

Count Your Blessings

Sometimes we sit back and look at our lives and complain that God never blesses us because we don't get something our way, True? As Humans and having a soulish realm and prior experiences we look mainly at the negative, that is why the Bible tells us we need to renew our minds in **Romans 12v2**. We are not to be conformed to thinking like the world does. So how does the world think? They think about the problems they are going through and what the outcomes will be, I know I am like this a lot but then I understand and remember that God can change outcomes. So really we don't need to worry about tomorrow like Jesus says in **Matthew CH 6**, don't worry about tomorrow it will take care of itself.

So how do we counteract this thinking? Quite easy instead of looking at everything going wrong around your life, start counting your blessings. Think on the times previous where God has got you out of sticky situations, of the times where you have been blessed, the times where you have gone to buy something and ended up getting a bargain, the times where you thought you would never make it through the week for whatever reason and God intervened and helped you through.

I am going through some very personal struggles at the moment, especially with my health, the amount of medication I am taking, the pain I suffer and just recently some more problems have popped their ugly heads up in my life. At first I started to freak out, day by day the problem in my mind got worse and worse until it came to the point where I felt like saying to hell with it all I have had enough. Then God intervened and said to me, "Ross, count your blessings", I snapped back and said "What blessings"? In that quiet gentle voice of the Holy Spirit he showed me, my new car for a bargain and a half, my new bike and how quickly he had helped me to save for it, my job that I have where I can go to work and do mostly the same as what I do at home - Nothing, and get paid for it!

He showed me the amount of books, Cd's, and then he brought to my attention my eldest son Raymond and how much of a good kid he is. Wow, he took me back a few years and showed me where I was freaking out because Ray is deaf and I was worried about his future, he is now doing work experience as a panel beater and he is a really good kid, he never got into the drugs, drinking and the life that I had. God showed me how blessed I was that he never had the life that I did, why? Because I had God in my life to intervene in his and he never went down that path.

I have had people come through my life over the years that have kept me on track, like Dave Honan, Rodriguez and Deb, Bazza & Vivianne, Dave and Trish Woolf, Dave and Sue Hoad, Steve Nelson and everyone from Bikers 4 Christ and the CMA and even non Christian bikers who have all had a positive influence on my life in some way whether it was large or small. God showed me at the end of my tether just very recently that hey I have guided your footsteps as in **Psalms 37:23** *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.* We have to remember, God is in control, the Devil has not knocked him off his throne and that is what Faith is all about, **Trusting** and **Relying** upon God.

I have been blessed to have been involved with a lot of different Christian Bikers over the years, and Pastors that have had a lot of input into my life. What about you? Have you ever really sat down and counted your blessings without thinking about the hard times? We all do it, we say yeah but my life has been crap because all we do is think about the crap times, when if we stopped thinking about the crap times and counted the blessed times we would see God is in control. Sometimes I wonder if we just make life hard for ourselves, see self is short for selfishness, thinking only about self.

I have never stopped thinking about people who had been through my life, sometimes I have missed them like my mother or a great friend I once had, did you know that God and only God knows your very thoughts? Take a look at **Genesis 6v5**; **1Chronicles 28v9**; **Luke 5v22**; **Luke 6v8**, there are heaps of them! As God knows our thoughts, the bible also says "*delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart*" **Psalms 37v4**, these people that I have missed, he has replaced them with more great friends, we are his children and he will look after us just as you would look after your children.

Count your blessings, not your hassles! Recently I done a wedding in Gladstone and had the world fall around me prior to it, I got stressed and ill because of it. Then I made a decision asking God for help. I invited Dave Honan on the trip up with me, and on the way up he played some tapes that I had not heard for nearly 23 years, they were all the old Christian praise and worship tapes before there was ever a record industry for Christian / Gospel songs. In other words, the groups sang because they loved God and paid out of their own pocket to have it recorded and most of the songs were based upon "*hey Jesus I love you, I want to spend the rest of my life with you*" or similar simple things like "*I love you Lord, you are Lord of my life*".

Today most Gospel singers only last **IF** they connect with the record industry and make money out of it, then their songs are Bless "**ME** oh God" and because we listen to it we end up with an attitude of a "bless me God club", things go wrong, then we blame God, or we get all upset or offended or whatever! I met some people recently, all they are interested in is talking about motorbikes or how good God is. It really spoke to me, I still have an attitude problem, but God is working on me. We need to look at the goodness of God, not the badness of the devil or our own flesh for that matter.

Why were all the people in the Bible mentioned? Because the majority of them focused upon the goodness of God regardless of their surroundings or situations. Peter in prison sang at the top of his voice, King David cried search my heart oh God for any iniquity (wrong thinking), Paul declared I press forward to the mark of the high calling of God, and yet most of the disciples lost their lives to a horrible death and even when, apparently Peter was crucified upside down and watched the Romans rape and murder his wife he cried out "**Only Believe**". That's what we need to do is "**Only believe**". God will come through. **Bless ya - Roscoe.**