



A grateful heart

Praise God from Whom
all blessings flow...

Count your blessings...

- Name them one by one
- See what God has done
- “Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

How has God blessed you?

- Seriously, what has He given you that makes you who you are?
 - Talent
 - Personality
 - Experiences

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 - Talent
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- Are these things among the blessings we count?
- Or, do we look at them as the burdens we bear or the crosses we carry?

If only...

- If only I were this...
- If only that had not happened...
- If only I had made that choice...

If only...

- If only I were this...
- If only that had not happened...
- If only I had made that choice...

- Joy suckers all...
 - “If only” can steal your peace, your purpose and His plan for you

His peace, plans, purpose

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 - Peace with God means seeing Him and seeing ourselves correctly
 - Being part of God's plan means realizing it is His plan – not your plan that you want Him to participate in
 - Knowing God's purpose for you involves trusting Him

How has God blessed you?

“ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said...”

How has God blessed you?

“It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part...”

How has God blessed you?

“ If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it...”

1 Corinthians 12: 9-21



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- Paul understands that we want something we don't have
- We are dissatisfied because we are something we wish we weren't
- We struggle because we are not what we wish we could be
- We rarely value the gift given accurately unless the gift is something we desire

How has God blessed you?

“In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary... So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.”

- 1 Corinthians 12: 22-26

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- God has given them for a reason
- God desires His body to function as He designed it to
- But for that to happen, everyone has to know their blessing and share it

Spiritual gifts listed in Scripture

- Administration
- Apostleship
- Craftsmanship
- Communicating
- Discernment
- Encouragement
- Exhorting
- Evangelism
- Faith
- Giving
- Healing
- Hospitality
- Intercession
- Knowledge
- Leadership
- Miracles
- Shepherding
- Prophecy
- Teaching
- Tongues
- Serving
- Showing Mercy
- Wisdom

So, do you see your gifts?

- If you need help seeing them, ask
 - God
 - Brother or Sister



So, are you grateful for them?

- Do you count them as blessings?



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- Do you count them as blessings?
 - This is probably answered best by whether you see their value
 - Are you investing your gifts in the Body of Christ or spending your time wishing you had someone else's gift?
 - There are times when a hand can do what a foot should be doing or vice versa. But try having a hand function as a liver or a lung...

A pancreas does what a pancreas does...

- And when it does, the Body may not express its appreciation, but the Body is healthy

A pancreas does what a pancreas does...

- And when it does, the Body may not express its appreciation, but the Body is healthy
- And when it doesn't, the whole Body suffers



Can you thank God this morning?

- For how He made you?

Can you thank God this morning?

- For how He made you?
- For what He has gifted you?

Can you thank God this morning?

- For how He made you?
- For what He has gifted you?
- For His plan for you?

Can you thank God this morning?

- For how He made you?
- For what He has gifted you?
- For His plan for you?
- For His purpose for you?

Do you know His peace this morning?

- Jonah
 - Disagrees with God
 - Plan/Purpose
 - Ends up in the Belly of a Big Fish
 - Is propelled upon the shores of Nineveh
 - Proves to be one of the most effective preachers mentioned in Scripture

Jonah 4

“This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen...”

Jonah 4

“The Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry about this?” Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah’s head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant...”

Jonah 4

“ But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. “Death is certainly better than living like this!” he exclaimed. Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?” “Yes,” Jonah retorted, “even angry enough to die!”

Jonah 4

“ Then the Lord said, “You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?”

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- The effectiveness of his gift is clearly not tied to his desire to bless Nineveh
- Rather than rejoicing in how God is using him, Jonah is miserable in his self-centeredness
- Ultimately, it's not about Jonah

Get on the boat for Nineveh!

-

Get on the boat for Nineveh!

- Thank Him for your gifts!

Get on the boat for Nineveh!

- Thank Him for your gifts!
- Trust God that great things will happen when you ask Him to use your gifts as He sees fit to bless the Body of Christ