

When The Devil Blesses You

Introduction. Have you ever thought about how often people say God blesses them? When they come into some money or some kind of good fortune, they naturally attribute the windfall as coming from God. However, time often tells another tale. Sometimes what they gained ends up being a curse and an albatross around their neck rather than a blessing of any discernible kind. Maybe it is the Devil who “blesses” us instead. Perhaps he “blesses” us precisely because he knows we cannot handle what he gives us. He knows that the more “stuff” he piles in front of us, the more we will depart from God’s service (Matthew 4:8-9).

I. Is Everything Good In Your Life A Blessing From God?

- A. The Devil is crafty (2 Corinthians 11:3).
 - 1. The idea behind the word “crafty” is the notion of guile and deceit.
 - 2. He knows “every trick in the book” that will succeed in deceiving people.
 - 3. He knows how to make something dangerous look good and enticing.
- B. The Devil knows that false doctrine can be dressed up in a way that makes it look truthful to the uninformed (Colossians 2:8).
- C. He knows that some will embrace religious practices if they seem to promote something spiritual (Colossians 2:18).
- D. The Devil can look like an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14), and he wants us to believe that he is looking out for our best spiritual and material interests.

II. What Are Some “Blessings” That Might Be From The Devil?

- A. “I just won the lottery! God is good!”
 - 1. Did God really let you win the lottery? Did the Creator want you to have an enormous tax load that you didn’t expect? Did He want you to have the stress and heartache that comes with losing all of your money almost before you realize you’ve spent it all?
 - 2. Was it God who caused you to ignore every Bible precept about covetousness and greed (Ephesians 5:3, 5; Colossians 3:5)?
 - 3. Was it God who lit a desire in you to never work again?
 - a) This is what most people who win the lottery say: “I’m never going to work again!”
 - b) The scriptures teach us that our livelihood must come from diligence and hard work (Genesis 3:19; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10).
- B. “I just got a raise, so now I can afford to buy a new car and new house! God has richly blessed me!”
 - 1. We surely have to believe that God answers prayers and that God blesses those who walk with Him (Matthew 6:33).
 - 2. The scriptures do not promise us bigger and better houses, nor does it promise that God will give us a new car every couple of years.
 - 3. However, wouldn’t this be exactly what the Devil would supply to us if he wanted to distract us from spiritual concerns?

- C. "I just met someone on Tinder and we are having our first date tonight! Praise Jesus!"
1. God made marriage permanent (Romans 7:1-3). How many people who go looking for a mate on the Internet are thinking about "for life"?
 2. The whole idea of Internet dating sites terrifies me. No matter how many filters the site administrators put in place, and no matter how careful the screening process, there must be creeps, scammers, drunks, and abusers of women who troll those sites.
 3. Wouldn't it be just like the Devil to get lonely people's hopes up only to lead them into the arms of a wicked person?

III. The Blessings Of God Are Of A Spiritual Nature

- A. The gospel is the greatest blessing from God (Romans 15:29).
- B. Paul speaks of the communion of the body and blood of Jesus as "the cup of blessing which we bless ..." (1 Corinthians 10:16). The blessing he speaks of is the death of Jesus Christ for our sins.
- C. Paul speaks of the "blessing of Abraham" that came to the Jews and Gentiles alike (Galatians 3:14-15). In Galatians, Paul labors to present the Gentile Christians in Galatia as descendants of Abraham by faith.
- D. Paul said that God the Father has blessed us with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). Paul said our blessings from God are spiritual in nature!

IV. There Is A Danger In Receiving The Answers To Carnal Prayers

- A. Covetousness and greed is bad, but it is behind many of our prayers. Worldliness is in the heart of one whom the Devil targets with riches and worldly blessings (James 4:3-4).
- B. How can anyone set his mind on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, if he is surrounded by carnal matters (Colossians 3:1-2)?
 1. This is the cunning and crafty approach of the Devil!
 2. He manipulates us with advertisements every day that show a world of marvels, and these advertisements succeed in convincing us of all that we are missing.
 3. And for just 4 easy payments of \$29.95, this great thing can be yours! Before long we are buried in a houseful of junk and we want more because everything we own is now out of date.

V. Some Biblical Examples

- A. Israel could never be satisfied and were never faithful, even though God gave them all they ever needed.
 1. The children of Israel were afraid of dying of hunger, and so God gave them bread from Heaven (Exodus 16:3-5).
 2. After Moses told Israel about the manna, he also predicted that if the Lord were to give them meat in the evening and bread in the morning that they would still complain against the Lord (Exodus 16:7-8).
 3. Sure enough, the bread was not enough. They loathed it and craved meat (Numbers 21:4-5).

- B. David the king was not satisfied with his wife, the daughter of Saul (2 Samuel 11:1-4).
 - 1. As king, David had all of the power and wealth that he could ever want. More than that, David had multiple wives (1 Samuel 25:40-43; 2 Samuel 5:13-16).
 - 2. Yet, it was not enough for him. He had to covet the wife of one of his soldiers. It led him to murder his unwitting rival.
- C. The rich young ruler ran to the Lord and declared his desire to inherit eternal life (Mark 10:22).
 - 1. Yet, when the Lord told him to sell all that he had, the young man went away sorrowful because he had many possessions.
 - 2. This is exactly the point of the lesson. The Devil knows precisely what the promise of material wealth does. It distracts us spirituality. And, worse, when we obtain wealth, we tend to forget the Lord entirely.

Conclusion. Matthew 4:8-9 says, “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” To that temptation, Christ responded, “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (v. 10). The account ends in v. 11 by revealing that the Devil left the Lord, and angels ministered to Him. If you can fight the temptation of thinking that all blessings are from God, and therefore distracted spiritually, God will be with you and take care of you. All you need to do is “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

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