

QUESTIONS CHRISTIANS ASK WHY ARE WE SO BLESSED? PSALMS 67, 103



The Heart of the Matter

How many times we have said to someone, “I am so blessed!” Or, “God has certainly blessed us.” Or, “We were blessed to be born into this family . . . in this free country.” These are true statements, humble declarations of gratitude that often come from our lips. But have you ever gone one step further? Have you ever asked yourself *why* you are so blessed? Most of us find ourselves eminently blessed. We are the recipients of so much from God’s gracious hand. Perhaps one of the most significant blessings we have received is the privilege we have of living in a spiritually enlightened age with numerous churches and ministries prospering all around us. On top of this, there are books, films, small Bible-study groups, and various media ministries designed to encourage us and equip us in our growth . . . in a free country where our only limitations are time and energy. *Why?* Why all these tremendous blessings? These Psalms 67 and 103 answer that question.



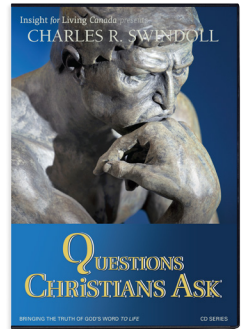
Discovering the Way

1. For a While, Count Your Blessings (Psalm 103)

Imagine yourself on a mountaintop, removed from the city concrete. God’s creation stands out in bold relief: majestic clouds against a deep-blue sky, snowcapped mountains, rolling green hills, and crystal clear rivers winding through rocky ravines. It’s amazing how elevation changes our perspective. What blessings come to mind as you close your eyes and feel the crisp air on your face? Are you healthy? Do you have a family and a home? Has God given you happiness, hope, and heritage? Many of us have a tendency to focus on what’s wrong, which gives us a distorted picture of life.



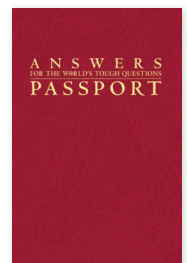
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2. For a Change, Ask Why (Psalm 67)

As nice as it would be to relax on a mountaintop and recall how God has blessed us, that's not why He blesses us. God's blessings are never an end in themselves. He wants us to serve as a channel to share them with others. Have you ever stopped to think about *why* God has poured His benefits into your life? Psalm 67 offers some penetrating insight into this question.



GETTING TO THE ROOT

Blessing God

We talk a lot about God's blessings. But what does it mean for us to bless God? When we bless God, we acknowledge that all power, provision, success, and prosperity in our lives come from Him. And if prosperity doesn't describe our lives, then surely we have experienced love from friends and family. Whatever we have, whether or not it tops the charts of worldly riches, we have received it from God. Truly, "every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (James 1:17).

In Hebrew, *barak*, or bless, means to kneel. When we bless God, we adore Him on bended knee. *Barak* refers to the humility of the one giving the blessing, such as when Christians praise and worship God.¹

In Psalm 103, David blessed God and recognized His sovereign and gracious gifts in David's life. But most of all, David blessed God for His character—His holiness and forgiveness; His power to heal, restore, and satisfy our deepest needs; His perfect and righteous judgment; His compassion, grace, and covenant faithfulness; and His role as Creator, Sustainer, and supreme King over everything.

May we bless the Lord, not only for His gifts to us but also for His character and faithfulness. And may we help others to do the same.

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Starting Your Journey

Now that we know that God wants us to share His gifts with others, what do we do first?

1. The greatest blessing we have received is salvation. If we have received grace through Christ, we must begin sharing His message with others. Gratitude motivates evangelism.
2. We must live in a way that highlights God's love and distinguishes us from those who live without Christ.
3. Since people will rarely approach us and ask about Christ, we must take the initiative to go to them.
4. As evidence of our faith in God's provision, we must give away our material possessions, to the church and to those in need.

How has God blessed you? How do you think a lack of gratitude affects your relationship with God and your generosity toward others?

ENDNOTE

1. Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2006), 138–39.