



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### How to Recognize Blessings (Part 4)

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**Reading:** Eph. 1:3-7

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens**, as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before Him. In love, He destined us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of His will, for the praise and glory of His grace that He granted us in the beloved.”*

#### Blessed (Webster)

- Enjoy the bliss of heaven that brings pleasure, good fortune.
- State of being what we want to enjoy.

#### Kinds of Blessings:

- Material blessings – physical blessings, which are temporary (house, car, possessions, work). These will eventually fade, rot, or decline over time.
- Spiritual blessings – the biggest blessing to be children of God; to have found the light in Christ; and, our relationship with God. These can never be taken away.

#### How to recognize Blessings

##### 1. Quantity of Blessings (Eph. 1:3)

- Praise for all **spiritual blessings** in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
- Being adopted children of God, no longer slaves, we are co-heirs to the kingdom of God; but, also co-workers in the suffering of Christ as well (Gal. 4:4-7, Jn. 15, 1 Pt. 4).
- Do not be afraid because no servant is greater than the master; these are tests of our endurance and faith (Jn. 15:18).
- The greatest treasure is learning the works of God.
- All blessings mean all that we need, yesterday, today and tomorrow, all the days of our lives.

##### 2. Quality of Spiritual Blessings

- Blessings originated from heaven – our new birth came from divine blessings.
- We are saved because God is gracious, not because we deserve it.
- He speaks of foreknowledge (Acts 1:4).
- You were far away, but have been brought nearer. He sent another advocate to be with us always (Jn. 14:16).
- God owns us twice: 1) created us and 2) redeemed us.

**Reflection:** Have we realized that we are owned by Jesus Christ, but He cannot use us? Why do we refuse to serve Him?

#### Bear in mind the following:

##### 1. Our Destination (Jn. 14:3)

- Our final destination is the heavenly mansion, filled with glorious blessings – no more tears, no more pain.

##### 2. Our Consecration (2 Cor. 5:17)

- When we accepted Jesus as the Father who is holy, let us all be holy also. Let us not conform to the way of this world.

##### 3. Our Preservation

- The Holy Spirit was the Lord's promise to be our salvation. He sent another advocate to be with us always (2 Tim. 1:12). Rejoice for we are saved!

Let us be one with Christ and become God's family (1 Jn. 5:1).

Therefore, the greatest blessings are from the Lord's perspective, we are all blessed beyond description.

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