



World Christian Fellowship  
60, High Worple, Rayners Lane, Harrow  
Middlesex, HA2 9SZ, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 208 429 9292  
[www.wcflondon.com](http://www.wcflondon.com)  
[wcflondon@gmail.com](mailto:wcflondon@gmail.com)

## Ephesians

### 1. Your Identity (c) Blessed (1)

What would you do if I give you a magic lamp and ask you to make any wish, just like Aladdin in *The Arabian Nights* who finds one?

Just think!

#### Blessings

'Bless', 'blessing', 'blessed' appear in the Bible over 400 times, and are translated from Hebrew 'barak' and 'ashar' and Greek 'makarios' and 'eulogeo', meaning happy or highly favoured or blissfully happy and as per Merriam-Webster's Collegiate dictionary, "the act or words of one that blesses," or "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare." There are other words in both Hebrew and Greek that could be used for 'blessings' or 'happiness'.

But Paul's 'blessed' here in Ephesians does not mean inheriting a blessing rather that you are already 'blessed' – in the past tense.

#### Blessings - Contrasts between Old and New Covenants

In the Old Covenant or Old Testament, the blessings are earthly and based on your obedience. When you obey God and His commandments, you will be blessed physically and the reward is prosperity, and at the same time, if you disobey God and His commandments, you will suffer physically and also live a poverty-stricken life.

Deuteronomy chapter 28 is a well-known passage in the Bible for some so-called Christians who just read the first 14 verses, avoiding the rest of the chapter.

In verses 1–2 (NLT):

*If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep **all his** commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. You will experience all these **blessings if you obey the Lord your God.***

So if you obey HIS commandments, then you inherit those blessings, which, I am sure, you are all aware of. May be you have even spoken those blessings over your life at some point!

Let us look at verse 15 onwards, which deal with curses that could come upon you.

Deuteronomy 28:15 (NLT), “*But if you refuse to listen to the Lord your God and do not obey all the commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these **curses will come and overwhelm you.**”*

The next 53 verses detail the curses that would come upon us eventually on our disobedience.

1. You will be ‘cursed’ in the city - Deuteronomy 28:16
2. You will be ‘cursed’ in the field
3. Your baskets and storehouses will be ‘cursed’ - vs 17
4. Your children will be ‘cursed’ - vs 18
5. Your crops will be ‘cursed’
6. Your herds will ‘not’ increase
7. Your flocks will ‘not’ increase
8. You will be ‘cursed’ when you come in - vs 19
9. You will be ‘cursed’ when you go out
10. Jehovah will send ‘cursings’ upon you - vs 20
11. He will send vexation
12. He will send rebukes
13. You will fail in all you do
14. You will be destroyed

15. You will quickly perish
16. Pestilence cleaving unto you (*Something that brings a slow death*) - vs 21
17. Death emaciation (*To grow thin to waste away*)
18. Consumption - vs 22
19. Fever (*a burning fever, inflammation, inflamed persecutor. This probably refers to a rapidly consuming cancer or ulcer*) - vs 22
20. Extreme burning (*This refers not only to inflammation of the body but to agony of mind and torture of soul because there would be no help*) - vs 22
21. Sword (*wars and civil strife*) vs 22
22. Inflammation (*Burning*) - vs 22
23. Blasting (*This refers to blighting east wind ruining crops and suffocating men and beasts*) - vs 22
24. Mildew (*paleness of persons from fright or of plants from drought*) - vs 22
25. Heaven as brass (*Could refer to unanswered prayers as well as no rain and fruitful seasons*) - vs 23
26. Earth as iron (*Failure of crops*) - vs 24
27. Drought dust - no rain (*A way of saying there will be no rain from heaven and the land will turn to dust from a lack of rain*) - vs 24
28. Destruction because of long drought
29. Smitten before enemies - vs 25
30. Going out one way fleeing seven ways - vs 25
31. Removed into all kingdoms of the earth - vs 25
32. Bodies eaten by fowls and beasts
33. No help in driving away your enemies
34. Botch of Egypt (*Inflammation, botch, ulcer, boil*) - vss 27, 35
35. Emerods (*to swell, these were bleeding piles*) - vs 27
36. Scab (*to scratch scurvy scab*) - vs 27
37. Itch (*to scrape itch*) - vs 27
38. No healing (*there will be no remedy*)
39. Madness (*craziness, madness. You will be confused and not know what to do*) - vs 28
40. Blindness (*physical mental and spiritual*) - vs 28
41. Astonishment of heart (*stupefy and amazement*) - vs 28

42. Groping at noontday
43. No prosperity
44. Oppressed and spoiled forever
45. No man to save you
46. Betroth a wife and an enemy shall capture and ravish her - vs 30
47. Build a house and an enemy will take it for his own
48. Plant a vineyard and an enemy shall take it
49. Your stock will be slain and eaten before your eyes - vs 31
50. No restoration
51. You will have no man to deliver you
52. Your sons and daughters will be given to other people as slaves - vs 32
53. You will long for deliverance for your children and it will not come
54. You will be powerless to help them
55. Enemies will eat your crop - vs 33
56. You will be crushed always
57. You will be mad when you see your own helplessness - vs 34
58. You will serve other gods idols
59. You will not enjoy your sons and daughters because they will become slaves - vs 41
60. Strangers among you will be exalted & you will be humbled - vs 43
61. Strangers will lend to you - vs 44
62. You will serve your enemies - vs 48
63. Robbery of all possessions
64. Nakedness
65. Want of all things
66. Bondage
67. Destruction of lives - vss 48–51
68. War with foreign nations - vs 49
69. Unmerciful treatment from enemies - vs 50
70. Cannibalism - vss 53–57
71. Famine and distress - vss 53–57
72. Men murdering closest relatives – brothers, wives and even children

73. Women murdering closest relatives – husbands, sons, daughters and even babies - vss 56–57
74. Great plagues of long endurance - vss 58–59
75. Sore sickness of long continuance - vs 59
76. All the diseases of Egypt shall cleave to you - vs 60
77. Service to other gods
78. No peace
79. No rest, fearful and trembling hearts
80. Eye failures
81. Sorrow of mind
82. Fears day and night
83. No assurance of life
84. Fretting and worrying because of the constant dangers of life - vs 67
85. Slavery again as in Egypt - vs 68
86. The woman who has been so delicate and refined will become so vile and coarse that she will murder her husband sons, daughters and even her babies

Wow!! Have you ever looked at these curses? I purposefully detailed it because there are still so many people who claim the promises from the Old Covenant without even realising that there is a penalty attached when you disobey.

In the New Covenant, our blessings are not earthly but Heavenly or Eternal. The blessings of God are spiritual, eternal, heavenly and not physical prosperity.

The Big difference is **when** and **where** we receive the blessing.

In the Old Testament, it's here on earth during this life (and usually in the land of Israel). But in the New Testament, it's not here or now but in heaven, after this life.

***So what happens to me while I am here on Earth? How am I supposed to live?***

God has promised that HE will meet all of our needs and that HE will provide for it. As stated in Matthew 6: 19–34, we do not have to worry about what to wear, what to eat and where to live, for God will take care of them when we seek HIM first and HE will add all those things to us freely.

Matthew 6:33 (NLT), *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*

Philippians 4:19 (NLT), *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

Thus, all your needs here on this earth will be met by God. But God does choose to entrust few people to have more money and influence, why?

Stewardship! Yes if you understand the reason behind, then you will know that it is not a blessing but a burden to manage it well for God's glory.

Luke 12:48 (GNT), *But the servant who does not know what his master wants, and yet does something for which he deserves a whipping, will be punished with a light whipping. Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.*

**Was Jesus Rich or Poor?**

What would you say, was he rich or was he poor?

Was His earthly parents rich? HE came from an area called Nazareth, a place where nothing good has ever come out. Jesus has mentioned that He did not even have a place to lay His head on. His parents were carpenters by profession, so it is only logical that they were not rich. They did not even have a tomb to bury Jesus in; a rich man called Joseph gave his tomb away for Jesus' burial.

So Jesus grew up as a poor man.

Obviously, the question should be whether He was Godly or ungodly not as Rich or Poor?

As Christians, we should ask ourselves whether we are godly or ungodly, not whether we are rich or poor.

James 1:1–9 has the details to the following four categories of people.

1. Godly Poor
2. Godly Rich
3. Ungodly Poor
4. Ungodly Rich

Let us look at them in detail for a better understanding about this subject.

### **1. Godly Poor**

We see so many of them in the Bible, starting with Jesus and His earthly family, who were carpenters and were struggling to make ends meet. Mark 12:41–44 talks about the poor widow who put one penny as an offering, a sacrificial giving for which she was commended. In Mark 14:7 Jesus said that in this world there will be poor people.

### **2. Godly Rich**

We can think of so many people in the Bible who were rich like Abraham, Joseph, Nehemiah – who mustered so much of wealth to build the city wall. How could I forget Job, a very wealthy man. Joseph of Arimathea (Luke 23:50-51) who gave up his tomb for Jesus. There are others who were wealthy and Godly.

### **3. Ungodly Poor**

There are quite a few characters in Bible who were poor and ungodly too. The whole book of Proverbs talks about them, lazy and do not want to work, those that want to get rich quick.

#### 4. Ungodly Rich

Loads of political leaders like Pharaoh, Herod, and Nebuchadnezzar who were godless and rich. They were very powerful, rich and ungodly.

The rich young ruler is a classic example (Luke 18:18–23) who comes and asks Jesus, “How could I inherit eternal life?” And Jesus answers, “Well, you can’t love me and your money. You’ve got to choose between the two.” And the Bible says that he literally turned his back on Jesus and walked away because when it was between his money and his Saviour, he loved his money more than his Saviour. He was ungodly and rich.

Which category do you think you would fit in?

Are you godly and poor?

Are you godly and rich?

Are you ungodly and poor?

Are you ungodly and rich?

Do not just ask yourself, “Am I rich or poor?” I want you to ask yourself, **“Am I ungodly or godly?”**

***IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE RICH OR POOR, IT MATTERS IF YOU'RE GODLY OR UNGODLY.***

So if you are poor, we want you to, by the grace of God, be poor like Jesus.

And if you're rich, we want you, by the grace of God, to be rich like Jesus.

And it's less about rich and poor, and it's a lot more about godliness and ungodliness, and **it's always about Jesus.**

## So how do I live my life as a New Covenant believer?

God will take care of your needs. You are a citizen of Heaven going through this human experience. Thus, how you live your physical life will determine what your rewards are going to be in heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:19 (NLT), *“And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.”*

So if you are going to live as if this is the only life, then you are to be pitied more than anyone in the world.

In Matthew 5:3–12, a great sermon preached by Jesus on the mount, He makes it clear that your reward is in heaven not here on the earth.

Matthew 5:11–12 (NLT), *“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”*

Your reward is in heaven not here! But we try to do things as if we are in a popularity contest.

Luke 6:22–23 (NLT), *“What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.*

1 Timothy 4:18 (NKJV), *“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”*

The Bible is very clear about living a Godly life, which not only profits you now but for the life to come.

Take time to read now from 1 Timothy 6:6–12 (NKJV):

*Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, **flee these things** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

Thus, our focus should be on eternal life, pursuing righteousness, godliness, patience and gentleness. We did not bring anything into this world, nor do we do not carry anything out with us.

*So as a New Covenant believer, I live a life keeping my eyes on eternity using my spiritual as well as my material blessings to store my reward in the life to come.*

According to the New Testament, we should consider ourselves blessed by God because we will receive blessings in heaven.

Here are a few:

1. When we are humble (Matthew 5:3; Luke 1:48).
2. When we are poor, hungry, or weeping (Luke 6:20–21).
3. When we are hated for Christ's sake (Luke 6:22–23).
4. When we hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:5–9).
5. When we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness (Matthew 5:10–12).
6. When we are not offended at Christ or His ways (Luke 7:23; Matthew 11:6).

7. When we read, understand, and obey the revelation of God in the Scripture (Luke 10:23; 11:27–28; Revelation 1:3)
8. When we give to those who cannot give back to us (Luke 14:12–14).
9. When our faith is based upon the unseen revelation of God (John 20:29, 1 Peter 1:7–8).
10. When we depend on God’s forgiveness rather than our own good works (Romans 4:7–8).
11. When we die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13; 19:9).
12. When we are ready for Christ’s return (Luke 12:37, 38, 43).

Whether I have a house, a car, or wealth does not matter at all, for I am blessed by God beyond measure. And my reward is waiting on the other side.

### **What are the blessings In Christ?**

1. We are adopted by God

*Ephesians 1:5, Having predestined us unto the **adoption of children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. (NKJV)*

*Galatians 4:5, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption of sons.** (NKJV)*

2. We become a child of God

*John 1:12, But as many as received him, to them gave he power to **become the sons of God,** even to them that believe on his name*

3. We get a heavenly citizenship

*2 Timothy 4:18, And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve **me unto his heavenly kingdom:** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen*

4. We get an Inheritance

Ephesians 1:11, *In whom also **we have obtained an inheritance**, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

5. We are heirs of God, joint heirs with Jesus

Romans 8:17, *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, **and joint-heirs** with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Galatians 3:29, *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, **and heirs** according to the promise.*

6. We become a new creature

2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Galatians 6:15, *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*

7. We receive imputed righteousness

Romans 4:6, *David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those **who are declared righteous without working for it**.*

8. We are reconciled to God

Romans 5:10, *For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, **having been reconciled**, we shall be saved by His life.*

2 Corinthians 5:19, *that is, that God was in **Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

9. We are Sanctified

1 Corinthians 6:11, *And such were some of you. But you were washed, **but you were sanctified**, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

10. We are accepted in the Beloved

Ephesians 1:6, *to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us **accepted** in the Beloved.*

11. We are elected (saved)

1 Peter 1:2, ***elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.*

12. We are Baptized into the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:13, *For by one Spirit we were **all baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

13. Access to God's Grace

Ephesians 2:8, 18, *For by **grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, For through Him we **both have access** by one Spirit to the Father.*

14. We have put on Christ

Galatians 3:27, *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ**.*

15. We have eternal life

John 10:28, *And **I give them eternal life**, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

16. We have peace with God

John 14:27, *Peace I leave with you, **My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

17. We became a friend of God

John 15:15, *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

18. Our names are written in heaven

Luke 10:20, *Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because **your names are written in heaven.***

19. We get in the Lamb's Book of Life

Revelation 21:27, *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are **written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***

20. We are seated in heavenly places

Ephesians 2:6, *and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus***

21. We have fellowship with the trinity

1 John 1:3, *that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also **may have fellowship with us;** and truly our **fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.***

22. We have a mansion in heaven

John 14:2, *In My Father's house are **many mansions;** if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

23. We are born again with a spiritual re-birth

John 3:3-6, *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

24. We have received an anointing

1 John 2:27, *But **the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you**, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

25. The Holy Spirit will live with us now and forever

John 14:16, *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper, that He may abide with you forever**—*

26. We've been sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30, *And do not grieve the **Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption**.*

27. We are forever forgiven

Luke 7:48, *Then He said to her, "**Your sins are forgiven.**"*

1 John 2:12, *I write to you, little children, Because **your sins are forgiven** you for His name's sake.*

28. Our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19, *Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

29. We are justified in God's sight

Romans 5:1, *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we **have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ***

30. We have an advocate with Christ

1 John 2:1, *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father**, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

31. We become Christ's ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:20, *Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

32. We are blessed with spiritual blessings

Ephesians 1:3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ,*

33. Given an inner strength to accomplish necessary things

Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens me**.*

34. A promised faithfulness regardless of our faithlessness

2 Timothy 2:13, *If we are faithless, **He remains faithful**; He cannot deny Himself.*

35. A promise given to be able to resist temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13, *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will **not allow you to be tempted** beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.*

36. We are made kings and priests

Revelation 1:6, *and has made us **kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

37. We get the power of a sound mind

2 Timothy 1:7, *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a **sound mind**.*

38. We no longer have a spirit of fear

2 Timothy 1:7, *For God **has not given us a spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*

39. We are joined unto the Lord

1 Corinthians 6:17, *But he who is **joined to the Lord is one** spirit with Him.*

40. We have been bought with a price and our life is not ours anymore

1 Corinthians 6:19, *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own**?*

41. I am now a member of the body of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 12:27, *Now **you are the body of Christ**, and members individually.*

42. I am complete in Christ and have need of nothing save him

Colossians 2:10, and **you are complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power.

43. I am God's temple and He dwells in me

1 Corinthians 3:16, Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

44. I am a labourer with God himself

1 Corinthians 3:9, For we are **God's fellow workers**; you are God's field, you are God's building.

45. I am a branch of the TRUE VINE

John 15:1, "I am the **true vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser."

46. I am part of a royal priesthood

1 Peter 2:9, But you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

47. I am God's workmanship

Ephesians 2:10, For we are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

For we are God's **masterpiece**. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.  
(NLT)

You are the masterpiece of God!!

There are enormous blessings we could talk of but I have just listed a few.

God's original design in creation was for His creatures, including mankind, to experience prosperity, peace, and fulfilment, but that design was ruined when sin entered the world.

Statements of blessing are a wish for God to restore His favour on others or a declaration of His inherent goodness. The ultimate blessing that God has given is the new life and forgiveness that comes through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

*The material blessings we enjoy from day to day are temporary, but the spiritual blessings available to us in Christ involve time and eternity, as well as material and immaterial things.*

As the Psalmist said, “Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose **hope is in the LORD his God**” (Psalm 146:5)

14<sup>th</sup> February 2014