

YOU KNOW I HAVE COME TO REALIZE SINCE MY FIGHT WITH ALS, THAT MY PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY. I GUESS BEFORE I TOOK A LOT OF THINGS FOR GRANTED, ESPECIALLY MY RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST JESUS. I KNOW WHEN YOU GO FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT NOT KNOWING IF IT WILL BE YOUR LAST, THE MEANING OF LIFE AND PRIORITIES CHANGE. YOU TEND TO SPEND MUCH MORE TIME INWARDLY, THAN YOU DO OUTWARDLY, FOCUSING YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT LIES AHEAD. SO WHAT DOES LIE AHEAD? I BELIEVE ONLY WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS AND THAT IS JOHN 14:6 JESUS ANSWERED, "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME. AS I LOOK AROUND THE WORLD TODAY AND SEE WHAT IS TAKING PLACE, I HAVE COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT WE ALL BETTER BE PREPARED, AND THAT PREPARATION ONLY COMES THROUGH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, CHRIST JESUS.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY "WHAT IS A BLESSING".

GOD BLESS, KEITH

WHAT IS A BLESSING?

I have pondered this question over, as I lay in my bed motionless, just asking God to reveal the answer. Although I never really got quite the answer I was looking for, it put me to thinking in a different realm. Have you ever stopped to ask this question? I know God's Word says all good things come from heaven above, but what is a blessing?

I began to ask myself very deep questions about all the blessings I thought I had received in my lifetime. For instance, is my house a blessing? What about my car? Hey, I know my wife and kids are. Surely my job and the success I have had in coaching. My church – which I know has been a blessing and what about my friends? The list goes on and on. I have received so many blessings I can't count them, but what is my biggest blessing? All the material blessings could belong to the biggest crook in the world and not be satisfying while the poorest person might not have any material blessings and still feel blessed. So a blessing for one may not be a blessing to another. For example, in America our blessings could be totally different than a person in Ethiopia. So what is a blessing?

Something very significant came to me as I thought and meditated on this perplexing question. There is really only one blessing that we can all receive, from the rich to the poor, and that is our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. All the other blessings we receive are meaningless without Him. It's not money, wealth, fame, cars, houses, friends or even family. Sure they all bring great joy to our life here on earth or so many of us think they do, but it's the blessing of nails driven through the hands and feet of a man pounded to a cross. This is the universal blessing we all share. This is the true blessing that separates the believer and non-believer.

A year ago I was diagnosed with a neurological disease called ALS; doctors give you no hope of recovery. Just recently I watched a video of a young man named Kevin Jones who was also diagnosed with the same disease. As I watched that video I saw a man that had the very same blessing I did and that was the love he had for Jesus Christ.

He made a profound statement that hit home with me. Kevin Jones said this disease has been a blessing because he finally developed an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Before this time he worshipped God when it was convenient and fit his schedule, but now he was totally dependent on Christ. I could relate quite well to this man whom I have never met because I went through the exact same thing. I enjoyed all the other blessings in my life, but didn't have time for the greatest blessing of all.

My question to you is this. Were all those other things blessings or really a distraction from the very True Blessing given to all? Where are you with God's blessing today? Is God a convenience to you or One you truly love and worship? It's a shame it takes a disastrous thing to happen to some of us to receive our blessing. So what is a blessing? A simple answer to such a complex question. One word and His Name is Jesus. You know the song, 'Count Your Blessings One by One?' I think we need to change it. There is truly only one blessing, so don't forget Him. Love Him like you mean it through good and bad. Don't be afraid to share Him with others from time to time. I don't think it makes the top ten, but you get the point. It's amazing the very answer I didn't know when I began could be so simple. Why is it we make loving our Savior so difficult? We can be so smart yet so stupid. The universal blessing is Jesus Christ. We all have an opportunity to share.

Thank You, Jesus.