

Unrecognized Blessings

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months, he had admired a beautiful sports car. And knowing his father could afford it, he told his dad on several occasions that it was all he wanted.

Finally, on the morning of his graduation, the young man's father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a son, and how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box.

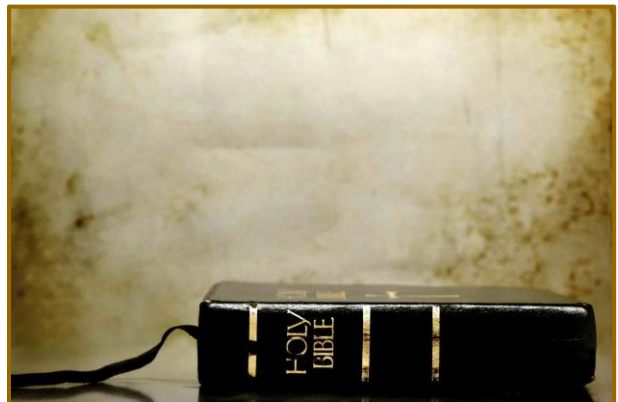
Curious, but disappointed, the young man opened the box to find a lovely, leather-bound Bible with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money, you give me a Bible?" And then he stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible behind.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was getting quite old and thought perhaps he should go to visit him. He hadn't seen his father since that graduation day.

Before he could make arrangements, however, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and that he needed to come home immediately to take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and discovered the still-new Bible, just as he had left it years ago.

With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. In doing so, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, and on the tag was the date of his graduation along with the words *Paid in Full*.



That story prompts the question: How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged – or as timely – as we expected?

No matter what our situation or circumstances may be, we have much to thank God for – health, families, food on the table, a roof over our heads, fulfilling careers in Life Care or Century Park, daily interaction with people important to us, freedoms of living in America, the list goes on and on.

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Above all else, we are sustained and guided by a loving Heavenly Father who wants the best for us.

We should trust God's generous heart. We should believe that what He gives will lead to what we need.

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:11 NLT)?

– Beecher Hunter