

BLESSED OR STRESSED

“One Life 1 Legacy” P.1

Jeff Wall 1-23-2011

7 very important facts about God's blessing on our lives.

- 1. I don't deserve God's blessing.** I can't earn God's blessing. I can't work for God's blessing. I can't figure out a way to pay for God's blessing. It is totally a gift. The Bible says *“From the fullness of his grace we've all received one blessing after another.”*
- 2. God blesses you is because he enjoys doing it.** *“I will enjoy blessing them. [This is God talking] With all my heart and soul I will faithfully plant them in this land.” “My blessings are for gentiles too [Who? that's you.] ...when they accept the Lord. Don't let them think that I will make them second class citizens. They can be as much mine as anyone.”*
- 3. God promises and actually guarantees that he will bless your life if – and here's the big condition – if you do what he says.** Deuteronomy 28:2-8. Notice all the different blessings in here but notice the condition. Every promise has a premise. There are over seven thousand promises in the Bible where God says if you do this I will do *this*. If you confess your sins I will forgive you. If you call upon me I will save you. If you obey me I will bless you. There are over seven thousand promises and every promise has a condition.

You're not waiting on God; God's waiting on you to fulfill the conditions so he can bless your life in ways you've never imagined.

“You will experience all these blessings if [circle “if”– here's the condition] you obey the Lord your God: [in other words, if you follow the instructions] You will be blessed in your towns and in the country. You will be blessed with many children and productive fields. You will be blessed with fertile herds and flocks. [He's talking about blessing your business] You will be blessed with baskets overflowing with fruit, and with kneading bowls filled with bread [You'll have all the food you need]. You will be blessed wherever you go, both in coming and in going. The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you... [that's a blessing] And the Lord will bless [circle this] everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain.”

As your pastor who loves you, I want this verse true in your life.

- 4. God wants to bless you visibly, publicly in front of other people.** In many ways God wants to show off his blessing. He wants to show what a good and loving God he is. *“You do much, Lord, for those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.”* That woman is blessed! That man is blessed! That family is blessed! What's going on over there at that Friends Church...What's in the water??
 - Can you think of any personal examples of this?
 - How about the U.S. as a nation?

- Examples in the Old Testament nation of Israel?
- Israel's Kings or Patriarchs?
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5. God blesses you so you can bless others.

“I will cause my people and their homes [*God wants to bless your home*] around my holy hill to be a blessing, [*not receive but be a blessing*] and I will send showers of blessings [*that's a ton!*] which will come just when they are needed.”

I can't think of a better time than right now (3 years into a global recession)

You receiving God's blessing depends on what you focus on. Your obsession with the recession will cloud your vision of God's provision.

And you'll miss it!

- What may be causing you to miss seeing God's blessing?
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6. Blessings can be multi-generational. You can actually pass on the blessing of God to the next generation. Genesis 25:11 “After Abraham's death, God poured out rich blessings on Isaac.” Who's Isaac? Abraham's son.

7. Here's the good news: it's never too late to get in the blessing of God.

Job 42:12 “The Lord blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the first half.” I want that to be true of you!

GOD PROMISES TO BLESS MY LIFE ...

1. IF I MEET WITH HIM DAILY

“*Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching DAILY at my doors, waiting at my doorway.*” Prov. 8:34 (NIV)

“*You have stored up great blessings for those who honor you. You do so much for those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.*” Psalm 31:19 (NLT)

2. IF I STUDY AND DO HIS WORD

“*Blessed is the man... whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his Word he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*” Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)

“*The man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.*” James 1:25 (NIV)

3. IF I GIVE ACCORDING TO MY INCOME

“*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and*

pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”
(NIV)

Mal. 3:10

4. IF I HELP OTHERS IN NEED

“God blesses those who are kind to the poor and helpless. He helps them out of their own troubles. He protects them and keeps them alive; he publicly honors them and destroys the power of their enemies.” Psalm 41:1-2 (LB)

“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.”
Prov. 22:9 (NIV)

“Good people bless and build up their city.” Prov. 11:11 (NCV)

5. IF I SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

“I pray you will be active in sharing your faith, so that you will fully understand every blessing we have in Christ.” Philemon 1:6 (NIV)

“The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.” 1 Cor. 3:8 (NIV)

6. IF I PARTICIPATE IN FELLOWSHIP

“I’m eager to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. In this way, each of us will be a blessing to the other.” Rom. 1:12 (NLT)

*“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed **IF you DO them.**”*

- DAILY TIME of DEVOTIONS**
- COME TO ALL 8 MESSAGES**
- BRING FRIEND TO WEEKEND MESSAGES**
- CHANCE FOR CHANGE OFFERING March 13th**
- FOOD DRIVE**
- PRAY and PREPARE FOR City Fest 2012**
- HOST OR ATTEND SMALL GROUP STUDY**