

We are obsessed with praying for blessings

This is what I have learnt. People want God to be like Santa Claus. People want and expect God to bless them regardless of the way they fail to honour Him and obey His only Son.

People live as if disobedience and self obsession have no consequences. This is true for unbelievers and so-called believers who still live for themselves.

So, when we Pray, we first acknowledge that God is sovereign over all things.

He brings pleasure and calamity. Isaiah 45:7

God has a purpose for everything, nothing happens by accident.

He brings judgment to the world that does not honour Him. And He uses these same judgments as trials and tribulations to train His children in righteousness.

In our personal situation we need to ask what He wants us to do in obedience to His commands. If we are living in a way that does not honour Him, He may not be willing to bless us. If we are living for His glory, He will only prolong the trial for as long as He determines is necessary for our good. Blessings are always designed to bring us closer to honour Him and obey Him more than before.

The blessings for some will begin at the time that repent and turn to live for Christ. The blessings for others will begin when they realise that all God allows is for their spiritual maturity because He loves them and wants them to be transformed into the image of Christ.

Everything God does comes from His heart of love. Whatever troubles us is the result of God's love. Blessings and curses and two sides of the same coin.

So, our first concern in prayer is that God is sovereign over all. That He is the Lord of lords. He does nothing or allows nothing to happen just by chance. He is in control.

Therefore, if we don't honour Him in the way we live we can hardly ask Him to bless us with some pleasure. If we don't honour Him, we can be assured He is using our situation to call us to Repentance and Obedience. If we don't love and obey Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we have no access to the throne of His grace.

God is not the Santa Claus of the world to give us whatever we desire we want in the world.

If we live for Christ and obey Him, then we can bring all our problems to Him who cares for us and rules over us. Then we can pray knowing that He knows what is best, and He will give us only what will move us closer to Him.

I have experienced healing for my body twice in 40 years. I have experienced blessings in my trials and tribulations in many occasions by receiving the grace of His overpowering love that makes my trials seem like nothing. I was changed by love while my situation didn't change.

If we love Christ Jesus, we will be happy with whatever His love has determined is what we need at this time.

Hebrews 12:11

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Romans 8:28-30, 35-39

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified....Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will

tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God invented tough love. He is also the giver of love undeserved. If sin results in judgment and death, no one deserves to be blessed with His love.

A valid pray for blessing

Ephesians 3:16-19

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

If we come to people as with some authority from God, and we give them the impression God desires to give them whatever they ask, and God disagrees with us, and doesn't give the blessings, then the blind may well decide that God can't be counted on. All because of the corruption of their minds and our false assertions.

We are not commissioned to be ambassadors for blessings for sinners. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ and His call for repentance and obedience. We are called to deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow Christ. So, we call everyone to do likeness. All blessings are connected to this end so that God alone is glorified. If Jesus Christ is not Lord of all there is, and over us, He is not Lord at all.

The ways of God are often a mystery to us

Over the years there have been many requests for help in difficult times. Sometimes the situation has changed for good. Often the situation has gotten worse.

God works in others in a way that is not apparent to us, just as He works in us ways that are not apparent to others. Following the example of Jesus, we should always be ready to honour God and come to our Garden of Gethsemane. Not my will but Yours.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Considering our spiritual state, we should know that we are blessed just because we are able to draw breath and still live above the ground.

Pray that Jesus might dwell in your heart so that He is your all in all.