

"Many, O LORD my God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." Psalms 40:5 KJV

Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done! Why is it we so soon forget or dismiss the good things God has done for us? Let's begin with the air you breathe. Did you acknowledge and thank God for it today? Without breath, you couldn't even complain. Deniers, mockers, and blasphemers would be forever silenced! Yet, do they even comprehend their frail vulnerability? I think not!

"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. Despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God

leadeth thee to repentance? The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." How many accidents has God kept you from by an extra-long red light or car failure. Many things we see as troubles are actually God's hand of protection. Unless we know for a fact we are reaping what we've sowed, we must see everything as coming from Father's hand, but even reaping our sowing was preordained by God. In this light, how could we even begin to number the goodness's of God! Where would you start? *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."* How many things in your life would you count as good? As perfect? Start there! *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* Thankfulness is evidence of trust and is the earmark of the righteous. *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, NEITHER WERE THANKFUL; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."* The wicked cannot be thankful, because they see themselves as their only benefactors. Desire is never satisfied! *"Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied."* Contentment and peace only come from knowing and trusting God.

One cannot number blessedness,
The total of God's righteousness,
The height and breadth of faithfulness,
That loves, forgives our wretchedness! ~CGP

The next time you are tempted to complain, draw a deep breath first, and ponder the mercy that provided it! The next trial that comes your way; wait and see if there is a divine bonus included. We cannot even sorrow over the death of a saint, because death is their portal to *"pleasures forevermore!"* Of course, we may miss their companionship, but then we can look forward to a blessed reunion! It is not a "Farewell," but a "See you later!"

"For the Word of the LORD is right; and all His works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD." Psalms 33:4-5 KJV



