



## **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**

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Recently after paying my check in a restaurant the cashier said as I was leaving, *"Have a blessed day."* I thanked her for the encouraging gesture. On another occasion I asked a person how he was doing and he replied, *"I am blessed!"*

Blessings and blessed. Two beautiful words full of meaning and so needed in our day. What is a blessing? Webster in his numerous definitions of *blessing* says, *"3. a favor or gift bestowed by God, thereby bringing happiness....4.the invoking of God's favor upon a person."* There are several Greek words translated *"blessed and blessing"* in the New Testament, which are in agreement with Webster's definitions.

As Christians we sing a song encouraging us to *"Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."* In his epistle to the Ephesians, Paul wrote these words of encouragement: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"* (Ephesians 1:3). Wow! All spiritual blessings...none left out!

Think about this grand truth: *All spiritual blessings are in Christ.* This means that everything we need, spiritually speaking, (1) relates to Christ, (2) is given by Christ, (3) is sustained by Christ, and (4) originates with Christ. Notice Paul says that in response to the blessings we have been given in Christ we acknowledge the Giver, *"blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* This means that we thank and praise God for His abundant blessings in His Son.

In the context of Ephesians chapter one, Paul makes it clear that our core blessing in Christ is salvation. A salvation that was planned by God before He created the world: *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love"* (Ephesians 1:4).

*All Spiritual blessings* include (1) forgiveness, (2) power to live the Christian life, (3) prayer privileges, (4) no condemnation, (5) hope, (6) acceptance, (7) joint heir with Christ, (8) eternal life, (9) joy and peace, and (10) a crown of life.



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These spiritual blessings are only in Christ, which are acquired when a person is baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27). The spiritual blessings continually flow in our lives as we “walk in the light as He is in the light” (1 John 1:6-8).

Take time this week to count some of your spiritual blessings and thank God for them. Oh yes, ARE YOU IN CHRIST?