



Weekly Devotion

Lucky or Blessed? *by Duke Southard*

"Blessed are the pure in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:3

Do you ever think about the difference between being lucky and being blessed? These words are often used as if they are interchangeable, but that feels like an oversimplification.

When I hit an errant shot on the golf course, and it bounces off a tree and lands on the green, am I lucky or blessed?

If I win a sizable prize in a cash lottery, am I lucky or blessed?

After a close call on the highway, the kind that leaves your knees shaking and heart thumping, was I lucky or blessed? This list could go on and on.

We recently celebrated our sixty-sixth wedding anniversary. Many of the cards and verbal congratulatory wishes contained the word lucky, as in "lucky to live this long," or "lucky to have such a special wife," or "lucky in love." I guess this is an example of where a line might be drawn. Maybe it is as simple as this. There are many times when I believe God truly provided a blessing in my life. I don't think he provides luck in really important matters.

I didn't feel blessed when my golf ball happened to land on the green, but I certainly did when we said our wedding vows and do every day I have with Barbara.

I am blessed, not lucky, to have had three wonderful children who fulfilled my life in so many ways.

I am blessed to be surrounded by a loving group of friends and a deep and meaningful relationship with my church.

I was blessed during the darkest days of my life when we lost our son to have family, friends, and church who enfolded us as if they were an extension of the arms of God himself.

So, perhaps the next time we're tempted to mention how lucky someone was, we might wonder about the difference. After all, every one of the Beatitudes begins with "Blessed."

Journaling:

Are there occasions when we have confused luck with being blessed? Times when we were blessed and called it luck?