



Counting Your Blessings



"... not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Luke 12:15

What counts in life is not things, but relationships: Family and friends with whom we share life experiences; fellow Christians with whom we share a common faith; Our Lord Jesus Christ with whom we share a spiritual bond.

Be thankful for what really counts!

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

Psalm 100

A Psalm for Thanksgiving.

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing.
Know that the LORD Himself is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His lovingkindness is everlasting
And His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 105:1-3

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.
Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
Speak of all His wonders.
Glory in His holy name;
Let the heart of those who seek
the LORD be glad.

SERENITY PRAYER

An 18th Century theologian by the name of Reinhold Neibuhr is considered to be the author of the famous Serenity prayer. It has been quoted, printed and memorized by many people. While it is not inspired Scripture, it does illustrate Bible principles.

God, grant me the
SERENITY to accept the things I cannot change;
COURAGE to change the things I can; and
WISDOM to know the difference.

Unknown to many is the fact this is only part of the prayer. There is more. Here is the remainder of the prayer:

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will.
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with Him forever in the next.
Amen.



Serenity

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

John 14:27

"Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 12:10

Courage

"Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight — we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Wisdom

"But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

Hebrews 5:14

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment."

Philippians 1:9



Ponder This

B.Y.O.R. **(Bring Your Own Religion)**

A church advertises “we’re spiritual, not religious.” They believe: There is one God, called by many different names and found through many different paths ... All writings are held sacred. When understood mystically and metaphysically, they reveal the path to spiritual maturity and enlightenment ... like spokes on a wheel, they all lead to the hub (God).

You do not have to subscribe to any set of beliefs, everyone brings their own beliefs. This concept (B.Y.O.R.) has appeal to some. However:

PERSONAL BELIEF

- is subjective, not objective.
- is based on one’s own thinking—an unreliable foundation.
- relies on one’s own spirituality to save them—a very impotent force.

However, personal faith based on Jesus (who has power over death) is a sure foundation and support.

For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

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**Put your faith, hope, and trust in the only begotten Son of God: Jesus.
Rely on the only true source: The Word of God.**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:16-17

MY PRAYER: I pray that I may be
humble so as to accept praise without becoming arrogant,
confident so I may welcome criticism,
compassionate so that I am able to accept human frailties in others,
discerning in order that I may see my own shortcomings,
modest enabling me to appreciate the greatness in others,
wise so as to realize that greatness is achieved through service,
brave that I might stand up to opposition,
loving so I will serve the Lord acceptably. **Amen, and Amen!**



Pearls from Proverbs

SPEECH

Foolish Talk

- 14:3 *In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will preserve them.*
- 15:2 *The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly.*
- 18:6-7 *A fool's lips bring strife, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul.*
- 19:1 *Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.*

Pleasant Speech

- 15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- 15:23 *A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!*
- 16:21 *The wise in heart will be called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.*
- 16:24 *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*
- 25:11-12 *Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprovewer to a listening ear.*
- 25:15 *By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.*



WORD STUDY

enhance your Bible knowledge

HUNGER

A strong desire or craving for food is a great motivator.

PHYSICAL HUNGER

A worker's appetite works for him, for his hunger urges him on.

Proverbs 16:26

But when he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!"

Luke 15:17

SPIRITUAL HUNGER

A strong desire or craving for spiritual food is also a great motivator.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

Matthew 5:6

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

John 6:35

Have a strong desire or craving to be well-fed spiritually.

FEAST ON HIS WORD!

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Articles written by others are duly noted.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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