NEW LIFE CLASS

BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN BIBLICAL LEARNING AND RADICAL LIVING



9.19.2021
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Roadmap to Renewal

Rest Stop 1 • Psalm 103:1-5

Everyone Needs Personal Renewal in One of Five Ways

Check all that apply to your life right now!

☐ **Fatigue** ☐ **Frustration** ☐ **Failure** ☐ **Fear** ☐ **Fallen**

How do these emotions drain your energy and enthusiasm for loving God and others?

How do you personally renew and re-energize your life? How is it working?

In ***Psalm 103*** David reveals a ***Roadmap for Renewal*** with three rest stops.

Rest Stop #1 How Does Renewal BEGIN?

1. Renewal Begins with REMEMBERING All the Lord Has Done. *Psalm 103:1-5*

This is not the self-talk of someone ***trying to*** **FORCE** ***himself*** to bless God – rather
it is a person who ***cannot*** **STOP** ***himself*** from blessing God!

Five Blessings to Never Forget

#1 TOTAL FORGIVENESS *(v. 3a)*

A Renewing Word Picture

A prisoner discharged from the courtroom – completely acquitted of any and all crimes!

- **How Is This Possible?** *Ephesians 1:7*

- **What Does This Mean?** *1 Timothy 1:5*
  1. A clear conscience: No more **GUILT**!
  2. A pure heart: No more **STAIN**!
  3. A sincere faith: No more **FEAR**!

- **What Fruit Does This Produce?**

  "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." Titus 2:14

#2 INNER HEALING *(v. 3b)*

A Renewing Word Picture

A patient healed in the hospital and discharged, completely cured!

- **What Does This Mean?**
  1. A cure for what *really* ails you on the **INSIDE**! *Psalm 31:10; 38:3-8*

  2. The inner man is what needs healing **FIRST** and foremost! *Ephesians 3:16-19*

- **How Is This Possible?** *Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16*

#3 ULTIMATE DELIVERANCE *(v. 4a)*

A Renewing Word Picture

A slave freed from the slave market, enjoying perfect liberty and safety.

- **What Does This Mean?**

- **How Is This Possible?** *2Corinthians 5:21*

#4 GRACIOUS REWARD *(v. 4b)*

A Renewing Word Picture

An undeserving servant promoted to the Throne room, highly honored as a son of the King!

- **What Does This Mean?**
  1. God rewards us with *both* **GRACE** *and* **MERCY**!

  2. God rewards us with *both* the **POWER** *and* **DESIRE** to do His will.

#5 REAL SATISFACTION *(v. 5a)*

A Renewing Word Picture

A hungry beggar seated at a royal banquet Dinner, richly supplied with all you can eat!

- **What Does This Mean?**
  1. Satisfaction comes from the **GIVER**, not the **GIFTS**. *Isaiah 55:1-2; Psalm 107:9*

  2. Satisfaction comes from the **GOODNESS** that only God can give.
     - What will bring Him the **greatest glory?**
     - What will bring us the **greatest pleasure/satisfaction?**
     - What will bring others the **greatest hope/news?**

2. BLESS the Lord for All He Has Done. *Psalm 103:1-5*

1. The Result of Remembering to Bless the LORD: Spiritual **RENEWAL**! *(v. 5b; Isaiah 40:31)*

2. The Cost of Forgetting to Bless the LORD: Spiritual **DRAIN** *and* Eternal **REGRET**!

"Memory stores all things, but recalls only that which is cherished and that in which we are most interested. Thus he or she who reviews the past thankfully may advance to the future hopefully."

☐ Fatigue ☐ Frustration ☐ Fear ☐ Failure ☐ Fallen

3. The Basics of Learning to Bless the LORD:

☑ To bless is an ***ATTITUDE toward life!*** *"O my soul...within me"*

Requires supernatural revelation!

☑ To bless is an ***ACT of the total person!*** *"And all that is within me"*

Requires total response!

☑ To bless is to ***ADORE the One who is second to none!*** *"the LORD...His holy Name?*

Requires personal relationship.

☑ To bless is to ***ACTIVELY count your blessings in Christ!*** *"And forget not all His benefits"*

Requires habitual remembering.

Personal Renewal Begins When We

REMEMBER WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE!

Count Your Many Blessings...

1. Total Forgiveness in Christ
2. Inner Healing in Christ
3. Ultimate Deliverance in Christ
4. Gracious Reward in Christ
5. Real Satisfaction in Christ
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...Then Bless the Lord with All that Is Within You!

Count Your Blessings

1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

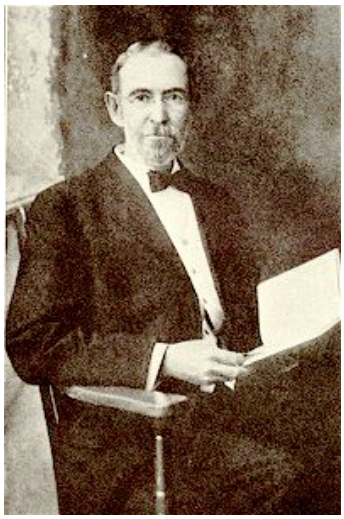
Refrain
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. [Refrain]

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [Refrain]

Baptist Hymnal, 1991



Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Born: April 21, 1856, near Medford, New Jersey.
Died: September 25, 1922, Norman, Oklahoma.

Evangelist Gipsy Smith, a famous evangelist of yesteryear, said of this song, *"Men sing it, boys whistle it and women rock their babies to sleep to it."*

Johnson Oatman, Jr., born April 21, 1856, was a citizen of Lumberton, N.J. His dad was a local merchant and just happened to be the best singer in town, with a rich, powerful voice. Young Johnson could not sing as well as his father, yet he grew up wanting to make some musical contributions of his own. However, for a time he worked in the family business, but soon gave up those opportunities and began to study for the ministry. After finishing school and ministering in the Methodist Episcopal churches for a time, Johnson continued to hope that life surely held some other plans for him.

At 36, he realized that he did, without question, have a musical talent after all. He could write songs for other Christians to sing. So, every year some 200 songs flowed from his pen. He eventually had written 5,000 songs and was happy that in his musical compositions he had found a way to "preach the Gospel."

Of all the songs Oatman wrote. he seemed to claim as his own favorites, "No, Not One" and "Higher Ground." However, people everywhere seemed to adopt another of his very special songs, "Count Your Blessings," written in 1897. Almost immediately it began its meteoric journey.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." *1 Thessalonians 5:18*