

We need a blessing from God: the blessing of His grace seen in the blood of Christ. However, as with all other blessings, we must ask ourselves, how do we enjoy the benefits of the grace of God?

The answer is clear from the lessons that we have already learned. The farmer had to plant the seed to reap the benefits of God's rain and sunshine. In the same way, we must plant God's seed in our heart—the Gospel (I Peter 1:23-25).

Just as we must work to enjoy the benefits of the daily bread that God provides for all, we must obey the gospel of Christ to be saved (Philippians 2:12). The first part of this work is the work of faith. "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." (John 6:28-29)

Then, based on that faith that we find in God's Word, we must repent of our sins, for Christ has said that no man who fails to repent will enjoy the benefits of God's grace. "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) Next, also based on our faith, we confess our faith in Him, "For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:10)

Finally, we are baptized to receive the forgiveness of our sins and begin the life of a Christian in the image of Christ. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4) Only then can we begin to enjoy the benefit of God's grace — life.

Did You Earn That Rain?

Some of you may be concerned by what you have read in this tract. You may be asking, "If I do those things, won't I be trying to earn my way into heaven?"

Consider the lessons in this tract. Did the farmer earn the rain and sunshine when he planted his seed in the field? Do we earn the blessing of being citizens in a prosperous nation when we get a job to pay for our food? Do we earn God's wisdom when we study the Word that God has given as a free gift to all mankind?

We need to understand that God's blessings are all gifts. Nothing we can ever do will earn any of them. However, God still expects us to appreciate them and to obey Him. He expects us to obey His commandments so that we may enjoy the benefits of the blessings He freely offers.

Will you accept the Gospel of Christ, or will you let the grace of God and the blood of Christ go to waste like rain on a field with no seed?

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

How To Enjoy the Rain

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How To Enjoy the Rain

"... for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Matthew 5:45

God is the source of many blessings, both spiritual and physical. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variability, neither shadow of turning.” (James 1:17). However, it is evident that not everyone enjoys the benefits of God’s blessings. Some ask God for things but do not receive them because they do not know how to receive the benefits of God’s grace. “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (James 4:2-3). We must look to the Bible to see how to receive the benefits of God’s blessings.

Enjoying the Rain

The Bible teaches that God sends the rain to the good and the bad, just like the sun shines on everyone alike. However, who receives the benefits of this rain and sunshine?

Consider two farmers. One farmer sits on his porch and never plants seed in his field. The other farmer toils long and prepares his field. The rain falls, and the sun shines on each field. Which of the two farmers receives the benefits of God’s blessings?

Clearly, the farmer that prepared himself to receive God’s blessings enjoyed a bountiful harvest, whereas the farmer who did nothing received nothing despite an equal amount of rain and sunshine. From this we learn that we must prepare ourselves to receive God’s blessings if we intend to be benefited by them. This simple principle will help to guide us to the proper understanding of all of God’s blessings, including His marvelous grace.

Our Daily Bread

Our Lord taught us to pray for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11). Truly, God has given us a world rich in resources and a prosperous nation where everyone should have enough to eat. How do we enjoy the benefit of the food God has provided in this world? Should we set out a plate and wait for food to magically appear?

Paul commanded the church “... that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (II Thessalonians 3:10) He also told Christians to obtain what they needed by honest work. “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs.” (Ephesians 4:28) Just like the farmers in our last example, we must prepare ourselves to enjoy God’s blessings.

Asking for Wisdom

There will come many times in life when we need wisdom. We will find that we cannot find the answers within ourselves to the difficult questions of life. Where shall we turn?

The Bible teaches that God provides wisdom to nourish our souls as He provides food to nourish our bodies. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him.” (James 1:5) God offers wisdom to all men, but who will receive the benefit of this blessing?

James tells the man asking for wisdom to first ask in faith: “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing

of the Lord.” (James 1:6-7) James clearly teaches us that not everyone who asks will receive the benefit of God’s blessing. We must ask for such blessings in a faith rooted in the Word of God. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

The Bible teaches that we will not find wisdom without turning to the Bible itself. “The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?” (Jeremiah 8:9) Furthermore, to be wise, one must have a reverent attitude toward God: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7)

James tells us that there is wisdom that does not come from God, but that wisdom is not the kind that will solve our problems. “This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” (James 3:15-17)

We need to realize that just as the farmer has to toil in the sun to enjoy the harvest God offers, so we must diligently study the Word of God to enjoy the wisdom that God offers to all. Thus, Paul told Timothy, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

What About My Sins?

When we have sinned, we have merited the penalty of death, and man by himself does not have the ability to pay that price (Romans 6:23).
