

## **Blessings of God**

This is going to be a weird confession. I have resisted chasing the blessings of God. For a Christian and even a pastor that seems so off. Yet, I had my reasons. For the most part I have had no mentor in the Christian world. All the success and mistakes that Christians have made has been my witness. This guy has had to discern what is the real Christianity while being left practically alone. One thing that struck me in this journey is works. We are told that we cannot earn heaven. Yet, are we to chase the blessings of God? I have seen men chase works for all the right and wrong reasons.

I always thought that the blessings of God were just that: blessings. Yet, some people have tied it to our works. Others have said that God gives blessings. I wrote a book called Blessings and Curses. Some curses are a blessing, while some blessings can end up a curse. Find the perfect wife and then divorce ten years later. Get a divorce and then find the best spouse the second time around. Blessings and curses are a weird concept. Yet, are Gods blessings something to be sought after? Who would chase a curse?

I do have several people around me that seek the blessings of God. I tithe but I do not seek the blessing. Instead, I feel that tithing is a privilege to honor God. To thank Him for what He provides. I have always felt that there is a lingering question. What if God did not bless you after you gave? What if your good works went unpaid with a blessing? Would you still do them joyfully? That has been my crux. I want to serve the Lord joyfully regardless of blessings. It is possible I have been wrong in my view of Gods blessings.

What does God have to say? Proverbs 10:22 *“The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.”* Job 5:17 *“Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore,*

*despise not the discipline of the Almighty.*” I feel that the blessings of God are not about works or asking for them. Instead, those two verses say one thing “God will.” God will reprove us and it is a blessing. God will make our lives rich by a blessing. We tend to look at the blessings and what we receive. What if it was all about the giving? What if it was about a loving God who desires to give? I heard awhile back about receiving a blessing. It is not nice to reject a gift from someone because you are robbing them of the joy in blessing others. It has struck me recently that I just might be robbing God of a blessing he would give freely.

This has shaken me to the core. I tend to give prayer but do not feel the need to receive prayer. I love to give blessings but avoid getting blessings. Why? Is it humbleness because it is better to give than receive? Maybe I want to avoid doing works for a blessing. I just want to bless others. Yet, clearly, I am denying others of that same right towards me. That includes God. This is a weird place for me. I have a friend who wants all the blessings from God. He will gladly serve and do anything he can to get Gods blessings. He calls it reciprocal. God loves to give and my friend loves to get blessings. In the middle is service, loyalty, worship, and the pouring out of the Spirit.

Strangely this could be an uncomfortable place for me. What would it mean to chase the blessings of God. There are hundreds of blessings verses. I could pick any number of them to show that God blesses. This is not rocket science. I think it comes down to faith. This word means to have trust. What it does not say is proof. It does not say to have gained something to believe in. Instead it is all about being firm in the trust. Proverbs 3:5 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

When I gave my life to Jesus, I said I trust in Him. Did I really? When I was baptised, I gave a vow to trust in Him. Did I really? There have been many moments in my Christian walk where I vowed to trust in Him. There is a song by Sheryl Stacey called "Its time." She says "it's time to change my ways and follow Jesus." That seems so simple. Just change my ways! What it really comes down to is that God has changed me. Yet, what if I have, I refused to change? It is not about being good for God? Yet, it is, is it not? What is being good. The fact is we all know. There are things we should avoid. Things we should not watch or engage in. I make a habit of looking at my phone. Do I have the same conviction with my Bible? I suspect our faith is tied to our prayer life. I would consider prayer life chasing God.

I am not going to bash myself too hard. I do attend church regularly. I am serving the Lord in that place. I tithe and do pray. Every day I listen to a host of Christian stuff. I post Bible studies and consider God in many areas of my life. I read my Bible and listen to the Bible. Yet, something is missing. I am not that convinced that I am changing my ways and following Jesus. There is work to be done. Yes, much of it is in Jesus court. He is changing me. Yet, I have a hunger for something more. I know deep in my soul that I need to open and chase the blessings of God. Yes, even for my own benefit. However, I want God to be able to be God in my life. To bless me freely because He desires to. It shouldn't be about works only. Don't we all want that?