**Blessings**

**Our real blessings often appear to us in the shapes of pains, losses and disappointments; but let us have patience, and we soon shall see them in their proper figures. *(Joseph Addison)***

**Commenting on Crankshaft’s driving skills, one man says: “That brand new bus of Crankshaft’s has been a real blessing! This is the longest I’ve ever gone into a school year with the same mailbox!” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

**Myrtle Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, regained her health through this method. Told that she had a terminal condition, she began blessing and thanking each organ of her body, praising the intelligence within it, and encouraging it to come forth into new life. Try thanking your cells regularly and see how eagerly they respond with increased health.
(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest , p. 324)**

**He came up to me at the end of a sermon and shook my hand, “I can understand ‘God bless me,’ but how can I ‘Bless God’?’ What does it mean when we sing, ‘Bless the Lord, O my soul?’” I said, “Do you have any children?” “Yes,” he replied, “I have a boy who is six and a girl who is five.” I asked, “At Christmas time do they ever give you a present?” “Sure,” he replied. “Where do they get the money,” I asked.  “Well, I give it to them,” he chuckled. “That’s exactly it,” I said. “You pay for the Christmas presents your children give you. You’re so glad when they are talking about it with their mother. They are whispering secrets. They are excited that they are going to surprise daddy. Then on Christmas morning they come and say, “Daddy, here is a blessing for you.” It ultimately came from you, but it was a blessing because it came back with their love.” When we sing, “We bless Thee, O Lord,” we are praising Him with the blessings He puts in our lives. *(Donald Grey Barnhouse, in Illustration Digest)***

**On a 1983 trip to Central America, we were loaded onto a Honduran airliner for a flight across rugged, mountainous terrain. At one point the plane started losing altitude. At first there were a few jokes in the press section about the next day's coverage: POPE DIES IN PLANE  CRASH in huge type, with a tiny wire-service item buried deep in the package: “Dozens of journalists were also killed.” But as the flight kept dropping, silence descended on our cabin. We watched the Boeing 737 drop to within a couple of hundred yards over the treetops of a village before pulling up sharply and barely making it over the next mountain range. Later, we learned that Pope John Paul II had been asked to bless the Honduran president's village as the plane flew over it, and the president had ordered the pilot to drop as low as possible to make that blessing stick. *(Andrew Nagorski, in Newsweek, April 11, 2005, page 46)***

**May you have warmth in your igloo, oil in your lamp, and peace in your heart. *(Eskimo proverb)***

**They in heaven prize blessings when they have them. They on earth do not prize them when they have them. They in hell prize them but do not have them. *(Thomas Traherne)***

**Our real blessings often appear to us in the shapes of pains, losses and disappointments; but let us have patience, and we soon shall see them in their proper figures. *(Joseph Addison)***

**How blessed are some people, whose lives have no fears, no dreads, to whom sleep is a blessing that comes nightly, and brings nothing but sweet dreams. *(Bram Stoker, in Dracula)***

**Blessings are the spiritual equivalent of breathing in, and prayer is the spiritual equivalent of breathing out. (F*rom a column by the “God Squad,” Monsignor Tom Hartman & Rabbi Marc Gellman)***

**Governor William Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth: “Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.” (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1458)**

**Thankfulness is a quality of character without which we miss life’s central melody. The hardest sin to excuse is ingratitude and it comes from thoughtlessness. A thinking people is a thankful people. Many personal woes would be eliminated if more time were spent on thinking of our blessings and expressing our gratitude to God and to the many who contribute to our happiness. *(Sunshine Magazine)***

**Where’s the town called “Thank God”? You mean Blessing, Texas? Its founders, Jonathan and Shanghai Pierce, wanted to call it Thank God, but the post office said no. So they settled for Blessing. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**All blessings are mixed blessings. *(John Updike)***

**What I am looking for is a blessing that’s not in disguise. *(Kitty O’Neill Collins)***

**The word of blessing invokes God's power in us, and a change takes place in our thinking and feeling; our words of blessing carry weight and spiritual power as we pour them upon conditions, situations, and persons. *(Weekly Unity)***

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