

Blessings Come Through Struggle

1. Scriptural evidence that blessings come through struggle
 - A. Jesus promised His disciples both peace and troubles – John 16:33 (1048)
 - B. James encourages joy in trials – James 1:2-4 (1172)
2. Jesus redefined what it means to be blessed – Matthew 5:1-16 (936)
 - A. Instead of wealth and pleasure, Jesus taught that blessing comes through those who are:
 - 1) Poor in spirit
 - 2) Mourning
 - 3) Meek
 - 4) Spiritually hungry
 - 5) Merciful
 - 6) Pure in Heart
 - 7) Peacemakers
 - 8) Persecuted
 - 9) Reviled
 - B. The benefits these followers of Jesus will receive are:
 - 1) Receive the Kingdom (2)
 - 2) Comforted
 - 3) Inherit the earth
 - 4) Satisfied
 - 5) Receive mercy
 - 6) See God
 - 7) Called sons of God
 - 8) Rewarded
 - C. Blessings may not be what we expect
 - 1) Blessings do not require comfort
 - 2) Blessings often come in times of pain and suffering
 - 3) The greatest blessing is our relationship with God
3. God's purpose and plan can bring hope in suffering – Jeremiah 29:10-14 (764)
 - A. We often claim the promise of vs. 11 without understanding the context
 - B. God's people were facing 70 years of slavery in Babylon – vs. 10
 - C. The promise requires His people to call on Him – vs. 12
 - D. God promises eventual restoration, but not until after His discipline has run its course – vs. 13-14
 - E. Blessings may not be immediate. God may have other purposes.
4. God's work for our good does not mean that there will not be struggle – Romans 8:26-39 (1097)
 - A. Verse 28 is a great comfort when we are enduring trials
 - B. We can take comfort in the knowledge that God is with us – vs. 31-34
 - 1) He gives us all things graciously
 - 2) He does not condemn
 - 3) He intercedes for us
 - C. We cannot be separated from God – vs 35-39