

Blessings

One Sabbath morning, I was listening to a Christian music station and heard this song playing, but did not hear what the title was or even the name of the person who sang it. However, the lyrics of this song motivated me to ascertain the singer. Using remembered words in the lyrics such as “raindrops” and “mercies,” I searched the internet and lo and behold, after listening to a number of songs from different artists, I found her! Yah works in many wonderful ways, and it seems in my case, He often uses music to draw me into something that He wants me to learn about. My goal focuses on being a benefit to anyone who is suffering through a variety of hard times, often called “trials,” or is doubtful of God’s presence in their lives. My hope is that this study will shine the light of understanding exposing God’s ever present love and mercy that remains available for all of His children.

Throughout my life there have been numerous trials and pains that have drawn me to Yah. I have learned through experiencing the smaller trials that when I put my trust in Him, He does give answers to prayers. These answers may not always have been the ones that I have wanted to hear, but nevertheless were always given. Yah sees the “big picture” knowing what we need, but what we want is not always what we need.

By trusting in Yah in these smaller trials, I have been able to increase my faith believing that He is always there providing answers to resolve small trials or requests. With that being said, why would I ever feel He was not able to resolve more difficult trials? At this point I wish to add that no one can live through life without encountering trials. It simply is not possible. In that ideal scenario, we would not need Yah’s aid. But God as our Creator had prescient understanding that carnal behavior is indelibly linked to the reality of being human. Thus He allows these difficulties to enter our lives showing us that we cannot have a perfect, trouble free existence. Troubles are necessary to bring us to Yah. Otherwise, we could think that we are in control of everything.

Heb 11: 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Rom 5:3-5 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve were created and given a perfect utopian life. They were in a beautiful garden that provided everything they needed. The weather must have been perfect because they were naked and there was no devastating rain until the flood. The animals were all friendly, and most of all they were on speaking terms with Yah! Yes, it was a perfect existence! They were then faced with a choice when Yah stipulated they were not to “eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” They disobeyed Yah and sin entered the picture.

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Just as was the case with Adam and Eve, we also are faced with choices to either obey or disobey Yah. It is because of these choices, free moral agency on our part, that Yah then tries to bring moral clarity to our senses that should contrast to our wrong choices. This enlightenment should then provoke us to repent of such sinful behavior to now confirm to His way. He tells us in His word that **if** we keep His commandments, whatever we ask we will receive from Him if our requests fall within the ultimate purpose of His will.

1 John 3:18-22 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our

heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

If Adam and Eve had obeyed, most likely they would have remained in the Garden of Eden in perfect harmony with Yah, but of course they fell prey to Satan. Instead of only knowing good, they were now faced with a choice of good or evil as does every human being since that disobedience. Yahshua was the only one who lived a sinless life.

2 Cor 5: 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

As we listen to the lyrics of this song, we pray for many, many different things...blessings, peace, protection, prosperity, etc. Yah hears all that we ask, but as stated sees the "big picture" and knows what is ultimately best for us. His love will not allow us to receive anything less than what we need. His mercies in disguise are the difficulties that draw us to Him – pain, tears, sleepless nights, raindrops on a parched ground, etc. Many times when facing trials and hard times, we feel we are far away from Yah, sometimes feeling that perhaps there is no God. Why? Because with our mind aching in despair, we almost demand that He should be immediately relieving us of pain. And by not doing so at this moment, we erroneously conclude that He is not living up to the promises He has made in His word. Perhaps He is waiting for us to further gird up our trust in Him now judged as truly lacking. Sometimes it takes severe, prolonged trials, more pressure on us, in order for us to put our total trust in Him. As we go through trials, it reminds us that this world is not our true home – we are only pilgrims awaiting our promised gift of eternal life.

2 Cor 5:1-8 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

We have blessings composing our lives every day – events, IF we are willing to see them, appreciate them as blessings! So remember, when faced with hard times, pain, disappointment and other trials that seem impossible to get through, take time to reflect upon them. You and I are not unique in suffering such experiences. These are part of life, Yah's mercies in disguise. Each trial is part of a life-long refining process, albeit sometimes painful, purposefully affecting us for our absolute benefit: developing our righteousness, our eligibility for an eternal, fulfilled and complete life in service to and with God!

Rom 8: 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Heb 10: 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

1 Peter 5:6-11 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Lyrics to Blessings by Laura Story

<https://youtu.be/XQan9L3yXjc>

We pray for blessings
We pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
All the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough
All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not our home

What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights

Are your mercies in disguise

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