

FBC Devotion Tuesday July 7 2020 Psalm 67 An Overflowing Blessing

Did you take Religious Instruction in Public School? In Public and High School, one of my required classes was Religious Instruction, and although I can remember some of the teachers, I can't remember much of the teaching. I do remember memorizing Psalm 67, this morning's text.

I've never met anyone who has answered "no" to this question, "Do you want God's blessing on your life?" Maybe some hard-core atheists would be daring enough to say no. But I'd guess that deep inside, they would feel uneasy, even if they kept up a calm front. You'd better be very sure that God does not exist before you brazenly say, "I don't want His blessing"!

Why should we seek God's blessing? We want to be happy! We want to enjoy life! We want things to go well with us and our children!

Although this is a short psalm, it's a very important one. While we all would quickly say that we want God's blessing, it's not automatic. We have to diligently seek it. The Bible is abundantly clear that God is ready to pour out His blessing on His people, but only when we order our lives rightly before Him.

"God be gracious to us and bless us" (67:1a). Do you pray these words often for yourself, your marriage, your children, and for our church? We all need God's grace and His blessing. God's grace is not easy to grasp in practice because it runs contrary to our sense of fairness and justice. Also, our pride tells us that we deserve to be rewarded because we worked hard.

The psalmist continues, **"and cause His face to shine upon us"** (67:1b). It means to have His smile or favour upon us. If we have God and His smiling face in Christ, we are truly blessed. God's blessing is not just individual, but corporate. **The blessings prayed for here are "to us."**

Be careful though seeking God's blessing with selfish requests: "God, bless me with a wife and children and a house and a better car and a good job, so that I will be happy." Those things may be legitimate requests, but our prayer should be that God would bless us with those things may be used to further God's kingdom globally. It's the principle that Jesus stated (Matt. 6:33), "Seek first His kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Seek God's blessing for the sake of the peoples of the world. The psalmist prays (67:2), **"that Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations."**

Pray for God to raise up workers for Kingdom work. (Matt. 9:37-38). Pray for faithful people we can send out through generous support and prayer, to take the message of His salvation to those who have yet to hear. Pray for the opening of blind eyes to see the glory of our Saviour.

God blesses us materially so that we in turn can bless others spiritually.

The earth has yielded its produce" (67:6) When God blesses us materially, it's not just for our personal enjoyment. Rather, when we share God's heart and vision for the world, we will be blessed.

Here we see a glorious circle. As we are blessed; we use that blessing to pray for and reach a hurting world, and as that aligns us with the heart of God, we're blessed even more. **"May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere." Verse 2**