

Blessing

Blessing in the Old Testament is always physical and earthly. There's no greater difference between the Old Testament and New Testament than in the subject of blessing. In the OT there is only earthly blessing. In the NT there is only heavenly blessing.

"Blessing" is defined as "prosperity." In the OT, the prosperity is on earth. In the NT the prosperity is in heaven. The big difference is when and where we get the prosperity. In the OT, it is on earth and usually in Israel. In the NT it is not here and now but is in heaven after this life.

If you are a Christian following the teaching of Christ and the apostles, you should never understand that your prosperity is here and now. It is the hope of future reward, never present physical prosperity.

Some people God does make prosperous in this life, but that is a stewardship, not a reward (Luke 12:48)

True, God helps people now and answers prayer. But all that is to conform us to the image of Christ, not to make us physically prosperous (Romans 8:26-29).

True, *godliness is profitable for all things ... for the present life and also the life to come* (1 Timothy 4:8). But the profit of godliness is spiritual peace while ministering under the persecutions of the world, not numerical, physical, or earthly prosperity (2 Timothy 6:6-12).

The New Testament concept of blessing is when we suffer for the sake of righteousness, we should consider ourselves blessed because we will be blessed with rewards in heaven.

According to the New Testament, we should consider ourselves blessed by God:

- When we are humble (Matthew 5:3; Luke 1:48).
- When we are poor, hungry, or weeping (Luke 6:20-21).
- When we are hated for Christ's sake (Luke 6:22-23).
- When we hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:5-9).
- When we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness (Matthew 5:10-12).
- When we are not offended at Christ or His ways (Luke 7:23; Matthew 11:6).
- When we read, understand, and obey the revelation of God in the Scripture (Luke 10:23; 11:27-28; Revelation 1:3).
- When we give to those who cannot give back to us (Luke 14:12-14).
- When our faith is based upon the unseen revelation of God (John 20:29, 1 Peter 1:7-8).
- When we depend on God's forgiveness rather than our own good works (Romans 4:7-8).
- When we die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13; 19:9).
- When we are ready for Christ's return (Luke 12:37, 38, 43).