

Song of Ascents #15 - Ps 134 - How We Can Bless the Lord

Psalm 134:1 through Psalm 134:3

1 Praise **[BLESS]** the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD. 2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise **[BLESS]** the LORD. 3 May the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth, bless **[BLESS]** you from Zion.

BLESSING. The Word is used 3 times in the psalm. **Twice** we are told to Bless Him - and Once the prayer is that the Lord would bless us. (Strong's H1288 - To kneel; by implication)

- to bless God (as an act of adoration)
- and to bless man (as a benefit)

May the Lord Bless You

God desires to bless His people

Ps 134:3 May the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth, bless **[BLESS]** you from Zion.

Purpose 1: That You May Bless Others

Gen 12:2-3 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Purpose 2: That Praise May Go Back to Him

2 Cor 9:10-14 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Purpose 3: That His Ways May Be Known On Earth

Ps 67:1-2 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, Selah 2 that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

How do we actually Bless the Lord?

When God blesses us, our lives are somehow enriched - there is some benefit that we receive...but we cannot enrich Him in the same way as He has need of nothing...what we can do

is (1) praise Him and (2) thank Him and (3) glorify Him and (4) magnify Him. To bless Him in this way is the only appropriate response for His Blessing Us.

We Bless Him by Responding To His Blessing

Psa 103:1-5 Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

We Bless Him By Praising Him

Psalm 145:1-3 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the Lord, and ***greatly to be praised***, and his greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

Psa 34:1 KJV A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed. I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Luke 19:37-40 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" 40 "I tell you," he replied, "**if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.**"

We Bless Him By Giving Thanks To Him

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

10 lepers who were healed - one gave thanks

Luk 17:11-19 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. 15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? ***Where are the other nine?*** 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

We Bless Him as Reflected in the Work of God in Our Lives

God does things NOT JUST TO BLESS US but for the glory of His name
Ps 23:3 He leads me in paths of righteousness FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.

Isa 61:1-4 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the **brokenhearted**, to proclaim freedom for the **captives** and release from darkness for the **prisoners**, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to **comfort all who mourn**, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of **beauty instead of ashes**, the oil of **gladness instead of mourning**, and a garment of **praise instead of a spirit of despair**. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

We Bless Him by our Obedience

Psa 103:20-22 ESV Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! 21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! 22 Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!