

## LIVING A LIFE OF WORSHIP

### *Overcoming the Accuser, part 1: Responding When We Lack Blessings*

At times it's easy for our focus to be drawn to "what I don't have": gifts, abilities, relationships, possessions, accomplishments, or other blessings which God has – for reasons unknown to us – withheld from us. And the result of such a focus is usually self-pity and discouragement, wherein we rarely praise, give thanks, or reach out to others with God's love.

This very moment, each of us lacks certain things that we see others enjoying – perhaps for you this means a blessed marriage, a godly family background, good health, financial or career achievements, children, or some other heart's desire. And the area(s) we presently lack can sometimes take on too much priority and focus for us, resulting in them becoming an idol in our lives. We can unknowingly become *covetous* of those blessings, *jealous* toward those who possess them, and *questioning* (or even resentful) toward God for His dealings with us.

Reminding us off all we lack is a common tactic of satan designed to undermine our faith and steal our joy, and it is vital that we see it as such – it's a demonic deception, and nothing less. Here are some helpful points to overcome such a scheme:

- 1) **Define God's Goodness.** We must recognize that God is good regardless of our inability to understand His dealings with us. **Only a God who is exceedingly good and gracious would send His Son to die for us.** And if we allow pain, loss, heartache, disappointment, unfulfilled expectations, etc to make us doubt God's love, then we are in for a shallow and largely fruitless Christian life. Storms will come – guaranteed (*see John 16:33*). As we count all things loss for the sake of knowing Christ (*Philippians 3:7-8*) we cease feeling slighted by God when He does not give us certain blessings that He has given to others. *When Jesus becomes our everything, then He can trust us with anything.*
- 2) **Celebrate God's Blessings to You.** For all we may lack, there are yet a myriad of blessings that God has bestowed on each of our lives. And celebrating how God **has** blessed us will help guard our hearts against a selfish and thankless attitude over how he **hasn't** blessed us. Personal example: I would love to have been raised in a godly home, but I wasn't; I would love to have my parents' counsel and friendship, but both of them died when I was a young man. When I listen to others speak of family gatherings and of seeking the advice of their godly older family members, I feel an understandable pang in my heart for what I have lacked. But at this point I have a choice: I can feel sorry for myself over what I am missing, or I can thank God for the blessings I have. *And God has blessed each of us so richly!* Whatever you lack, choose to focus on and give thanks for what God has given you; and in so doing, you allow God to make your life a blessing to many others as His love and joy flow through you.
- 3) **Start to Give.** *Nothing destroys self-focus like serving others.* Ask God to guide you, and then look for ways to be a blessing to someone else. Don't underestimate the small and seemingly insignificant things that no one else sees – therein lie many of our best opportunities to live and love like Jesus.

I pray that this day you enjoy God's goodness and rejoice in His blessings to you. Let's endeavor to **live a life of worship** that brings Him great glory.

Much love in Christ,

Pastor Matthew Casey

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