

BLESSED IN YOUR DEEDS

Jas 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Have you ever mis-read something thinking it said something it really didn't? Many people do this with the last part of this verse. What many people think that it says is, "this man shall be blessed **for** his deed." It actually says that this man will be blessed **IN** his deed. Under the Old Testament Law people were blessed for their deeds. In the New Testament under grace people are blessed **IN** their deeds. In the OT blessing was a result of what people did. In the NT blessing is the source and reason for what we do.

Eph 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,

We see in Ephesians that we have already been blessed with every blessing of God by His grace. Notice that the book of Ephesians starts with God's blessings given to us before anything is told for us to do which comes in chapter 4. The believer's works are the fruit of being blessed by God. We have been declared holy by His grace so now we can live holy. The blessings of God are the resources we tap into to work for God. The deeds of a NT Christian should come from faith in what God has freely given by His grace. We frustrate God's grace by putting the cart in front of the horse. Many seek to be blessed because of the good deeds they do. In the NT our deeds are fruit that comes from the root of God's blessings that are given to us freely in Christ based upon His perfect obedience and sacrifice for us. The Christian is called to works of faith.

1Th 1:3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

2Th 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,

What we do should come from faith in what God has already given and done for us. God tells us to love each other. If we have an OT mindset then we try in our own energy and resources of the flesh to try to love in hopes of deserving God's blessings. Those who have a NT mindset understand that God only requires of us what He has already put within us! Romans 5:5 says that God HAS shed abroad His love in our hearts. From the root of being blessed freely with God's love we can now love others in faith. For every command in the NT we find that God has already deposited by His grace within us what is necessary to live it out! The book of James says that when we meditate on the perfect law of liberty and look into it as a mirror then we will be blessed IN our deed. The perfect law of liberty is the grace of God which is the opposite of the OT Law. When we meditate on the grace of God then what we do will come from our faith and blessing will be released by our actions of faith.

Ephesians 1:3 says that all the blessings of God have been given to us in heavenly places. That means the blessings are in the spiritual realm. We need the blessings in the natural however. We draw from the spiritual to the natural by faith. Faith must be released before it will draw from the spiritual realm. Faith is released by words and actions. When we act from our faith in God's grace then those blessings are manifested in the natural. When we meditate on what God has given to us in grace then our actions of faith will release those blessings in the natural. We will be blessed IN what we do. We can now love, give, pray, serve, and live holy because of the love, riches, authority, provision, and holiness we have already been given in Christ. God requires many things from us as Christians but the good news is that God has already put within us all that we need to live them out. We have already been blessed because of Christ's redemptive work for us so that we can act in faith in those blessings and find that we are

blessed IN what we do. If you are struggling in doing what you know you should be doing as a Christian then you need to find out what God has given to you in Christ to live it out. Meditate on the scriptures that tell you what you have been given and who you are in Christ and you will find the grace to do what you should do. Then you will be blessed IN your deeds. It is very helpful if you have a bible software program where you can do quick searches on the computer. A very good and free program is called E-sword. You can access it at www.e-sword.net. Download the main program and then you can download bibles, commentaries, and dictionaries. Do searches on the words- in him, through him, in whom, by Him. These verses tell you who are in Christ, what you have in Christ, and what you can do in because you are in Christ. Meditate on these verses. These reveal the perfect law of liberty. These are the roots of grace from which we can bear the fruits of deeds and actions. From the roots of these blessings you will be blessed IN your deeds. God bless you in your deeds!