



# Faulty Beatitudes

Yeah, mommy, we're  
really feeling so  
blessed right now!





# “Feeling Blessed”

“On the surface, the phrase seems harmless. Faithful even. Why wouldn’t I want to give God the glory for everything I have? Isn’t that the right thing to do? No. As I reflected on my “feeling blessed” comment, two thoughts came to mind. I realize I’m splitting hairs here, creating an argument over semantics. But bear with me, because I believe it is critically important. It’s one of those things we can’t see because it’s so culturally engrained that it has become normal.

But it has to stop. And here’s why...



“...First, when I say that my material fortune is the result of God’s blessing, it reduces The Almighty to some sort of sky-bound, wish-granting fairy who spends his days randomly bestowing cars and cash upon his followers. I can’t help but draw parallels to how I handed out M&M’s to my own kids when they followed my directions... Sure, God wants us to continually seek His will, and it’s for our own good. But positive reinforcement? God is not a behavioral psychologist” (“The One Thing Christians Should Stop Saying”, Scott Dannemiller, [theaccidentalmissionary.wordpress.com](http://theaccidentalmissionary.wordpress.com), February 20, 2014).






# Faulty Beatitudes

- For a correct definition of “blessed” look no further than Matthew 5:1-12.
- The reward is in heaven. Nowhere is a faithful life connected to material wealth. If anything, He suggests that poverty will be the norm for His followers.
- There are other beatitudes that confirm what Jesus said in the sermon on the mount. Consider in Revelation 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 2:14.





Blessed be the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us  
with every spiritual blessing in the  
heavenly places in Christ...

**Ephesians 1:3**

# Upside-Down Blessedness

- Deprivation, not material wealth, brings about our deepest “blessings.” Consider Deuteronomy 8:2-3.
- *“What intrigues me about this text is the means by which God taught Israel ‘that man does not live by bread alone’... allowing them to hunger and by feeding them with manna... Therefore, by restricting the people’s appetites they would be more likely to rely on God and His word and less likely to become self-indulged, relying on ‘bread alone’” (Berry Kercheville, Focus Magazine, May 2006, p. 6).*



# Upside-Down Blessedness

- Deprivation forces us to face the tough questions about our faith. Will we serve Him at any cost? Do we truly depend on Him?
- We should be grateful (feel blessed) when we are tested, knowing that it either reveals solid character or areas that need improvement (James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-8).
- Romans 5:3-5 sure sounds like a BLESSED life, doesn't it?

“Feeling  
Burdened (and  
it’s a good  
thing)”

“I’m tasked”

# Alternative Terminology

“Grateful for  
every condition  
and the  
opportunities  
they bring”



