

- 4) Physical/speedy health - Ex 15:25-26; Ps 30:2; 91:3-8; 103:3; 107:20; 147:3; Pr 4:22; Isa 38:16; Jer 30:17; Mal 4:2; Lk 13:13; Php 4:19; Jas 5:16; 1 Pe 2:24.
- 5) Long life - Ps 90:12; 91:16; Pr 3:1-2; 8:35; 21:21; Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20.
- 6) Refuge - Ge 35:3; Dt 33:27; Ps 9:9; 46:1; 57:1; 91:2; 103:4.
- 7) Renewed youth - Ps 103:5.
- 8) Support to the weary - Mt 11:28-30; Ps 23:3; 55:22; 62:1,5; 116:7; Jer 6:16; 1 Pe 5:10.
- 9) Sweet sleep - Ps 127:2; Pr 3:24; Php 4:7.
- 10) Immunity from fire, floods and plagues - Ps 91:9-10; Pr 12:21; Isa 43:2.
- 11) Protection - Ex 19:4; Ps 17:8; 32:7; 34:7,20; 37:28; 41:2; 91; 121:8; Isa 43:2; Mt 23:37.
- 12) Bountiful life - Nu 11:18; Dt 30:9; Ps 132:15; Isa 1:19; Jn 10:10; Ro 5:17; 3 Jn 1:2.
- 13) Prosperity - Psalm 1; 25:12-13; 112:3; Pr 3:16; 10:22; 15:6; 22:4; 28:25; Isa 45:3; Lk 6:38; 2 Co 8:9; 9:6-15; Eph 3:8; Col 2:3; 1 Timothy 6:17; 3 John 1:2.
- 14) Labor rewarded - 1 Corinthians 3:8; 15:58.

Note: If God blesses one with abundance, it is for the purposes of publishing the true gospel throughout the world and helping the poor. We don't spend it on sinful pleasures, and neither do we live in self-indulgence.

Remember: God is able to do exceedingly abundantly, far above and beyond our imagination and expectation! *Ephesians 3:20-21* - *Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]— To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through-out all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it). (Amplified Bible)*

Scriptural References:

Exodus 23:24-26
 Deuteronomy 30
 Job 22:21
 Job 36:11
 Psalm 5:12
 Psalm 24:3-6
 Psalm 29:11
 Psalm 32:1-2
 Psalm 33:12
 Psalm 37:21-22,25-26
 Psalm 40:4
 Psalm 67:1-7
 Psalm 84:11
 Psalm 89:15
 Psalm 91
 Psalm 94:12
 Psalm 106:3
 Psalm 112:1
 Psalm 119:1-2
 Psalm 126:5-6
 Psalm 127:5
 Psalm 128:1,4
 Psalm 144:15
 Proverbs 10:6-7,22
 Proverbs 28:14,20
 Isaiah 30:18
 Isaiah 56:2
 Luke 11:28
 Ephesians 6:1-3
 James 1:12

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Blessings

God is able to do
 immeasurably more!

What does the Bible say about blessings? What kinds of blessings does God promise to bestow upon His people? Are there any conditions attached?

What does the word 'blessed' mean? A blessing may be described as any expression of God's abundant goodness and abounding love toward us. In the New Testament, the word "bless" often translates *makarios*, meaning "blessed, fortunate, happy," according to the Holman Bible Dictionary.

What are the conditions attached to receiving blessings from God? According to *Dt 28:1-14; 30:15-20* obedience to God's commandments bring blessings of life, fruitfulness, prosperity, health, joy, success and victory. God's will for us is to live happy and productive lives. We invest our time, hard work, effort and resources in serving the Lord with complete faithfulness, passion, devotion, dedication and commitment.

What is the sowing and reaping principle? God promises to provide His faithful servants with everything they need, including materials and resources to fulfill their mission in preaching the true gospel throughout the world. The sowing and reaping principle is connected with the law of multiplication, as illustrated by the 'Parable of the Sower' in *Lk 8:4-15*. Once we come to a knowledge of the truth of God's word, it is crucial that we proclaim it to the world. We don't just keep it to ourselves. We hear the word of God and act on it! Through patience and perseverance, we will reap even one hundred times what was sown. The more good seeds that one sows, the more one will reap a large, fruitful harvest of righteousness. Sowing sparingly = reap sparingly. Sowing generously = reap generously. The more that one shows generosity, the more he will be blessed. Not giving grudgingly or out of necessity, but with a cheerful spirit. Obviously, those who sow very little seed, will not reap very much; and those who sow nothing, will reap no reward *Ecc 11:4; 2 Co 9:6-15* coincides with the scripture in *Gal 6:7-10*, which says that one reaps what he sows. This has eternal consequences. When one sows to please the Spirit, he is living according to the word of God. A life that is in obedience to God's Laws and pleasing, honorable and acceptable to the Lord *Gal 5:22-25*. That person is allowing the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct his life, and therefore, he will inherit spiritual blessings, including eternal life in the Kingdom of God. The opposite is also true. If one sows to please the sinful, carnal nature, he will reap death and destruction, because he is sowing to the flesh, which means living according to the evil ways of this world, and indulging in the acts of the sinful nature, as listed in *Gal 5:19-21*. Therefore, he will not inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God. **Remember: actions have consequences** *Pr 11:19*. The sowing and reaping principle works both positively and negatively; is applied to both blessings and curses; and applies to both the righteous and the wicked. We will reap a lasting and satisfying reward when we sow righteousness *Pr 11:18*. Those who show concern for, and are generous towards the poor will be blessed *Pr 22:9*. Conversely, those who sow injustice reap calamity *Job 4:8; Pr 22:8*. Scripture encourages us to do good to all people, especially to those who are in Christ. We must persevere in planting good seeds, for we will reap an abundant harvest, if we do not give up *Gal 6:9*. Faith, patience and perseverance is crucial in reaping a fruitful harvest. Our labor in the Lord is not in vain. As the KJV Study Bible mentions on Pg. 1664, "Because of Christ's resurrection and ours, we know that serving Him is not empty, useless activity. Our effort is invested in the Lord's winning cause. He will also reward us at His second coming." God will richly rewarded us for our time, efforts and resources which are invested in actively publishing, promoting and advancing the true gospel. We must remain steadfast, and use our time productively and wisely in serving God zealously *1 Co 15:57-58*. God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, in all aspects of our Christian lives. We must abound in the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do, and be fruitful in them *Eph 2:10*.

Upon whom does God bestow blessings? The very first psalm mentions that those who are blessed are the ones who do not associate with the wicked. They do not participate in wickedness. They do not stand in the way of sinners (those who habitually practice sin as a way of life). They also do not sit in the seat of the scornful (those who mock God and rebelliously reject His Law). They do not listen to the advice of the wicked. Instead, they take great delight in God's Law, and meditate on it day and night. They trust in and revere God, do His will and serve Him faithfully with wholehearted devotion. They also seek His guidance and direction in their lives. The rhetorical expression used in *Ps 1:3* to illustrate the blessedness of the righteous, is a healthy, flourishing tree which bears fruit in season. This corresponds with the scripture in *Jer 17:8* which mentions that those who trust in the Lord will prosper like a healthy, fruitful tree. The wicked are compared to chaff that the lightest wind blows away. By eliminating what is utterly useless, cleansing results *Ps 1:4-6*. According to *Dt 28:1-14*, careful obedience to God's commandments, including the greatest commandment, which is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (*Read Tract: The Greatest Commandment - Dt 6:5*) brings many blessings, including: health and vigor; long life; all kinds of victories; strength; fruitfulness and abundant prosperity. God will bless those who do what is good.

What does the Bible say about prosperity? *Ps 1*. A real blessing of prosperity is one which we are able to enjoy *Pr 10:22*. God alone gives one the ability to produce wealth *Dt 8:18*. Those who meditate on, and are careful to obey the Law of the Lord will be prosperous *Jos 1:7-9*. Prayer and Bible study is part of our daily fellowship with God. The Bible is our life manual, which will lead and guide

us into living a successful and prosperous life. **Crucial to remember:** As God's faithful servants, we must never forget the Lord our God, when He bestows His abundant blessings upon us. He must always remain first love and first priority in our lives. Jesus sharply rebukes the lukewarm Laodicean church who have left their first love Jesus Christ, and boast in their great wealth and possessions. They may be rich in the material goods of this world; but spiritually they are poor, wretched, miserable, blind and naked *Rev 3:14-22*. We must trust in God; and never place our hope in the physical things of this world, as they are temporary and fading away *1 Jn 2:15-17*. He who does the will of God has eternal life. In *Jer 17:5-8* we see a powerful contrast between those who trust in God, who are like healthy trees; and those who trust in man and the physical things of this world, such as wealth and worldly possessions, who are compared to a bush in the wastelands. Or a naked and destitute man who dwells in the parched places of the desert, and will not see prosperity when it comes.

What are the different kinds of blessings that God promises to bestow upon His faithful servants? Here are a few scriptural examples:

Spiritual Blessings: According to the *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, the Greek word 'eulogeo' means lit., "to speak well of" (eu, "well," logos, "a word"). For those who are in Christ, God has spoken well of them, and bestowed and pronounced all kinds of spiritual blessings upon them *Eph 1:3*. God chose His elect before the foundation of the world, to be His very adopted sons and daughters *Eph 1:4-6*. Why? Because of His grace, and His good will and pleasure. As a result, holiness is imparted to the believer. The person has become sanctified - set apart and made holy for God. There are many other spiritual blessings mentioned in the Bible, including:

- 1) **Holy Spirit** - *Jn 14:16; 16:13; Acts 2:38-39; 5:32; Ro 8:26-27; Eph 5:18.*
- 2) **Jewels of God** - *Mal 3:17.*
- 3) **Victory and triumph over all our enemies** - *Dt 20:4; Jos 1:3; 2 Sa 22:36; 2 Ch 20:22; Ps 44:7; Ps 54:7; 60:12; 112:8; 118:7; Isa 54:17. Victory over the world* - *1 Jn 4:4; 5:4. Victory over death* - *1 Co 15:55-58. Victory in spiritual war* - *2 Cor 10:4-6; Eph 6:10-18; Heb 12:1-2. Victory over the flesh* - *Gal 5:16, 24; Col 3:2. Victory over Satan and demonic attacks* - *Ro 16:20; Eph 6:10-18; Jas 4:7 Church victorious* - *Mt 16:18.*
- 4) **Exaltation** - *Mt 23:12; Jas 4:10; 1 Pe 5:6.*
- 5) **Promotion and world recognition** - *Ps 91:14; Pr 4:8; 22:29; Mt 23:12.*
- 6) **Success** - *Dt 28:11-13, 11:15, 30:9; Jos 1:7; Ps 112:3, 118:25, 128:2; Prov 8:18-19, 22:4; Ecc 3:13; Isa 30:23, 58:9-12.*
- 7) **Wisdom and knowledge** (includes universe knowledge) - *Ps 111:10; Pr 2:1-9, 6-7; 15:33; 28:5; Isa 11:9; Mt 11:25; Ac 17:22; Jas 1:5.*
- 8) **Peace** (heart and mind) - *Ps 119:165; Isa 26:3; Ro 5:1; 8:6; Jn 14:27; 16:33; Ro 5:1; Php 4:7; Col 1:20; 3:15.*
- 9) **Every good thing** - *1 Ch 17:26; Ps 34:8-10; 84:11; 103:1-6; 107:9; Pr 12:14; Mt 7:7-11; Eph 1:3.*
- 10) **Hope** - *Ps 62:5; 119:49; Pr 2:22; Jer 29:11; Ro 8:24; 1 Th 4:13-18; Tit 2:13; Heb 6:19; 7:19.*
- 11) **Fruitful harvest** - *Ps 67:6; 85:12; 107:37; 126:5-6; Mal 3:10-12; Mt 9:37-38; Gal 6:9; Heb 12:11.*
- 12) **Reap as sown** - *Ps 126:5-6; Pr 11:25; Lk 6:38; Gal 6:7-9.*
- 13) **Spiritual gifts** - *1 Co 12:8-10, 31; 1 Co 14:1; 1 Ti 4:14.*
- 14) **Spiritual growth and character** - *Jn 15:2; 2 Co 3:18; 1 Pe 2:2.*
- 15) **All things, and whatsoever we ask in Jesus Name** - *Ge 32:26; 1 Sa 12:23; Isa 65:24; Mt 6:6; 7:7; 18:19; 21:22; Mk 11:24; Jn 14:12-14; Jn 15:16; Ro 8:32; Jas 1:6; 5:16-18; 1 Jn 5:15.*
- 16) **Eternal life** - *Mt 7:13; 10:39; 25:46; Jn 3:14-16, 36; 4:14; 6:47; 10:10; 14:3; 17:3; 1 Jn 5:11, 13.*

Emotional Blessings:

- 1) **Perfect and everlasting love for God and abiding in Christ's love** - *Ps 136; Jn 14:21; 15:9-10; 1 Jn 2:5, 15-17; Jude 21.*
- 2) **All wishes and desires of our hearts** - *Ps 23:1; 34; 37:4; 103:5; 145:19; Pr 10:24; Mt 9:29; 21:22; Mk 11:22-24; Lk 11:1-4; Jn 15:7; 1 Co 3:21-23.*
- 3) **Happiness** - *1 Ki 10:8; Ps 68:3; 128:1-2; 144:15; Pr 3:13-18; 16:20; 28:14; 29:18; Ecc 2:26; Php 4:11; 1 Ti 6:6; Heb 13:5.*
- 4) **Joy** - *Ne 8:10; Psalm 16:11; 32:11; 42:8; 126:2; Pr 10:28; Jn 15:11; 16:33; Ac 27:25; Php 4:11; Jas 1:2; 1 Pe 4:12-13.*
- 5) **Broken hearts healed and wounds binded** - *Ps 34:18; 147:3; Isa 61:1-3; Jer 30:17.*
- 6) **Hearts strengthened** - *2 Ch 16:9; Ps 73:26; 1 Th 3:13; Heb 13:9.*
- 7) **Everlasting consolation (comfort and encouragement)** - *Ps 23; 37:24; 94:19; Isa 40:1; 41:10; 49:13; Ro 15:5; 2 Co 1:5; 1 Th 2:12; 2 Th 2:16-17; Heb 6:18.*
- 8) **Compassion** - *Ps 103:4; Lk 7:13; Gal 5:22-23; Jas 1:12.*
- 9) **Deliverance from fear** - *2 Ki 6:16; Ps 23:4; 34:4, 7; 56:3; 91:5-8; Pr 3:21-26; Hag 2:5; 1 Jn 4:18.*
- 10) **Comfort to mourners** - *Mt 5:4.*

Physical and Material Blessings:

- 1) **Good days** - *Ps 34:12-14; 1 Pe 3:10-11.*
- 2) **Daily food** - *Ps 37:3; 111:5.*
- 3) **Provision** - *Dt 8:8; Ps 132:15; 144:13; Mt 6:30, 32-33; Lk 6:38; Jn 2:9-10; 1 Co 3:22; Php 4:19.*