



Worthy of Riches

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We are blessed beyond measure.

#Blessed. Bless you. Thankful, grateful, blessed. Bless your heart.

“Bless” is a word women tend to throw out like confetti. We use it in hashtags, home decor, when someone sneezes, in our email signatures, and even to insult someone politely. We use the term when we tell people about a new car or job. We say we’re blessed because we have a nice house or good health or because our kids make good grades in school.

But what about the fifteen-year-old Christian girl in Haiti who walks four miles each day to draw her family’s daily water from a well shared by their community? What about the Christian wife in India who has to “wash” her clothes in the dirty Ganges River, polluted by trash and feces? What about the Christian mother in Guinea trying to protect her daughters from female genital mutilation? Are they not blessed?

If you have ever visited a third-world country and met with the Christians who live there, you know they also talk about being so very blessed—blessed to have heard the gospel, blessed to be able to walk three miles to worship with the church, blessed to have their sins forgiven, blessed to suffer persecution for the name of Jesus, blessed to know they will live in heaven one day without all the struggles of this earth.

Perhaps we need to re-evaluate our thinking.

We *are* blessed. We *should* be thankful and grateful. But our blessings are not of this world. Ephesians 1:3 tells us that God has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens” (CSB). Blessings aren’t about our houses, our jobs, our kids making all-

stars, or getting to go to Disney World. According to Ephesians 1:3–19, blessings are found in Christ. *Circle or highlight each of those blessings in your Bible.*

Do you treasure your adoption into Christ? Do you consider yourself rich because you are forgiven? Are you filled to overflowing because of the grace God has lavishly given you? Do you tell others how blessed you are to have an inheritance in heaven? Jesus tells us to collect for ourselves, and to place our hearts on, “treasures in heaven” (Matt 6:19–21).

You may always have your worldly riches. It’s entirely possible that you will never suffer physical hardship. But you might. Are you any less blessed if that happens? Absolutely not!

Jesus, the perfect man, the giver of blessings, suffered greatly in the physical world. Yet, He was called worthy, “slain to receive riches” (Rev 5:12). The apostles counted themselves “worthy to suffer shame” for His name (Acts 5:41). And we are blessed to be worthy as well, by taking up our own crosses (Matt 10:38). I’m not sure who said this first, but I heard my husband quote it in a sermon last week:

You can’t get to the crown without going through the cross.

“Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him” (Jas 1:12).

We are blessed beyond measure.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can being aware of and acknowledging your spiritual blessings affect your attitude and outlook on life?
2. The false teaching of the “prosperity gospel” says that if we are devoted enough to God, we can avoid poverty and illness. Why is this problematic? Have you ever said or done anything that might give the impression you believe this way?
3. What practical steps can you take to focus more on your heavenly treasure?