

## WEDNESDAY — God Gives Blessings in Disguise

**Big Point:** *If you call yourself a Christ-follower, always seek to find the blessing in disguise when tragedy strikes.*

*There is nothing that brings more joy to people than the birth of a child. There is so much anticipation for that very special day—after all, you’ve got some time to think about things, all of nine months. No one knows that better than the mother. For most expectant parents, when the bundle of joy is due to arrive, there are so many emotions and it’s as if you can almost hear a song playing in the background that hits a peaceful note once the baby is delivered safely to the parents’ arms.*

*Denise West knows that feeling all too well. You probably heard Denise’s testimony during Kyle’s weekend message about the delivery of her beautiful daughter Sophia. The song that played in Denise’s story had a dramatic twist when Sophia was diagnosed with a terminal disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA Type 1). Knowing that Sophia would not be around as a toddler, or to start school literally crushed Denise. Like any parent, Denise wanted to watch her daughter grow to a young lady and experience life to the fullest. But after much prayer and seeking God above all else, Denise has found so many blessings in life after bringing Sophia into this world. It’s likely the song that played in Denise’s story was Laura Story’s song, “Blessings”. Denise likely shed many tears and had quite a few sleepless nights. But through those times, she realized that God is faithful and He was near, that He never left her. Ultimately, Denise realized that Sophia became one of the many blessings in disguise.*

*All too often, our most immediate reaction and thought process surrounding tragedy and devastation is that we are not blessed. What we don’t realize is God uses that same tragedy and devastation to ultimately bless us and that He remains faithful to us. Our job is to see the blessing(s) in disguise.*

### **READ and THINK...Find Answers in the Bible**

In order to recognize the blessings in disguise, we must first understand God’s faithfulness. What does Romans 3:3-5 tell us about how faithful God is.

#### **Romans 3:3-5 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>3</sup> True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? <sup>4</sup> Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him, “You will be proved right in what you say, and you will win your case in court.”<sup>5</sup> “But,” some might say, “our sinfulness serves a good purpose, for it helps people see how righteous God is. Isn’t it unfair, then, for him to punish us?” (This is merely a human point of view.)

#### **Answer:**

God certainly challenges us to find blessings when trouble comes our way. What does James 1:2-4 challenge us to do (which is another way to find blessings in disguise)?

#### **James 1:2-4 (New Living Translation)**

*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.* <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a

chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

**Answer:**

### **LIVE...What will you do now?**

Let's say that two Christ followers were involved in a tragedy. One survived and the other was killed. Have you ever found yourself saying (or thinking) that the person who survived "was blessed?" Did you ever think when you said that, maybe, the other person wasn't so blessed? After reading the above scriptures, would you say anything different as it relates to who was or was not blessed in this tragedy?

If you had to write a two paragraph essay about what a blessed life looks like, how would you write it? What illustration would you use? Take a moment to write out what a blessed life looks like. We'd love to read your story. Send it to us and we just may feature it in a future Living It Out Bible study subscription.

Email [dianap@cedarcreek.tv](mailto:dianap@cedarcreek.tv)

Have you ever questioned God's faithfulness? Describe a time when you felt that God was not for you and how you reacted in that situation.

Let's make this personal. What if your blessing comes through rain drops, what if your healing comes through tears, what if a thousand sleepless nights is what it takes to know God is near, what will you do and how will you respond?

Take a moment to write out some of your "blessings in disguise". After writing out your blessings take some time to share these blessings with your family. Maybe organize a "blessings in disguise" dinner this Sunday.

### **PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?**

Ask God to help you count it all joy when trouble comes and to live your life recognizing the many blessings in disguise—even in the most tragic circumstances.