

The blessing includes:

I learn to _____ on _____.

We do not want you to be uninformed...about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

II Corinthians 1:8-20 (NIV)

**I learn to _____ in,
and _____ God's Word.**

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. ⁶⁸ You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. ⁶⁹ Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. ⁷⁰ Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. ⁷¹ It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

Psalms 119:68-71 (NIV)

**I learn that God's _____ is greater than
my _____.**

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:27-28 (NLT)

I learn that I have a _____ to _____.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

II Corinthians 1:3-7 (NIV)

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Principle 1

Realize I'm not God. I admit I am powerless to control my tendency to do wrong things and my life is unmanageable.

Principle 2

Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to him, and that he has the power to help me recover.

Principle 3

Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ care and control.

Principle 4

Openly examine and ^{confess} my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

Principle 5

Voluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.

Principle 6

Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others.

Principle 7

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.

Principle 8

Yield myself to God to be used to bring the Good News to others by both my example and my words.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV)

Persecute “Dioko” = to make to run or flee, to put to flight, to drive away; to pursue (in a hostile manner); in any way whatever to harass, trouble, molest one; to be mistreated, suffer persecution on account of something

Followers of Jesus Christ will experience both the blessing of God and persecution from this world in this life.

I will face persecution as result of the

_____ **I** _____.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

Now you have diligently followed [my example, that is] my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, ¹¹persecutions, and sufferings—such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, but the Lord rescued me from them all! ¹²Indeed, all who delight in pursuing righteousness and are determined to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be hunted and persecuted [because of their faith]. ¹³But evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in the things that you have learned and of which you are convinced [holding tightly to the truths, knowing from whom you learned them. II Timothy 3:10-14 (AMP)

I will face persecution as a result of the

_____ **I** _____.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Matthew 5:11

Verbal, physical, and character _____.

If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. ²⁰Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. ²¹They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. ²²They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Anyone who hates me also hates my Father.

John 15:18-23 (NLT)

I am blessed by God through the

_____ **I** _____.

...for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:12a

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing I Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.- ¹⁸But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way,...Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. Philippians 1:12-14;18 (NIV)

I am blessed by God through the

_____ **I** _____.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven...

Matthew 5:12a

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. I Peter 3:15-17 (NIV)

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” ²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. I Peter 2:21-25 (NIV)