

Blessed Beyond Measure

When the Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians, he wasn't sitting in a palace. He was sitting in prison. His circumstances weren't ideal. His surroundings weren't comfortable. But instead of dwelling on his struggles, Paul opened the letter with his blessings.

And not just his blessings, but the blessings every Christian has. From that prison cell, he wanted the saints in Ephesus—the believers in Jesus—to lift their eyes from their struggles and see their spiritual riches in Christ. He wanted them to understand that in Jesus, they weren't lacking—they were lavished. In Jesus, they weren't poor—they were rich. In Jesus, they weren't defeated—they were victorious.

And that's what I want for you this morning. Because sometimes, you and I need to be reminded. Reminded that our worth, our joy, our hope, and our blessings aren't measured by how we stack up against others. They are measured by what God has already given us in His Son.

WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS, YOU ARE BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE.

That's exactly what Paul says in his opening words to the Ephesians.

But *what does it look like to be blessed beyond measure?*

Ephesians chapter 1 gives us the answer. It's one of the most breathtaking passages in all the Bible—so deep no one can mine it, so high no one can climb it. Yet Paul lays it out so we can marvel and rejoice in what God has done for us.

From Ephesians 1, I want to highlight five of those beyond-measure blessings God gives the moment you believe in Jesus.

Blessing #1 - Assurance. No more performing - God chose you into His family (Ephesians 1:4-6).

One of the deepest longings in the human heart is to know that we belong—that we are accepted. Yet, so many people go through life with the question: “*Am I good enough for God?*”

It's natural to think that in order to get into heaven, or to be accepted by God, we have to perform. We imagine we must do something—join a church, get baptized, keep rules, give money, do kind deeds, or just

try hard to be a good person. The problem with that approach is simple: if belonging to God is based on performance, you will never have assurance. You'll always wonder, "*Have I done enough? What if I fail? What if I don't measure up in the end?*" That kind of religion keeps people living with constant performance anxiety before God.

But here's the blessing of God's good news: when you believe in Jesus, you don't have to perform to be accepted by God. You don't have to earn His approval, because God already made His choice about you.

He chose us. Not because of our works, not because of rituals, not because of our track record—but because of His will - “according to the purpose of His will.” Before you ever lived a single day, before you ever succeeded or failed, God chose you for His family.

Blessing #2 – Freedom: No More Guilt — Jesus paid for your forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7–12)

We all carry baggage from the past. We've all made choices we regret - said things, done things, thought things we wish we could erase. That's why so many live under a constant rain cloud of guilt and shame. Regret haunts them. The past weighs them down.

But here's the good news: you don't have to live that way. You don't have to beat yourself up for your failures—past, present, or future. Do you know why? Because if you've believed in Jesus, God doesn't beat you down for them. He has already forgiven you. He has wiped your record clean for all eternity. You don't have to carry guilt because Jesus carried it all for you to the cross.

But it doesn't stop there. Verse 8 goes on to show that your redemption was part of a grand design. God's grand future plan involves bringing everything under the rule and reign of Jesus. All events of history, and all created things, find the ultimate purpose in Jesus. The whole universe revolves around Jesus. He is the centerpiece of history. And just think of this: Jesus is the one who purchased you. In other words, the most important person in existence made the most expensive purchase in history—for you.

Blessing #3 – Security: No More Fear - The Spirit marked you as God's forever possession (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Just like every human heart longs for belonging, every human heart longs for security. However, religion,

based on human effort, has the opposite effect. Systems built on rules, rituals, and ceremonies leave people in constant fear. “What if I mess up? What if I backslide? What if I’m not good enough?” In that kind of system, there’s no security.

But God’s one true gospel of grace is so much better. It’s not a gospel of fear—it’s a gospel of security in the hands of Jesus. The true gospel tells us that when we believe in Jesus, we don’t have to fear losing what God has given us. Why? Because the moment you believe, God marks you with His Spirit as His own forever.

Blessing #4 – Hope: No more confusion – God has a purpose for your life (Ephesians 1:15–18).

In verse 15, Paul turns to prayer. What does he pray for believers? Not money, not worldly success, not safety in travels. He prays that God, through His Spirit, would open the eyes of their hearts so they would truly know God, understand who God is and what God is up to, and he prays that they’ll have the wisdom to live with an eternal perspective. He prays they’ll think biblically about life, so that no matter the ups and downs, they can be anchored in God’s purposes.

Blessing #5 – Victory: No More Defeat – God’s Power Is at Work in You (Ephesians 1:19–23).

God does not call us to Himself and then leave us without help. We all face struggles. We all have weaknesses. We all deal with temptations and hardships. But here’s the good news: you don’t have to live defeated anymore.

The very power of God that brought Jesus out of the grave and lifted Him to the highest position of all is now working in you. God uses His people—alive in Christ, indwelt by the Spirit, marching under the orders of the King of the universe—and through you, through us, through the Body of Christ, He can change the world.

That victorious power of God is something He wants you to experience firsthand when life throws hardships your way. Just as Jesus was raised from death all the way to the heavenlies, God is lifting you too—out of sin, out of defeat, step by step, even today, by His power at work in you.

