



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Fall Quarter - Lesson 2 - Week of September 15, 2024

Lesson: **BLESSED THROUGH YOUR MESS**

Bible Verses: Deuteronomy 28:2; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Matthew 5:3; I Corinthians 2:9; Ephesians 3:20

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. How have you experienced the blessings of God?
2. Do you ever grow tired of obeying God?

DISCUSSION

All these blessings will come on and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God. - Deuteronomy 28:2

Read Ecclesiastes 12:13. According to this marvelous verse of scripture penned by Solomon, honoring God is the basis for happiness and adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances. Solomon tried everything imaginable to make himself happy. He didn't deny himself any pleasure and owned everything a person could want. He built houses and had multiple wives and concubines, but he was never satisfied no matter what he had. He said that everything is vanity and useless, like chasing after the wind (Ecclesiastes 1:14).

1. What do you want out of life?
2. Have you been guilty of seeking happiness in the wrong places?

Ecclesiastes 12:13 comes from the last chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes. And at that point, Solomon had finally found the answer to his quest for happiness: to revere and worship God and keep His commandments. According to Solomon, this is the full, original purpose of God's creation and "the whole duty of every man." He states further that honoring God is "the foundation of all happiness" and the only thing that will fix circumstances and conditions that make us unhappy.

1. How can you be blessed and have less of a mess?
2. How do you honor God in your life?

Blessed means happy and spiritually prosperous - with life - joy and satisfaction (Matthew 5:3). True prosperity is not only about having money and material possessions. God wants us to have our needs met and to be able to give to others; however, true prosperity encompasses success in every area of life (spiritual, physical, mental, financial, and relationships). Of all the various ways people can prosper, spiritual prosperity is the most important. The Hebrew word for prosper, *tsalach*, means "to succeed, prosper." It generally expresses the idea of a successful venture versus failure and is sometimes used in such a way as to indicate victory. The New Testament word for prosper, *euodoo*, means "to help on one's way."

What Do You Really Want? People often mistakenly think they want material things or they want their circumstances to change. But what they really want is to be at peace, to have joy, to be well and strong physically, to be loved, and to have someone to love.

1. Are your relationships in a good place?
2. Are you making a difference in the world, in your home or congregation?
3. Are you engaged in activities that have value?
4. Does your life reflect obedience to God?

Remember, God's Word is practical, and we can easily apply its teachings to our circumstances; especially, teachings from Proverbs, Psalms, and the New Testament.

If You Don't Obey God, You Miss Out On His Blessings. When we obey God, we are blessed. And when we don't, we miss His blessings. We don't earn God's blessings with our works but are rewarded for the good we do from a heart made pure by Jesus. No matter how well we behave, we can never deserve God's goodness. But if the heart is right before Him and we seek to please Him, He is pleased.

Radical Obedience and Outrageous Blessings. There are times when God asks us to obey Him in ways that may seem radical. If we do, there will be an outrageous blessing coming our way. Our God is big and He delights in doing things for His children. There are numerous examples where men exercised radical obedience (Abram, Daniel, Noah, and others). The best way to experience God is to obey and honor Him in all we do.

Read I Corinthians 2:9. According to this verse, God has many good things stored up for us. He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all that we could dare to hope, ask, or think (Ephesians 3:20).

1. How can you be aggressively thankful to God?
2. Have you been disobedient to God?
3. How do you continue to obey God?

How to be Blessed by God

1. Humble yourself.
2. Repent, be sorry, and change.
3. Thirst for righteousness.
4. Show mercy towards others.
5. Be pure through faith.
6. Be a peacemaker.
7. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

Being a Christian is a lifestyle, not something you practice once a week. God wants our obedience. By following God, we will have less mess in our lives.

Prayer Focus: God, help me to experience more blessings and less mess in my life.