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There Shall be Showers of Blessing

**There shall be showers of blessing;
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the Savior above.**

**There shall be showers of blessing,
Precious reviving again;
Over the hills and the valleys,
Sound of abundance of rain.**

**There shall be showers of blessing;
Send them upon us, O Lord;
Grant to us now a refreshing,
Come, and now honor Thy Word.**

**There shall be showers of blessing:
Oh, that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing,
Now as on Jesus we call!**

**There shall be showers of blessing,
If we but trust and obey;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
If we let God have His way.**

**Refrain: Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.**

By Daniel W. Whittle, 1883



***Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the
clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth
open, that salvation and righteousness may
bear fruit. Isaiah 45:8***



Do You Feel Blessed Yet?

I really struggled with this article when I learned the topic was abundance. It was not that there was not enough to write about, but rather the overwhelming amount of material to sort through. What should I write about? How do I pare it down to one short article? Should I write about the physical blessings we enjoy? Should I focus on the spiritual blessings?

I have decided to focus on the model prayer Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13.

⁹ ***After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*** What a blessing it is that we have a heavenly father who loves us and who is indeed hallowed. God is sacred, He is holy. How blessed we are to have a source and example of all goodness.

¹⁰ ***Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*** We know God's kingdom has come, and we are so blessed to be allowed to be a part of it if we choose to obey His will. Jesus prayed that God's will be done, and if we are truthful, life would be so much more pleasant if all people chose to obey God's will. For those who do, there is peace and joy knowing we have the promise of eternal life with Him. All our spiritual blessings are encompassed in that kingdom.

¹¹ ***Give us this day our daily bread.*** This is a request for our physical needs, not just bread. Jesus recognized our need for food and clothing and shelter. In Luke 12:27 He said, "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." God knew our needs. Jesus reminded His disciples His Father provided the most beautiful adornment for the lilies, yet He cares for us far more than for those beautiful plants. Do you not feel blessed knowing that?

¹² ***And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*** I am so humbled by this portion of this model prayer. I am so thankful I will never have to hang on a cross for even one of my sins, let alone for all of them. I like to think I am not a bad person. I try to do what is right and to be kind to all I meet. Deep down, I know that is self-deception. I think evil thoughts at times. My tongue gets out of control on occasion. Of course, there are other sins, too. Thank God I can be assured of forgiveness if I forgive others when they sin against me. What? How can I forgive someone who steals from me? What about that woman who spread lies about me to my friends? That company that failed to live up to their contract surely must pay, but they never do. What a blessing God has given me the example and the ability to forgive those offenses. I know that without the example of Jesus and the forgiveness I enjoy, that forgiveness of others would be nearly impossible for me. With God's help I can do it.

¹³ ***And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*** I have been in many situations where it would have been very easy to choose a sinful path, and yet I did not. I can't help but believe a good deal of the time I chose a higher ground due to the knowledge I had from my parents' training and from the Bible classes I attended. I knew what was right and wrong; I also knew what natural consequences could, and likely would, follow sinful behavior. Those prior lessons were certainly part of God's provision for our future decisions to avoid temptation.

Jesus covered all our blessings in that one short model prayer. He acknowledged the source of all our blessings, He prayed for our physical well-being, for the kingdom to flourish, and for us to be able to be at peace with God and with our fellow man. What more could we possibly need?

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ABUNDANCE

Abundance is a beautiful word! Abundance is the opposite of scarcity. In the Greek, *perisson* (*abundance*), means "exceedingly, very highly, beyond measure, overflowing with, a quantity so abundant as to be considerably more than what one would expect or anticipate." As a woman with a larger family, I have an abundance of kitchen utensils, bed sheets, photos on the walls, and more! Is that what God means when He

mentions "abundance" in the Bible? Here are some examples of abundance in His Word:

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have Life, and may have it in *abundance*." (John 10:10)

"And God is able to bestow every blessing on you in *abundance*, so that richly enjoying all sufficiency at all times, you may have ample means for all good works." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

"Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to the *abundance* of His kindness did beget us again to a living hope, through the rising again of Jesus Christ out of the dead,..." (1 Peter 1:3)

"May mercy, peace and love be *abundantly* granted to you." (Jude 1:2)

I do not believe God is talking about an abundance of "stuff" like material things, (although He may bless us in that way). But rather, He is talking about spiritual blessings given to those who have realized their need of a Savior because sin has separated them from Him. We can have a new life of abundant spiritual blessings in Him! Eternal life starts when we become a Christian and later go into eternity. As we "branches" stay connected to the "Vine," Jesus, (John 15: 1-16) the Holy Spirit helps us grow beautiful fruit for the glory of God: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control! (Gal. 5:22-23) The secret is to ABIDE in Him, the Vine, who provides all the life and nourishment our spirit needs to live an abundant life. That abundance helps us reach out to others in need by words of encouragement, sharing the Gospel, sharing our money, our time, or even belongings, with others. And that brings glory and honor to God.

"Now to Him who is able to do *far more abundantly* than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations forever and ever, Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

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ABUNDANT LIFE

John 10:10 ¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life and have it abundantly.*

What is abundant life? Is it more money, a bigger house, or maybe several houses for various seasons of

the year? Is it more cars, more clothes, more stuff? Is it career, or accomplishments? Is it family?

Are all those things good and/or necessary? Are they all bad? All of them could be good or necessary, and all of them could be bad, depending on how they are acquired and how they are used.

What is life? Is it statistics like date of birth, graduation date, date of death? What makes life important?

Solomon had it all and tried it all. He searched for meaning, pleasure, achievement, labor, accumulation, power, and wealth. He observed empty wickedness, injustice, and empty strength. None of these things were important.

In Ecclesiastes 1:4-5, he observed the cycle of natural life. Generations come and generations go. The sun rises and the sun sets—and does it all over again the next day. A paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 1:11 might be, there is no remembrance of men of old or even those yet to come. They will not be remembered by those who follow.

Ecclesiastes 2:13-14, ¹³*I saw that wisdom is better than folly just as light is better than darkness.*¹⁴ *The wise have eyes in their heads, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both.*

Solomon pursued all the ways of the world and found it all to be meaningless. In the end, he wrote, ¹³*The conclusion, when everything has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.* ¹⁴*For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.* Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

So, what is important? Know God. Obey Him. Live for Him. Die *in* Him.

As this piece began by asking what abundant life is, so it will end with the words of Jesus. ¹⁰*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly.* John 10:10

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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Count Your Blessings

**When upon life's billows,
You are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged,
Thinking all is lost,**

**Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one,
And it will surprise you
What the Lord hath done.**

**Are you ever burdened
With a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy
You are called to bear?
Count your many blessings,
Ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing
As the days go by.**

**So, amid the conflict,
Whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged,
God is over all;
Count your many blessings,
Angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you
To your journey's end.**

Refrain:

**Count your blessings,
Name them one by one;
Count your blessings,
See what God hath done;
Count your blessings,
Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings,
See what God hath done.**

WORDS: Johnson Oatman (w. 1897)

MUSIC: Edwin O. Excell (w. 1897)

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***"If you want love and abundance in your life,
give it away." ~ Mark Twain***

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