

How I have experienced the blessing of the Lord

- When we read the Bible with the language of Minnesotan
- “Your faith has made you well” – woman with constant bleeding - Matthew 9:22
- “Be it done unto you according to your faith” – two blind men in Matthew 9:28
- Go, for your faith has healed you – blind man in Mark 10:52
- What is implied?
- Focus – Faith... in God...and the Who, rather than the What
- Faith – based on the Relationship with the One of whom you are putting your trust in for the help in your trouble

Reflecting on the blessings in my life

- Much more than developing my faith to receive what I need, it is more about increasing my relationship by developing a greater understanding of the One in whom I am putting my trust
- Contrast with the great focus on Faith
 - Becomes a commodity
 - Increase my faith
 - What it is that I can believe for
 - Much more of what I need to do
 - Much more focus of what God can do than who God is and why He would do what He would do

Moses knew God’s ways Psalm 103

- He revealed his Character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel (the Who beyond the What)
- Compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love
- Moses – Show me Your Glory
- Exodus 34:6 (NLT) — 6 The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

- Yahweh – I AM WHO I AM
 - Self-Existence: Signifies that God is eternal, independent, and has no beginning or end.
 - Covenant Presence: Emphasizes God’s constant presence and faithfulness to His promises to His people.

The Good Shepherd

- Psalm 23:1 (NLT) — 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.
- John 10:10–11 ... My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.
- John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,”
- John 10:4 ... they follow him because they know his voice.
- Isaiah 30:21 Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.

My determined purpose – to know him

- Hebrews 1:3 The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God...
- Philippians 3:8 Yes, everything else is worthless...
- Philippians 3:10–12
- Philippians 3:10 AMP ¹⁰[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him...

*The process of progressing
to possess that perfection*

- Perfection – the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13)
- Focus on Who God is (His Character, His Nature) rather than on what He can do for you
 - His ways rather than His deeds

To know Him – time spent

- In the Word – truth that brings freedom (John 8:31–32)
- In Fellowship (Relational Prayer) – Psalm 27:8
- Gathering with the Body – Hebrews 10:25
 - “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.” Jeremiah 17:7