

## **Fountains of Blessings**

Devotion

For you make him most blessed forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence (Psalm 21:6).

Read the list below:

- 1. Babies, weddings, family and friends
- 2. Gardens full of fresh flowers and produce
- 3. Timely rains and sunshine
- 4. Freedom, puppies and kittens
- 5. Blessings

Go back and think about the list again. For the most part, those are very happy things. When most of us think of blessings, we think of the happy times. We think of gifts given to us. We are reminded time and time again to be thankful for our blessings. We need to take time from our days to stop and smell those "roses" that line our path through life, and thank God for the wonderful blessings He has shared with us.

But are our blessings always positive? Consider it this way. Can a negative experience be a blessing? Absolutely. God allows bad things to happen in our lives, but it has been my experience that there is often a positive side to each negative experience. Consider a young, expecting mother that is placed on bed rest. Her three children need her to be cleaning, cooking, and carpooling them from one activity to the next. Her schedule is shattered, and help is needed. How can this be a blessing?

Let's look further. Our young mom has lots of time on her hands as she now keeps her bed company. She is able to spend time reading stories and coloring with her children. She has time to listen to their stories and tell a few of her own. She also has time to spend with her Lord in the Word and in prayer. She is making memories and relying more fully on God. Yes, bed rest can be a blessing. Good things can happen when seemingly bad things happen.

When we look for the blessings in our life, we are able to see far more than when we wait for them to jump out and grab us. Our Lord allows many people and events to enter our lives daily. Perhaps it is our perspective that can allow flat tires, doctor's diagnosis, runny noses, and dusty living rooms to become blessings in disguise.

We know our Lord loves us. He tells us so in His Word many times:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

*We love because he first loved us* (1 John 4:19).

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (Romans 8:35).

Yes, our Lord does love us and He sends us innumerable blessings that would overflow every cup, fountain, and even ocean if we were able to see and count them all. Surely, He has granted us unending blessings and we can be joyful in His presence.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, You give us so many blessings of many kinds each and every day. Help us to see the people and activities in our daily lives as gifts from You. Send Your Holy Spirit to guide us as we live our lives so all our doings and life may please You. In Jesus most precious name we pray. Amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV.

Fountains of Blessings by Katy Gifford, Falls City, Nebraska Published by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2013 lwml.org