

## BLESSED

“Pastor, how do I know I am blessed? The truth is, you’re blessed when God is pleased with you. Most of us misunderstand or don’t appreciate what it means to be blessed. Many Christians take a view that we are only blessed when God has supplied something we’ve asked of Him. But this isn’t how Jesus described it. In Matthew 5:3 He said, ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*** Here, Jesus makes objective judgments about the spiritual state of the citizens of His Kingdom and He reveals, not what they feel like, but rather what God thinks of them.

People with the qualities listed in the Beatitudes gain God’s approval, and because God thinks well of them, they are "blessed." Note, God's blessing is far broader and exceedingly more important than merely being happy because of what you’ve received. It all hinges on whether God thinks well of you! Blessings are a result of God’s response to your actions and attitudes. Your kingdom privileges (blessings) manifest when God is well pleased with you.

The Old Testament concept of what it is to be “blessed” relied heavily on the physical and material rewards that were provided by God as a result of a covenant relationship. Jesus, however, introduces something very different. The citizens of His kingdom are not considered “blessed” because of any physical or material rewards received, but rather, because of God’s positive response to their attitudes and actions. Off course, the by-product of God taking pleasure in His people is physical and material rewards, but this is not the primary cause. The main reason why we can be called “blessed” is because our Heavenly Father has seen something in us that has caused Him to be delighted, and when God is delighted He causes things to happen that benefit us immensely (and bring glory to Him alone).

Jesus made one thing very clear. We can never be happy when we live self-centred lives. We may be fooled into thinking we're happy for a while, but eventually it will damage us because true happiness can be found only in a relationship with our Heavenly Father. Only the One who made us knows what will truly make us happy and give us satisfaction in life. When we believe and act like the person God’s Word says we are, God is well pleased, and as a result we are “blessed.” The outcome then is always positive! So don’t fall into the trap of seeking God’s hand when you should be seeking His face.

When you focus on pleasing God, He makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance. Mature Christians will ask God, “What can I do for you?” and not, “God what are you going to do for me?” When a person cares for the ‘blessings’ more than the One who ‘blesses’, there is a problem! Remember, as you grow and mature in God, all blessings will automatically grow and overtake you. Why? Because God is your Heavenly Father and He wants to richly bless you!