

Living A Kingdom Lifestyle

Lovingkindness – Another Benefit In God's Kingdom

Psalm 103:1-2

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

Why would the Holy Spirit (who wrote the Bible) say "don't forget all His benefits"?

Because they will motivate and drive you back to Him.

In the kingdom lifestyle:

- A supernatural relief from iniquity
- A supernatural relief from physical and emotional problems
- A supernatural relief from Hell and its penalties

Question: Why then do all believers not experience the fullness of the benefits?

1. God does not offer full-time benefits to part-time believers.
 - Some people, even though they believe, are still bound into slavery of the deception that they are not forgiven (you are a new creature)

You still are trying to get your needs met from the world and not God and His benefits.

Bottom line: your source of happiness comes from God and nothing else.

2. If you de-elevate the gift and put God in His proper place, you will be released from a bondage of seeking happiness.

Because I live with a kingdom-mindset, I have no bent towards sin – unhappiness

- The joy of the Lord is my strength and the world cannot meet my needs.

3. God won't compete for your affection; go and ask Him for these benefits.

God is patient and will wait for you to go after Him.

Psalm 103:4b

4 ...Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

Crown – always stood for royalty and kingship

This word, crown – means to encircle you or encompass you

4. God wants to surround you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

God wants to encircle you to protect you – the blood of Jesus → that's a benefit

Question: What does He want to surround you with?

Psalm 103:4

4 ...Who crowns you (surrounds you) with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

Lovingkindness – favor

Tender mercies – tender love

Psalm 103:4 (paraphrased)

4 ...God wants to encircle or surround you with favor and compassion

Question: How do I experience lovingkindness and tender mercies?

- Some of you have a very poor viewpoint of fathers
 - You don't know a father's embrace
 - You don't recognize a father's protection
- 5. Father God longs to embrace you and surround you with His tender love, favor and compassion.

Father God wants to run that root of rejection out of your heart.

When Jesus was baptized, look what the Father said:

Matthew 3:17

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

- That was a big hug by Dad

God is not asking you to perform; He is asking you to let Him hug you, surrounding you with lovingkindness and tender mercies

- How do you experience the hug?

Answer: Ask Him for it

- How do you get healing?

Answer: You ask Him for it

- How do you get released from an inward iniquity?

Answer: You ask Him for it

It will change you forever – a changed person
Some of you have said to God – "You're giving me a bad deal God!"

Let's talk about Paul's experience – there is a story in Acts 27-28, you can put your life in this.

Paul said: It's not over because tonight in my cabin, an angel stood before me and said, run the ship aground at a certain island.

"If you will do what I say, you will live."

- They said, "Okay," and ran the ship aground at the island and all thrown in the freezing water and swam to shore.
- Paul, now standing there on shore and says, "Wow, this is not what I thought was going to happen!"
- Came to his senses and picked up some wood to start a fire
- Out of the bundle of wood, a snake bites him!

By then, most of us would have checked out

- God, I witnessed to King Agrippa
- I'm trying to get to Caesar
- God, can't you make a path a little easier than this?

6. Paul didn't check out because He already had his viewpoint changed; He already had an embrace from the Father 14 years ago.
7. Nothing touches you that hasn't already touched his hand because the embrace surrounds you.
 - When you remember the benefits and become changed, this is how you will see the story:
 - God is looking from above and saying, "There is my boy, Paul"

- God says, "I have a tribe whose king is dying. If he dies, he is going to Hell and the rest of the tribe will go to Hell."
- God says, "I'm coming for you, king. I have Paul in the sea coming."
- All the sailors give up, and God says, "Great – now here is my plan:"
 - * Run aground on this island – all will live
 - * Paul gets wood, right where the snake was, and Paul is bitten
 - * Guess what – the tribe is waiting for Paul to die, thinking Paul must be an evil man saved from shipwreck, then bitten by a snake – He will die. He is getting what he deserves.

God is wringing His hands this plan is perfect - It's not a bad 2 weeks – the benefit of walking in God's kingdom – you see things differently because you are changed.

- Natives watch and he doesn't die
 - They get on their knees and worship Paul
 - Paul says – "Get up, I'm not God."
 - They said to Paul, "We have a king over here who's dying."
 - Paul says, "Take me to him."
 - Paul goes to him, lays hands on him, and proclaims the benefit of healing, and he's healed.
 - The king and many more get healed – God goes, "That's my boy!"
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego go into the fiery furnace
 - God says – "That's My boys!"

What do we do? We complain – *I don't like this; I thought it would go another way. Why is God doing this to me?*

If you will change sources, you will live a supernatural kingdom life.

- Stop getting your needs met by the world
- Stop living in fear; be fed in faith

Well, how do I do that?

Romans 8:11-12

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

- To see the supernatural, stop getting fed by the flesh.

Romans 8:13-14

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

You want the supernatural – walk by the Spirit

Romans 8:15-17

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

Lovingkindness and tender favor