



The True Understanding of “Blessing”

Payoff-Favor-Blessing

Introduction

- Blessing is very familiar to Christian life
- Its good to praise God for every blessing we receive but its also necessary to understand the true meaning of BLESSING to realise and claim them in our lives
- So many gentiles/ who do not know the true God/ Who do not follow Christ according to scripture receive the so called blessings in daily routine.

Questions in our mind

- What is wrong with me?
 - Am I in correct path?
 - Are my sins forgiven?
 - Did God listens to my prayers?
 - What exactly God wants from me?
 - Why am I not blessed like them?
 - Is God really exists?
- We will try to find the answers for these questions during this study of 5 weeks

Sessions of this Module

We will have 4 sessions as follows:

1. **The concept of Payoff:** Definition; Sowing and reaping; Concept of Grace against Karma, etc.
2. **The concept of Favor:** Definition; Difference between earthly and heavenly favor
3. **The concept of Blessing:** Definition; How it is different from Favor/ pay off; What is expected; The key to open Blessing doors
4. **The concept of Covenant:** Definition; How it works; Recap and consolidation of all aspects; Take home message

The 4 sessions are followed by a session for Q&A

The concept of Payoff

Payoff: Reward or Payback or Outcome of any act

- ✓ We work hard to get our pay cheques.
- ✓ We invest in something to get returns.
- ✓ We spend our energy/ time / money expecting something benefit to get out of it.

Proverbs 14: 23 says “In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty.”



The concept of Payoff

- ✓ If we do some work, we will definitely get payoff for it. Matthew 5:45 says, 45 so that you may [show yourselves to] be the children of your Father who is in heaven; for **He makes His sun rise on those who are evil and on those who are good**, and makes the **rain fall on the righteous** [those who are morally upright] **and the unrighteous** [the unrepentant, those who oppose Him].
- ✓ But the fact we need to remember: All these payoffs/ rewards are against our work and they will not open the doors of heaven.



Sowing and Reaping



Sowing and Reaping

✓ Galatians 6: 7 says “7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

Lets see Hezekiah life Isaiah 38:1-8

✓ Hezekiah God news of his death from God through prophet Isaiah. Immediately he wept facing the wall and prayed to God. His life was extended as God said “I have accepted your prayer”.

✓ Vs2 says Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, 3 “Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Sowing and Reaping

So, he asked payoff for his acts and God gave him life for 15 years more.

- ✓ Isaiah 39, God send another message to Hezekiah about destruction of his kingdom and captivity of his sons to Babylon because of his boasting and ignorance of God's mercy upon him.

Sowing and Reaping

✓ In life of Eli also, we can see payoff

God told him that your descendants will be taken off from priesthood as you have not considered the wicked nature of your sons (I Samuel). It got realized in I Kings 2:26-27

✓ Vs 27 So Solomon dismissed Abiathar [a descendant of Eli] from being priest to the Lord, fulfilling the word of the Lord, which He had spoken concerning the house (descendants) of Eli in Shiloh.

Remember, Our pay cheques are not measure for our relationship with God (Blessing)

The concept of Grace Vs Karma

Concept of Karma

If you do good you will receive good only

Every aspect of life we can fit in it

Karma accepts all sins whole heartedly (with strong belief system) as it correlates our previous acts (even previous life also).

It also shows unity in spirit and mind among people follow the concept because all have same conviction about sin.

Concept of Grace

Do good because you have received grace of God

All aspects of life cannot fit in grace because God is Just also

Grace doesn't accept sin but it loves sinners

It is difficult to achieve unity in spirit and mind because each one of us is different and our sins are different, above all our understanding of scripture is entirely different.

The concept of Grace Vs Karma

Concept of Karma

There is no comparison of faith with fellow believers and no question of spiritual pride because all are in same boat.

They have fear of the God and/or rituals. They feel that their sins washed away by satisfying God with their offerings and following ritualistic principles.

Concept of Grace

People in Grace struggle for getting priorities among the community and sometimes with spiritual pride. Always compare our faith with others, especially because of material blessings.

Unable to accept self-mistakes because we have reason/justification for everything. Difficult to attain unity in spirit and mind as a community.

Modern Christians

- ✓ Mix Both Karma & Grace- Very complex thought process to be in sin with conviction
- ✓ They also bring in new thought process like, Because we are in grace, our mistakes will be forgiven easily. Its wrong understanding. I John 1: 9 says
- ✓ 9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us ***continually*** from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose].
- ✓ Forgiveness/ Cleansing is not one day or one time process
- ✓ Grace is not to be taken granted

Modern Christians

Regarding the spiritual pride and comparative faith James 4: 6 says

✓ 6 But He gives us more and more grace [through the power of the Holy Spirit to defy sin and live an obedient life that reflects both our faith and our gratitude for our salvation]. Therefore, it says, “God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but [continually] **gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness].**”

✓ Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Modern Christians

When our belief system merged with grace concept gives a complex understanding on God's love.

- ✓ But Scripture says,
- ✓ We love because he first loved us (I John 4:19-21)
- ✓ Do not love the world [of sin that opposes God and His precepts], nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (I John 2:15-17)

Christian Walk

Ephesians 4:17-24 (AMP)

✓ ...solemnly affirm together with the Lord ...you must no longer live as the [unbelieving] Gentiles live, ...**their [moral] understanding is darkened and their reasoning is clouded;** [they are] alienated and self-banished from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] **because of the [willful] ignorance and spiritual blindness** ...because of the hardness and insensitivity of their heart.

Christian Walk

Ephesians 4:17-24 (AMP)

✓ But you did not learn Christ in this way!you put off your old self [completely discard your former nature],be **continually renewed in the spirit of your mind** [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude], 24 and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], **created in God's image**, [godlike] in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [**living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation**].

Christian Walk

- Lot of times we take the grace of God for granted which puts us in more difficulties leading away from God. We never know, when we were drifted away.
- Romans 6:1-2 says What shall we say [to all this]? Should we continue in sin and practice sin as a habit so that [God's gift of] grace may increase and overflow? 2 Certainly not! How can we, the very ones who died to sin, *continue* to live in it any longer?

**We will understand more about payoff during
understanding of Favor!
NEXTWEEK**

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Praise The Lord