

Our Most Precious Blessing

One day Jesus was teaching on the coasts of Judea and people gathered to listen. The disciples wanted the parents to take their children away, but Jesus wanted the children to come closer to Him so He could bless them. “And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:16).

God has blessed us with everything we need in this life. Thanksgiving is a time when we remember to be thankful for all our blessings. What have we been blessed with? Our sins are forgiven, and we have peace with God. We have homes, food, and families. You can probably think of many other blessings, too, that bring joy to your life. Perhaps you even remember a special gift you’ve gotten for Christmas.

My aunt told about her special Christmas gift when she was a girl; it was a doll. It was the only present she had ever received, besides Christmas oranges and candy. But she said that her best gift of all was when her parents had their sins forgiven and became believers. So a gift doesn’t have to be something you can wrap up in paper. Sometimes our blessings are things we can see, like our families, and other times they are things we can feel, like the joy when someone repents and becomes a child of God.

We thank God in our prayers for blessings we have received. But more often than not, we find that we are asking God to give us something more. Do we always get what we hope for? Sometimes we pray to God for things and we don’t get them. God loves us. He hears our prayers. Sometimes we realize later why we didn’t get what we asked for in our prayers and wish lists, but sometimes we never know why. Then we try to accept that God gives us what we need, when we need it.

When Jesus blessed the children, He said, “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). What does this mean? When we are humble and trusting like little children and our sins are forgiven, we are ready to go to heaven. This is the most wonderful blessing God has given us. God gives us this blessing because He loves us. It is precious that we can travel here beneath the blessing of the forgiveness of sins.

Carol Simonson

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT:

- Make a list of blessings in your life. You can add to it every day. You might be surprised how God has so richly blessed you!
- Read Matthew 5:3. How are we blessed when we are “poor in spirit?” What does this mean?
- Sing the song of Zion, “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (#452) with your family. Why are you happy to be Jesus’ “little lamb?”

November/December 2013 *Shepherd’s Voice*