

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 04/22/2012

Title: "God Wants to Bless You...but Maybe Not like You Think"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study Through the Psalms"

Text: Psalm 67
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

We tend to pray that God will bless us with temporary, personal comforts. But Psalm 67 shows us blessings which are eternal, global, and so much greater than our temporary comforts.

A Prayer for Blessing (1)

- The Psalmist says the same thing in three ways: be gracious, bless us, make your face to shine upon us.
- The reference to God's shining face may rightly bring to mind Numbers 6:24-26, or 2 Corinthians 4:6. This expression was a common idiom in the Ancient Near East used of kings. It meant the king was showing favor to his people, looking well on them. Praying this to God means we are praying for acceptance, that he would grant what we need, and that he would reveal himself.

Why Pray for Blessings?

1. God has a Plan for the Whole Earth (2-5)

- Global words are mentioned 10x in this psalm, and God's global glory is a focus all through the psalms. It is rooted in the Abrahamic promise (Gen 12:3; 15; 17-18). Psalm 56-68 accent this purpose, which is seen especially in Psalm 65:5-8 and 66:1, 8.
- This is not an Old Testament great commission. This is a promise of what is to come when Christ gives his great commission. Isaiah 49:6, for example, is a promise for the future: "I will make you a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Revelation 5:9 shows us the end.
- Notice, "peoples." This isn't a mistake. This is a reference to groups of people, or people groups.

2. A Plan to be Known (2a)

- Isaiah 66:18-19; Hab. 2:14 - These promises focus on the knowledge of God spreading.

3. A Plan to Save (2b)

- Psalm 67 doesn't show us how God will get there, but it does show us that his goal is global.
- There are 6000 unreached people groups (16,000 total, so we're past the half way mark). This is why we're funding, sending, and some are going. Missions giving at DSC has doubled in the last year! Like Paul, we aspire to preach the gospel where Christ has not been named (Ro. 15:20).

4. A Plan to Get Praise and Give Joy (3-4a)

- Psalm 96:3-10; 145:4-12 show God's pursuit of his praise and gift of joy among the nations.
- John Piper: "Missions exists because worship doesn't. ...When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. ...[Worship is] the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white hot enjoyment of God's glory. ...But worship is also the fuel of missions. Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can't commend what you don't cherish."

5. A Plan to Judge (4b)

- Philippians 2:9-11 reminds us that there will be a final reckoning, and all will bow the knee to Christ.

6. A Plan which is Not Done (5-7)

- Verses 5-7 are a refrain, reminding us that God's work is not done.

Sample Questions

- Ryan suggested that if offered a dollar for every blessing we could name, we could name plenty. What blessings do you often take for granted? How can we appropriate these for God's global purpose?
- Which is more important and why? The great commission? Or the worship of God? Missions or worship?
- Are you giving to church planting? Have you shown that salvation has come to you through baptism?