

THANKFUL FOR EVEN MORE

We live in a world marked by materialism and consumerism. Commercials punctuate our favorite television shows, pop-up ads interrupt our browsing and strategically placed and individually tailored posts appear on our timeline from the “I-have-never-heard-of-this-company-but-that-seems-like-something-I-need” vendors.

In the midst of this type of consumer culture, it’s easy to seek God for what we can get from him instead of seeking him for who he is. But there is another, more subtle danger on the opposite end of the spectrum; while we rightly guard ourselves from falling victim to a materialistic mindset, and as we thank God for his spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3), we might fail to give God thanks for the physical things we have been given.

When we consider our physical blessings from a biblical perspective, we understand that God is the ultimate source of those blessings; *“He himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything”* (Acts 17:25). No matter the mechanism or circumstances that lead us to possessing what we have, God is the origin of it all. We also understand that God gives us these blessings so that we might enjoy them. Paul writes to Timothy, *“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy”* (1 Timothy 6:17). We never set our hope upon anything material, but one of God’s purposes in giving is enjoyment of his graciousness. God also gives with the expectation that we give back to him sacrificially (Deuteronomy 26:1-2; Hebrews 13:16; Psalm 116:2). We give God

thanks for being the ultimate Giver and for giving good gifts for our good. The blessings enjoyed on earth should lead to worship directed toward heaven.

Prayer prompt: Think about some material blessings God has given you. Take some time and thank God for being the source of those gifts and ask him how you can use those gifts to honor and worship him.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom here is no variation or shadow due to change.

- James 1:17

He who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.

- Psalm 136:25

No sacrifice should be too great for Him who gave Himself for us.

- Harry Ironside