

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

November 19, 2022

My Blessing

Two weeks after I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, my financial situation crashed ...and then got worse. In business we were left holding a staggering debt which myself and my dad spent the next dozen years working for almost nothing to pay. My monthly income barely covered our house mortgage payment so my wife worked to provide food and pay for our others living expenses.

I am not complaining. In fact, I rejoice. In that period, I saw God do many miracles in every area of our life. Even more, it was time of great spiritual blessings. I remember many visitations of God's Spirit. It was also a time when God revealed so much of what I see and understand in His word. Day and night my heart was set upon the Lord. I discovered I could live in His goodness in spite of natural circumstances. As time passed, we began to see God turn the natural situations around. For almost seven years my wife had been unable to bare children. The doctor's only answer was to confirm that she could not. Within six weeks of the day we surrendered this to God, my wife was pregnant with the first of our four sons. Our first child was diagnosed with a condition which (the doctors said) would require the

removal and replacement of the front portion of his skull. We refused the surgery and saw God do what the doctors said was impossible.

Unable to either pay for or sell the home we lived in, I repented like a sinner before God for getting into such a mess. God provided a way out which gave us the \$18,500 we needed to purchase the home we still live in thirty-five years later. As we worked to repair and remodel the house we purchased, we came to a point we were out of money and could do no more. I had earlier approached a company, seeking to buy needed windows and doors from almost new houses they were soon to demolish. They turned me down with an absolute "No!"

One night I came home from work with something in my heart from the Lord. I sat on the couch with my wife and prayed this prayer. "Father, you know I have never asked you for earthly things. My desire is for more of you and your presence, but I feel like you want me to ask you for those doors and windows. If this is your desire, then I ask you for these things we need." The next morning, I received a phone call from my oldest brother, Mike. He said the lawyer for the company which owned the houses to be demolished had called him the evening before. The lawyer said the houses were to be demolished the following week. He remembered that someone had asked to buy the windows and doors, but could not remember who it was. The lawyer told my brother "If you know who it is, tell them they can have anything they want without charge. Just get it out before the weekend." My

eyes filled with tears at the report and speed of God's provision.

One day I was ministering a service, and, as I had done multiple times, was telling of the most recent blessings of God upon our life. As I was sharing how God was providing the needed materials to repair our home, the Spirit of God asked me, "Is that your blessing?" Immediately, my heart broke and I replied, "No Lord! You are my blessing. You saved me from the depths of sin and have carried me through every situation. In the storms of life, you have filled me with joy and peace. Nothing of this world you have given to me compares with having you. You alone are my blessing. Without you it is all empty and vain."

I am reminded of the Apostle's words, *"But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; ... and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance."* Hebrews 10:32.