

## Thanks Living, Part 2 - Count Your Blessings

### ☐ Monday - Take Command Your Soul.

Counting one's blessings must be deliberate. The psalmist writes, "Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget none of His benefits" (Psalm 103:2). See how he commands his own soul, "Count your blessings and don't forget a single one of them!" Today we are told to "Follow your heart," but our Christian ancestors never lived that way. Do not follow your heart, dear Christian, for it has steered you wrong in the past (Prov. 14:12, Jer 17:9). Instead, follow the psalmist's example and command your heart to follow God's Word. Tell it to count God's blessings. Do not let it forget a single one of His benefits. Read Psalm 42:5

### ☐ Tuesday - Catalogue of God's Blessings.

In 1897 Johnson Oatman wrote the hymn *Count Your Blessings*, and for over a century now the Christian church has sung, "Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done!" But for the Christian to count *all* of God's blessings one by one is no small task, for the Bible asserts that God has blessed His people "with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3), and then backs up that claim by providing the reader with an exhaustive catalogue of those blessings. And so, the Christian has but to open the pages of Scripture and start counting. Read Ephesians 1:3-14

### ☐ Wednesday - Christian Public Accountant (CPA).

Christian, you must learn to be a good accountant. Count God's blessings when you are all alone. Make it a part of your own private practice and personal dialogue with God. But don't stop there. You must take your accounting skills out of the closet and start counting God's blessings in public, as part of your testimony to the world. When you openly give thanks to God, the cause of Christ is advanced, God's reputation as the Giver of all spiritual blessings is upheld, and the Gospel is shown to be immediately practical and relevant. Read Psalm 18:49, 108:3-5

### ☐ Thursday - Do We Need to Repent of Ingratitude?

Have you paused from your busy schedule recently to count God's blessings? Sure, there are ten things that you wish were different in your life right now, or ten things that annoy you, or ten things that make your heart ache a little or even a lot; but, dear child of God, there are ten thousand reasons to give God thanks. Which do you allow to consume your thoughts, the ten or the ten thousand? O how this challenges my own Christian practice! The truth is that most of us simply need to repent of ingratitude. Read Acts 3:19

### ☐ Friday - What Will be Your Epitaph: Counter or Complainer?

The unappreciative soul is always miserable, always complaining; but it is no coincidence that those who regularly count God's blessings are more consistently cheerful. So I ask myself, am I a counter or a complainer? How do my friends and family see me? How about my co-workers? And when my life is over, how will I be remembered? What testimony will I leave behind? If the truth about me were written on my tombstone, would it say, "Here lies John Doe, whose blessings were only exceeded by his ingratitude"? Read Psalm 78:4