

welcome

At Gateway it is our mission to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our doctrine is simple; we just want to follow Jesus like Christians did in the New Testament. We have a variety of spiritual, relational, and inspirational activities throughout the St. Louis metro area. For more information visit us at gatewaycitychurch.com or scan the QR code for our church app.

upcoming events

- **Congregational Devotional (Wednesday February 22nd, 7pm)**
- **Men's Breakfast @ Denny's on Dorsett + 270 (Saturday, February 23rd)**
- **Cultural Diversity Sunday and Potluck (February 24th)**
- **Women's Midweek (Wednesday February 27th, 7pm)**
- **Marrieds Date Night (Saturday April 6):**
Register by March 6th:
bowl.gatewaycitychurch.info

For more info:

calendar.gatewaycitychurch.info

I'm new: what to expect

We're glad you're here! Worship begins at 10am. If the sanctuary is full, additional seating with live video streaming has been set up in our Fellowship Hall.

Church service typically lasts 75-90 minutes. At Gateway we take communion every Sunday; you are also welcome to take communion if you'd like to do so. Like other churches we also take up a weekly offering, however most of our members prefer to give their contribution online through our app, or via "Text 2 Give".

Gateway Kids offers free childcare upstairs each Sunday during the church service. We feature age-appropriate, action-based Bible lessons for children ages 3 months through 5th grade.

If you enjoy the service and would like to go deeper, we would love for you to join one of our weekly small group Bible studies. Talk to one of our ushers or staff members after service for more information.

resources

All phone numbers also accept text messages.
9300 Stansberry Avenue (63134)
314.653.1615

Vince Hawkins - Evangelist 573.489.6573
Robin Hawkins - Women's Ministry Leader
573.489.6719

Elders:

Lu Garcia: 314.952.7308
Tink Sullivan: 573.528.7568

Text 2 Give

Text "Give \$1" to 314.384.9099

Marrieds

Jeff & Julie Hovey 314.698.3036
Steve & Stacy Blassingame 314.489.2512

College

Jeff Hughes: 314.660.5418
Rani Singh: 608.445.7778

Singles

Alex Hanna: 314.302.5065
Rebecca Schneider: 314-691-4037

Youth & Family/High School Ministry

Jeff & Shelly Ryan 469.417.9054

Middle School

Karanja & Denise Kiburi 314.249.6682

Gateway Kids

John Rosario 314.732.8687



Wifi: Gateway

Pass: gateway.church



facebook.com/gatewaycitychrch



What does it mean to be #blessed?

By Katie Hughes

Feeling blessed is in vogue.

A quick look at Facebook and Twitter shows how many people today feel #blessed. In our social-media world, saying you're blessed can be a way of boasting while trying to sound humble.

College scholarship? #Blessed. Unexpected raise? #Blessed. Wonderful family? #Blessed.

For believers, is the blessed life synonymous with the successful life? Is it the Christian version of the good life? A loving marriage, obedient children, a vibrant ministry, a healthy body, a successful career, trusted friends, financial abundance — if these are the characteristics of a blessed life, then having all of them should translate into an extraordinarily blessed life.

But does it? If someone had all those things, would they be extraordinarily blessed?

Rather than turning to God, they might feel self-sufficient and proud. Perhaps a bit smug and self-righteous. After all, their hard work would be yielding good fruit.

Moreover, they wouldn't need to cry out to God for deliverance; everything would already be perfect. They wouldn't need to trust God; they could trust in themselves. They wouldn't need God to fill them; they would already be satisfied.

The Common Thread

One translation of the New Testament (ESV) has 112 references with the words bless, blessing, or blessed, *none of which* connects blessing to material prosperity. Consider these passages:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit. . . . Blessed are those who mourn. . . . Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake . . . Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you.” ([Matthew 5:3–4, 10–11](#))

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” ([Luke 11:28](#))

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial. ([James 1:12](#))

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. . . . Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” ([Revelation 14:13, 19:9](#))

There is no hint of material prosperity or perfect circumstances in any New Testament reference. On the contrary, blessing is typically connected with either poverty and trial or the spiritual benefits of being joined by faith to Jesus.

According to the Key-Word Study Bible, “The Greek word translated *blessed* in these passages is *makarioi* which means to be fully satisfied. It refers to those receiving God's favor, *regardless of the circumstances*” (emphasis added).

What is blessing, then? Scripture shows that blessing is anything God gives that makes us fully satisfied in him. Anything that draws us closer to Jesus. Anything that helps us relinquish the temporal and hold on more tightly to the eternal. And often it is the struggles and trials, the aching disappointments and the unfulfilled longings that best enable us to do that.

Truly Blessed

Pain and loss transform us. While they sometimes unravel us, they can also push us to a deeper life with God than we ever thought possible. They make us rest in God alone. Not what we can do or achieve for him. And not what he can do or achieve for us.

In pain and loss, we long for Presence. We long to know that God is for us and with us and in us. Great families, financial wealth, and good health are all wonderful gifts we can thank God for, but they are not his greatest blessings. They may make us delight, not in God, but in his gifts.

God's greatest blessing always rests in God himself. When we have that, we are truly #blessed.