



Blessings: The normal ones

Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

What if it was just God existing in the universe? He is standing all alone in a white room. We have all seen that type of thing in Hollywood. Why would God live in anything other than a pure white room? We all believe it to some degree. Yet, God is more than just purity. He is not contained to just a small white room. I was listening to a podcast and the speaker was reminding us that God is love but He is also judge, grace, anger, and creator. We tend to see God a certain way that is comfortable to us. A white room keeps God simple. He is not threatening to us unless we find ourselves in that same white room for eternity. I do not think we let God be more than sitting on a throne chair in heaven. Isn't He more than that?

Why is creation colorful and diverse? Wouldn't a creator be many things? An out of the box thinker in a vastly diverse world. Maybe there is more to God than just himself? The real answer is that God is multi-facet. We are made in His image. Humans are extremely diverse. What if God reflected the creation He made? He hungers for things as we do. God cries and is happy. Yet, God is God and we are not Him. The divine is different than the human. A cheetah goes very fast compared to a human. Yet, a rocket is faster. None of those things are similar. Yet, they are both faster than an ant. The attributes of fast fit many things that are not alike. Although we are not God, we are like Him.

To know something of God is to know human attributes. We love, cry, and desire. So does God. The normal blessings of God cover much of the attributes of humans. We need to breathe, eat, and have a place to sleep. Normal blessings are so common that we tend to ignore them. Having air is not a blessing of God, right? Well... God is many things like wisdom, divine, and judge. His blessings also come in many forms like water, dirt, and air. Creation has many sides. It is interesting that we are (for the most part) contained on earth. We cannot live in the ocean or the depths of space. The normal blessings of God help us survive on earth. From food to rain we can see God blessing us. These normal blessings reflect on how God loves to provide. That He wants us to exist, thrive, and grow. I would have to say that the number one blessing is freedom. From day one Adam and Eve had the right and freedom to choose God.

Freedom is a right is it not? Is food a right? I have noticed that the international movie numbers drive the business. I did not realize how big the world is. In North America we tend to think we are the world. Yet, most of the world does not treat freedom the same way we do. The greater world (outside of North America) is bigger than we think. That means that a women's right and freedom to eat is subjectively different in most of the world. Things such as global warming and gay rights do not play a role in the governments of Africa the same way they do in the West. Who really decides what is a right? The UN, NATO, or America? God told us what is right. Then He gave each of us the natural and normal right to choose.

Normal blessings are closely related to rights. I would say that we have a right to die because all will die. We have a right to be born. Each baby born into creation is subject to these normal blessings of God. There is food and air. The right to live in creation is a wonderful blessing. To see the Grand Canyon or a tropical paradise are wonderful blessings. Yet, each of those places might not be a blessing to those who live there. Many humans have set boundaries.

We do not have a right to live where we choose. It is however, normal to be where God places you. It could be a blessing to be Canadian, American, or Cambodian if God put you there at birth. Usually, it is home and a blessing in our own country.

God loves diversity. How many different humans are there really? There are so many shapes, sizes, and colors in humans. The same can be said of fish, dogs, and flowers. We could say that it is a normal blessing to be diverse. Each creature has different attributes. My cats are brothers but they are very different. A normal blessing might be that you can paint. I cannot! Can you run or sing? Each of us has something special about us. Even my cats! They appear normal like a characteristic or talent. Yet, they are a blessing from God.

Of course, it is a blessing to have freedom. It is a blessing to choose God of our own free will. Maybe we have free will to marry or love. Is it a right? Tell that to arranged marriages. If you live in a city, do you have a right to clean air? Some fight for that right but in all reality, we are at the mercy of the city. I have never fallen in love with someone I could not have. We do not have that right. We can choose to love but we do not have the right to have them love us back. Yet, love is a blessing when it happens. In the mountains we are blessed by clean air. God has given us some wonderful blessings. Normal blessings are everywhere to those who are looking. Although many things are not a right, yet they can be a blessing.

People have called the mountains Gods country. They are the natural wonders of the world like Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon. To see a humpback whale is an amazing sight. So is the humming bird. It is interesting that most cultures feel blessed by something during the harvest season. In a storm have you ever muttered “thank God, we made it?” Have you looked at the Northern lights and marveled at its beauty? Everyone on this planet has seen the blessings of

creation. Normal and natural blessings that make our day. These types of blessings were meant to sustain us. Yet, they are there to make the world around us a beautiful place.

It is sad that we do not appreciate and thank God more often for the normal blessings. I will give us some slack though. Normal blessings are foundational. What we feel about things cannot be forced. It is a blessing that we have feelings. That we can love and appreciate the finer things in life. It would be good for us to step back now and then and acknowledge the normal blessings of God. I do not think we are to worship them or honor them for the most part. They are free gifts of God to creation. However, knowing that they come from God and are a blessing is a good thing.

Normal blessings are attached to Romans 1:20 *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”* It is a freedom and right to believe in God. Even though we walked away from God in the very beginning, God still gives us our normal blessings. They are not negotiable because God loves creation unconditionally. However, the next type of blessing is the human one. They are given to us by God. However, they are through people. They are not life sustaining or natural. Instead, they are a picture of how God wants us to be a blessing in His kingdom.