

Daily Devotion For April 9, 2022

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12

As I write this devotional I am feeling extremely blessed. Yesterday for my birthday I received so many cards, gifts, emails, and texts from people I have known through the past 55 years and more. All day I was thinking of how blessed I am.

Have you ever thought about what it means to be blessed? Have you ever sneezed and someone replied, "God bless you!" What do blessings have to do with a good sneeze?" Not much. The practice of saying "God bless you" comes from the Middle Ages when people thought an evil spirit could possess you when you sneezed, and that by saying, "God bless you" you were out of danger.

What is a blessing—the kind which God gives? In relationship to God, a blessing is a gift of His grace, the touch of His hand upon your life, the breath of His presence in such a way that you are enriched, strengthened, helped, and enabled.

Thought For Today: Are you feeling blessed today? The blessings of God often come disguised—sometimes as a difficulty, something we would never choose for ourselves—but in retrospect we see how God's loving hand gave guidance and direction in such a way that our lives were enriched, strengthened, and enlarged.

Today's Prayer Focus: Thank God for the blessings in your life, even the blessings that are disguised and problems, tests, and trials. Deo Volente.