

**Beatitudes**  
**What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed**

## BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE STRENGTH IS IN GOD

Text: Psalm 84:5-12

Introduction:

1. “Where the word *blessed* is hung out as a sign, we may be sure that we shall find a godly man within.” - *Sir Richard Baker*
2. Biblically, the word “blessed” refers to those whose sufficiency comes from God and not from the circumstances of life.
3. The “blessed” are those who inherit the promise made to Abraham by conforming to God’s Will and being added to the body of Christ.
4. This psalm teaches the blessedness of leaning upon and following God through the pathway of life.

I. **Strength In Salvation (vs. 5)**

- A. “Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; In whose heart are the highways *to Zion*” (ASV).
- B. After establishing the importance of God’s House in the first stanza of this psalm, the psalmist now considers those who desire to find the way to God’s House in Zion (Jerusalem).
  1. No doubt this is a reference to those who did not live in Jerusalem but so loved God and His house that they traveled there to keep the feast days.
  2. In their heart was a desire to be in God’s house.
  3. Thus, they set their face toward Jerusalem and endured many hardships to travel and arrive there for the purpose of worship.
- C. The lesson is that God has an ordained way to get to His house.
- D. Today, God’s house is the church of Christ (1 Tim. 3:15).
- E. Salvation is in the house of God (Eph. 5:23; 1:22-23).
- F. Thus, to be saved we must follow God’s way into His house!
  1. Hearing the Gospel (Rom. 10:17).
  2. Believing in Jesus as the Christ and Savior (John 8:24).
  3. Repenting of sins (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3).
  4. Confessing faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37).
  5. Being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:37-41, 47).
- G. Notice that God gives us the strength (ability) to obey His Word and be saved (cf. Rom. 5:6-8).
  1. This is not some miraculous, supernatural working of the Holy Spirit directly on the heart of the sinner.
  2. It is the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel of Christ, by which we are informed, instructed, moved, and motivated to Gospel obedience.
- H. It is God who saves – man simply obeys.

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- II. **Strength In Suffering (vs. 6-8)**
- A. The psalmist describes those traveling to Zion as passing through the Valley of Baca.
    - 1. The word “Baca” can be translated as “mourning.”
    - 2. This is likely a reference to the Valley of Weeping in Judges 2:1-6.
  - B. The picture is of travelers passing through a dry and desolate land.
  - C. However, for those who are following God, He provides a well (fountain) even in the midst of the desert!
    - 1. Another idea in this verse is that those who are traveling to worship Jehovah find joy even in the dreariest parts of the journey.
    - 2. They know that the goal is worth any hardship they must face.
  - D. When man is traveling toward God, God rains down blessings upon him which serve to strengthen him in his journey until, at the end of the path, he finds himself face to face with the very source of His strength – the God of Heaven.
  - E. This is a beautiful picture of the journey of life.
    - 1. When our focus is upon God, life’s troubles become sources of strength and even joy (2 Tim. 4:17).
    - 2. When our goal is Heaven, the stumbling blocks in life become stepping-stones to glory.
    - 3. Helen Keller said, “If you keep your eyes on the sun, you will not see the shadows.”
    - 4. Consider Peter when he was walking on the water (Matt. 14:25-33)
  - F. The child of God has an additional access to the strength God provides – prayer.
    - 1. Prayer removes worry (Philippians 4:5-7).
    - 2. Prayer removes care (1 Peter 5:7).
    - 3. Prayer removes temptation (Matthew 6:9-13).
    - 4. Prayer removes sin (Acts 8:22).
- III. **Strength In Service (vs. 10)**
- A. The God who is a Sun and a Shield also strengthens His people to do His work.
  - B. God fully instructed His people in the building of His house.
    - 1. He told them the dimensions of it.
    - 2. He told them the materials to use.
    - 3. He told them how to dress and serve in it.
    - 4. He told them how He was to be worshipped at His house.
  - C. In like manner, God also teaches us everything we need to know about His church, its organization, and its work.
  - D. Furthermore, He will give us the strength to do His work.
    - 1. Matt. 9:37-38; Acts 14:27; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3; 2 Thes. 3:1
    - 2. Phil. 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

Conclusion: Are we relying upon God or are we depending upon our own strength?