

## A blessing is neither earned nor deserved but received.

"And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 28:2). Likewise, life ensues as a gift indicating God's grace and a privilege affirming His favor.

A blessing means speaking, a promise humbly hidden in simple words. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Likewise, every life has promise and purpose, no matter what size, skills, or circumstances.

Blessed amounts to more than being merely happy, healthy, attractive, affluent, or influential. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). Likewise, every human life exceeds just physical functions and emotional assessments.

## A blessing comes from God and connects to Him.

"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).

Likewise, every human being embodies God's creation,
reflects His incarnation, and ensures His ongoing and increasing involvement.

A blessing implies multiplication and abundance. "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore" (Genesis 22:17). Likewise, even at the beginning, every human person makes our heart bigger and our world better.

Blessings often issue from loved ones of significant age and experience. "[Elizabeth in her old age] exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"" (Luke 1:42). Likewise, every neighbor draws us beyond appearances and expectations.

Blessing consists not only of substance but of activity. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:17). Likewise, life sets love in motion and puts joy into practice.

## Life is what God blesses us with and what He blesses us for—life together and life forever!



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