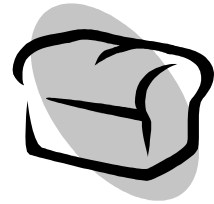


## BLESSINGS

What is meant by a “blessing”? The word blessing means a *divine or heavenly reward*; but it also means the opposite of a curse.



When we “say the blessing”, we are giving thanks for the food before us; as with food, all good things are from the Lord, and provide nourishment to sustain us. When someone describes themselves as blessed, it means that they have received good fortune or divine favor from the Lord.

A blessing does not always appear as a blessing; but, only later, may be realized as a blessing. In the Bible, Joseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers and spent many years living in Egypt separated from his family. But what may have seemed like a curse, God planned and managed as a blessing; as Joseph eventually became very powerful leader in Egypt and was able to provide for his family when a famine struck their homeland. During the separation, he must have experienced some sorrow, pain, and even anger; yet, he remained faithful, trusting in his Lord in all matters.

God’s plan prevailed amid the mistakes and misfortunes of Joseph and his family. God is the *master planner* that knows even the number of hairs on our head. The Proverbs tell us that: even though we have our plans, God’s plan will prevail; even though we not always accept or acknowledge a blessing as a blessing, the revelation of the blessing will come to those who wait, watch, and obey.

Each of you is a blessing to me, your mother, and our families; but only God knows your *innermost being* and the blessings planned, stored, and given to you. Our response to God determines whether we are a blessing to others; this response comes with the simple truth that we deserve nothing. In his mercy and love, God has endowed eternal life to all those who acknowledge and receive him as Lord – this is the greatest blessing of all.

In a **WORD**