce motivation. Far too often we are not motivated enough. A curse can help motivate.

*“I think some of the best music in the world came from a curse. Alanis Morsette wrote Jagged Little Pill and we have an anger filled passion for all the jilted lovers in the world. Taylor Swift is fueled by bad relationships. Artists like these are successful because of the chaos in their lives. The great writing of God comes from David’s broken heart, Paul’s trials, and Peters failures. My writing (no to be confused with the greats) is forged from a hot burning list of disappointments in my life. I have felt cursed but also been called blessed.” Chapter 9, p, 3*

### **3. Do we reap what we sow?**

I believe that we do reap what we sow. Sure, there are some that receive a curse they did not deserve. Yet, most people cause their own mess. A young girl dates the guy she wants, and not the guy her parents wanted. Years later she is sitting in divorce court or in a safe house. I know that several killers were talking in jail. One day they realized

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that their parents were right. Our pride can bring us down. We want what we want. Unfortunately, that leads us down a trail of curses much of the time.

*“I think that the saying, “Live by the sword and die by the sword” means something. Maybe it’s plain and explainable logic. A gang member tends to die by a gang member. A Christian kid will have Christian friends. A robber in movies is often ripped off by other robbers. A businessman is cheated by a shrewder businessman. Seemingly what we sow, we reap. It seems like the bad guy always wins, but give karma time. Maybe we need to give God time to work it through.” Chapter 9, p, 5*

### **4. Do actions and fate go hand in hand?**

I have witnessed my children acting like their parents. As much as I’d like them to not repeat my mistakes I can’t. If they see my curses then why go there. Again, I think it’s pride that we all have. Kids love to think they can do better than their parents. The crazy part is repeating history. Why do so many generations do the same stupid things? The Bible says our fate is sealed. If Satan can read the ending, then why not avoid it to win. I think by nature we can’t. We have to know if fire is hot. It’s the way were built.

*“I like to tell the story of two families that began differently over a hundred-year span. One went to school and the other did not. One lived in poverty and crime while the other amassed fame and wealth. In Exodus 20 God tells the Israelites, “For I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me.” It may seem cruel but what we sow for others and within our own family will cause blessings and curses. In our own lives we will be affected by what we reap. A blessing can continue, but so can a curse.” Chapter 9, p, 7*

### **5. How will we treat curses in a cursed world?**

What if God provided a curse that in hindsight helped a nation? What if a spouse died and you met another great spouse? What if your child died and you found out they were born with MS. These are all heartbreak and tragedy stories. Our world is full of cursed stories. This world is equally full of redemption and redeemed stories. Curses suck. Yeah, they do, but they do bring knowledge and perseverance. Do we need that?

*“Curses appear because we live in a cursed world. The land and air are sick. It does not take a global warming idiot to tell us something is wrong. Did we bring this curse upon ourselves? Yes, we did. How many of us could have cleaned up our messes in this place we call earth? Oh we could, but on and on time goes by. We tend to be entitled in North America. We expect that we voted in mommy and daddy to take care of us. We*

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*don't build an ark like Noah did. Today we say God will provide. In Noah's day God provided rain. Was that a blessing or a curse?" Chapter 9, p, 10*

### **6. Are we made to bless others?**

Some well meaning Christian people always tell us that they were made for a purpose. What is a soul mate? They are the perfect match because they complete the other mate. They work well together. In reality each one was built differently. Each one gives a complimentary character piece to the union. We were made to bless each other. We have talents that others do not. I love watching Johnny Hockey play. Maybe he loves to read my blog (wishful thinking). However, we can make each others day with different talents. Great doctors, writers, and sports stars have blessed my life. I was made to bless others too.

*"Blessings and curses are found within us. God created us with a purpose. That purpose is to bless others. I am good at writing so I write to bless. A carpenter is talented with building things. Then bless those who need you. I am so dismayed with all the people who have talent but fail to give back. Yes, we need money to survive. I get that. There is a rule in the Bible called, Gleaning of the Field. It's where the farmer takes 90 percent for himself but leaves 10 percent to the poor. That is, you and your talent. Give back to the less fortunate (cursed). Be the light in their darkness." Chapter 9, p, 12*