

June  
2016

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*In [God] we live and move and have our being...*

*Acts 17:28*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every human being is surrounded by God's blessings even more than by air. Body and soul are the most basic blessings given by God, but He has also given us everything to sustain them in this life. Every breath of air that fills our lungs, every drop of water we drink, every morsel of food we eat, every bit of sleep we enjoy, every beat of our heart, every joy we experience, every step we take without misfortune—in short everything we have and are—is a special blessing from God. Not only has He called us into existence, but He preserves and governs our lives. If God were to withdraw His gracious hand for even a second, we would all perish instantly.

Who consistently acknowledges any of these as blessings from God? Most people regard them as the simple necessities of life and do not consider them as anything worthy of praise. They enjoy all of them without realizing that the Source of every good and perfect gift is God. If they meet a little misfortune, their hearts and mouths are filled with bitterness and complaints. If they are missing even one blessing they think they should have, their other million blessings are forgotten.

If our material blessings are, for the most part, unacknowledged by most of us, our spiritual blessings are even more ignored. Even we Christians don't take the time to consider how blessed we truly are to have been redeemed, sanctified in Holy Baptism (born again in Christ, instead of dead in our trespasses and sins), given the very Word of God (the Bible) in order to know His will, given the very body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion, and given the gift of eternal life.

Oh, how ungrateful, thankless, and sinful we are! May God in His grace and mercy lead us to acknowledge His marvelous provision each and every day of our lives, especially His spiritual provision, so that we might not ever forget to thank, praise, and worship Him at every opportunity. May God grant you a peaceful and restful summer.

In Jesus' name,  
Pastor Skelton



COUNT YOUR  
**BLESSINGS.**  
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.  
COUNT YOUR  
**MANY BLESSINGS**  
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.