

Benefits of Redemption

Benefit (Webster's): An act of kindness; gift; benefaction. Whatever promotes welfare or prosperity; advantage; profit. A performance the proceeds of which are given to some particular person or purpose. *Synonyms: help, service, use, avail.*

Strong's (H1576): From H1580; *treatment*, that is, an *act* (of good or ill); by implication *service* or *requital*: - + as hast served, benefit, desert, deserving, that which he hath given, recompense, reward.

(H1580) A primitive root; to *treat* a person (well or ill), that is, *benefit* or *requite*; by implication (of *toil*) to *ripen*, that is, (specifically) to *wean*: - bestow on, deal bountifully, do (good), recompense, requite, reward, ripen, + serve, wean, yield.

Usually, we think of benefits in the realm of some employment or job. During the course of the application / interview, benefits are disclosed to the applicant for consideration along with the pay package. But Biblical Benefits are the promises of God to whosoever are credited with access to those promises. We could say that the one whom accesses these promises are the beneficiary to those promises. As a beneficiary, this person is considered an "heir" to the promises. That's what Romans 8:16 & 17 speaks of: *The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

The Promises of God are ALL ours. But because of our ignorance (lack of knowledge) we do not put those promises in action or to our benefit, and consequently, those promises lie dormant – inactive – in our lives. They are still alive, but are non-productive (inactive) for our benefit. They're non-productive, NOT because God doesn't want them for us, but because we failed to activate by faith those promises. Faith comes by our hearing the Rhema of God (Romans 10:17), so without hearing to the point of compensation, we will never actively use the benefit due to OUR IGNORANCE – NOT DUE TO THE UNWILLINGNESS OF GOD!

Psalm 103:1-5

¹*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.* ²*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:* ³*Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;* ⁴*Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;* ⁵*Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Stirring oneself up was something David knew about. In 1 Samuel 30:6, David encouraged himself, and here in Psalm 105, he reminds himself once again of the benefits or promises of his God.

Thankfulness for what God has done, is doing, or is going to do for you, should be a response that requires no thinking. Unfortunately though, there are some who, for whatever reason, forgets or refuses to offer such.

I'm reminded of the ten lepers that came to Jesus for their healing in Luke 17:12 – 19. Only one of the ten returned to offer thanks for his healing. That offering of thanks got this leper wholeness (v. 19). He was healed of the plague, but now he was restored to wholeness.

Another, is the story of Jonah: ⁷*When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.* ⁸*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.* ⁹*But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.* (Jonah 2:7-9)

Jonah remembered the LORD when he came to himself and responded in prayer to his God and thereby reaped mercy and deliverance. He tells us that if we observe lying vanities, we forsake our own mercy. Meaning the mercy for deliverance is there but if we continue to look at the circumstances of life, we will miss that mercy.

Lamentations 3:22 & 23 tells us, *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Notice, "... *they are new every morning...*" They – what? They – the mercies. He doesn't have "old mercies" for us. He doesn't have "used mercies" for us. He has NEW MERCIES every morning. Each and every morning we have NEW MERCIES in store for us to use that day! I'm sure that Father-God is NEVER out of the ability to present to me daily enough mercies to get me through that day blessed and successful.

If on the other hand, we are unthankful, we will likewise reap the results of that decision of unthankfulness: it will present some side effects:

1. Quenches the power of God in our lives.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 - *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. **In** everything... not **For** everything... give thanks.*
2. Makes you foolish and leads you to bad decisions.
Romans 1:21 - *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*
3. Keeps you in the wilderness and out of the Promised Land.
1 Corinthians 10 – rehearses the Israelites travels in the wilderness because of their stubbornness and ungratefulness to God for their deliverance and provisions that they reaped during the Exodus.
4. Keeps you powerless in this life.
2 Timothy 3:2-5 – ²*For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,* ³*Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,* ⁴*Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;* ⁵*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

Negative emotions come from this sense of powerless:

- Feeling powerless to change the future – you'll become afraid (fearful).
- Feeling powerless to change the past, you'll become depressed.
- Feeling powerless to change the present, you'll become angry.

That's why we need power in our lives.

Thankfulness comes from remembering what has been done for you.

Remembering the bad things in your life, or the bad things that other people have done to you, will cause negative emotions which leads to negative attitudes, to negative behavior.

Conversely, remembering the good things in your life, or the good things that other people have done to you, will cause positive emotions which leads to positive attitudes, to positive behavior.

Negative thoughts, negative emotions, toward someone that caused that negative experience, will cause unforgiveness in your life and, if continued, will take roots of bitterness and cause your prayers to be hindered and unanswered. (Hebrew 12:15; Mark 11:25, 26)

That's why Peter talks about stirring you up to remembrance – remembering of what? Who you are and the inheritance you NOW own. Remembering the promise of God (the Word) will cause you to be built up and will give you an inheritance among all the saints (Acts 20:32; Eph. 1:18).

Notice there are five main (primary) benefits mentioned in the verses of Psalm 103:1-5:

1. Total Forgiveness – *“who forgiveth all thine iniquities...”*
No matter what the sin, or how far into sin you have gone, He forgives ALL of them.
God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them... 2 Corinthians 5:19
2. Total Healing – *“who healeth all thine diseases...”*
No matter what the disease, whether it is an unknown disease (to man), or emotional disease, or psychological disease, or a chemical disease, or a physical disease, or financial disease, or a relational disease – *With His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5*
3. Total Restoration (or Total Recovery) – *“Who redeemeth thy life from destruction...”*
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so... Psalm 107:2; The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10
4. Total Victory – *“who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies...”*
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness... 2 Timothy 4:8; We are more than conquerors through him that loved us... Romans 8:37; But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57
5. Total Satisfaction – *“who satisfieth thy mouth (years) with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.”*

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. Proverbs 10:22

BE YE THANKFUL!