

# Quotes from the Word: Blessings from the Lord

## OLD TESTAMENT

“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits (Psalm 68:19).

You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.  
(Psalm 5:12)

Blessed be the Lord God...Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.  
(Psalm 72:18-20)

God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us (Psalm 67:1).

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.  
(Psalm 1:1-2)

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise shall continually be in my mouth....  
Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
And let us exalt His name together.  
(Psalm 34:1,3)

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply. And the Lord your God will bless you (Deuteronomy 30:16).

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
And forget not all His benefits....  
Bless the Lord, you His angels,  
Who excel in strength, who do His word...  
Bless the Lord, all His works,  
In all places of His dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
(Psalm 103:1-2, 20, 22)

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## NEW TESTAMENT

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9)

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples (Matthew 26:26).

And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted (John 6:11).

“Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:13).

“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!” (Revelation 19:9).

“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

## HEAVENLY DOCTRINE

### WHAT IS MEANT BY BLESSING?

The Divine blessing consists in being happy to eternity (*Arcana Coelestia* 8717:3).

Nothing is a blessing except what is given by the Lord. For that alone is blessed because it is Divine and eternal, and contains in itself heaven and eternal happiness. All other things which have not in themselves what is Divine and eternal are not blessings, even though they may be so called (*Apocalypse Explained* 340).

By “blessing” is meant every good which a person receives from the Lord especially every spiritual good, as love and wisdom, charity and faith, and the joy and felicity thence, which are of eternal life. Because all these are from the Lord, it follows that they are in Him, for unless they were in Him, they could not be in others from Him (*Apocalypse Revealed* 289).

### BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD

The real blessing is reception of love and faith from the Lord, and conjunction thereby, for this is the source of eternal happiness (*Heaven and Hell* 364).

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There is an infinitude of all blessings in the Lord, who is Divine love. The essence of love is to wish to communicate all the benefits of its goodness to the object of its love. Therefore when the Lord created mankind, He at the same time created this love and implanted in it a capacity for receiving and perceiving those benefits (*Conjugal Love* 335:2).

The third essential of the love of God, which is to render others blessed from Himself, is recognized in eternal life, which is the endless blessedness, happiness, and felicity that God gives to those who receive into themselves His love. For as God is love itself, so is He blessedness itself. For all love breathes forth delight from itself, and the Divine love breathes forth blessedness itself, happiness, and felicity to eternity. Thus God from Himself renders the angels blessed, and people after death...(*True Christian Religion* 43:4).

Unless truth has good within it, it is not truth; and the source of a person's blessing and happiness after death is not truth but the good lying within truth. Consequently blessing and happiness are for him increased the more good there is lying within truth (*Arcana Coelestia* 2434).

## ATTRIBUTING ALL LIFE TO THE LORD

"I will bless those who bless you" [as God said to Abram in Genesis 12:3] means pure happiness to those who from their hearts acknowledge the Lord. This becomes clear from the meaning of "blessing" which includes every single thing received from the Lord, both that which is good and that which is true, thus every celestial, spiritual, natural, worldly, or bodily form of what is good and true (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1422).

True confession of the heart, because it flows from celestial love, is confession in the genuine sense. The person with whom it exists acknowledges that everything good comes from the Lord and everything evil from self. When that acknowledgement exists...he acknowledges the Lord to be everything in him and he himself in comparison to be nothing (*Arcana Coelestia* 3880:7).

In early times it was customary to say "Blessed be Jehovah", by which people meant that every blessing, that is, all good, flows from Him. It was also a way of expressing thanks for the Lord's blessing or having blessed them (*Arcana Coelestia* 1096).

Angels say that not only everything good and true is from the Lord but everything of life as well. This being the belief of the angels, they refuse all thanks for the good that they do and are indignant and withdraw if anyone attributes good to them (*Heaven and Hell* 9).

## A GRATEFUL HEART

The Lord does, it is true, demand humility, worship, thanksgiving, and much else from a person, which seem like repayment, so that His gifts do not seem to be free. But the Lord does not demand those things for His own sake. It is utterly inconceivable that any self-love should exist

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within the Divine, causing Him to require such actions for His own sake. Rather, they are required for a person's own sake. For if someone possesses humility he is able to accept good from the Lord, since in that case he has been parted from self-love and its evils which stand in the way of his accepting it. Therefore the Lord desires a state of humility in a person for that person's sake, because the Lord can flow in with heavenly good when that state exists in him. The same applies to worship and thanksgiving (*Arcana Coelestia* 5957).

That to give praise to God, and to praise God, is to confess Him, and from confession of heart to worship Him (*Apocalypse Explained* 1210).

Blessing is expressed by the mouth by means of truths, while thanksgiving comes from the heart out of good (*Apocalypse Explained* 466).

## **BLESSINGS AND CURSES**

Honors and wealth are blessings and they are curses. With the good they are blessings, and with the wicked curses. They are blessings with those who do not set their heart on them, and curses with those who do set their heart on them. To set the heart on them is to love oneself in them. Not to set the heart on them is to love uses and not self in them. Some are led astray by dignities and wealth but some are not. They lead astray when they excite the love of self, but they do not lead astray when they do not excite this love (see *Divine Providence* 217).

The Lord never curses anyone, nor is even angry. It is a person who curses himself by averting himself from the Lord. The Lord, is as far from cursing anyone and being angry with him as heaven is from earth (*Arcana Coelestia* 1093).

Blessing entails every good—celestial and spiritual, and natural as well. All these are meant in the internal sense by blessing, while in the external sense it means all worldly, bodily, and earthly good. But if the latter are to be a blessing, it is vital that they derive from internal blessing, for this alone is real blessing since it is eternal and is joined with all happiness (*Arcana Coelestia* 1096).