

Introduction: The word blessed is an adjective (a word that modifies a noun or noun phrase) and is used in the beatitudes (Matthew 5) and is used seven times in Revelation. When you think of the word blessed what comes to mind? Dr. Vines describes blessed in this term *"In the beatitudes the Lord indicates not only the characters that are 'blessed' but the nature of that which is the highest good."* If you think blessed means material gain, possession or world status, then I am afraid you are wrong. None of these things bring joy or endurance. Cf. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

BLESSED - THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION

The man is blessed when he endures a trial. Yes, blessed can mean God has blessed you with financial wealth or possession, but biblically blessed is so much more than that. Let's look at Matthew 5:1-12. To be faithful to the Scriptures, there is no mention of material wealth in reference to being blessed. Being blessed means much more than mere happiness of a care free life that has no conflict or trouble. Remember the words of Job about this life? Job 14:1 *"Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil."* Being blessed is rather the idea of a profound inner joy and satisfaction, a joy that the Lord Himself is able to bestow upon us.

I want to share a couple of passages that affirm this. 1 Peter 1:6-7 *"In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* Psalms 1:1-3 *"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers."* Revelation 22:7 *"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."* Revelation 20:6 *"Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power..."* Revelation 22:14 *"Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city."* Revelation 19:9 *"Then he said to me, Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."* Revelation 14:13 *"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."* Revelation 1:3 *"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near."*

WHY IS HE BLESSED, HE ENDURES TRIALS

Some English translations use "temptation" here. However, the same word is used in vs. 2. It is better translated trials because temptation refers to a solicitation of evil. We see this in vs. 13, the same word but different context. A man is blessed when he endures trials. This is the one who never relinquishes His trust in God. I often think of the three Hebrew children in Daniel 3:17-18

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

WHEN HE HAS BEEN APPROVED

Remember that one endures because they are a child of God, not to become a child of God. The one who is not redeemed does not endure. Colossians 3:1-3 reminds us of who we are in Christ, "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

THE CROWN OF LIFE

The term is borrowed from athletics and not royalty. It was a wreath placed on the victors head after a triumphal victory. The phrase could be better translated as *"the crown which is life."* In other words the crown of eternal life. Again, let me make this clear doctrinally, perseverance does not result in eternal life, but itself is the result and evidence of salvation and eternal life.

As believers we are pressing toward home. Truly we sing such hymns as *"This world is not my home, Im just passing through"* are true. We are pilgrims and strangers here. Ephesians 2:19 *"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household."*

A Christian is promised rewards for faithfulness. 2 Timothy 4:8 *"In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."* Revelation 2:10 *"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* 1 Peter 5:4 *"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."*

PROMISED TO THOSE THAT LOVE HIM

This phrase, is in fact, a biblical definition of a genuine believer, a person who truly loves God. And it is because of this we are able to endure. We trust Him. We love Him. We desire to reflect God in our lives. 1 John 4:8a *"The one who does not love does not know God"* 1 John 4:16 *"We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."* 1 Peter 1:8 *"And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory."* Paul made this statement clear in 1 Corinthians 16:22 *"If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed."*

CONCLUSION

I go back to vs. 2,3 as we see to count it all joy when we fall into various trials. And we see this important word in vs. 3 “knowing” because as a child of God, we know that God is trustworthy and we trust Him in the trials we encounter. Today, as a believer you are blessed, not because of your net worth or possessions, but because you are adopted into the family of God.

Finally brethren, I encourage you to strive for the rewards we are told to pursue. Be faithful to the end. Endure. Press on.