

## Blessings in the New Year

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ.—Ephesians 1:3*

My prayer for you, my friends, in this coming year is that you will be blessed with spiritual blessings.

God may bless believers in varying degrees with some temporary gifts such as food, clothing, a nice home, a dependable car, health, and many pleasures of life, but the spiritual blessings are of far more important than temporal blessings which will fade. I am reminded everyday how the vitality of youth has past. I cannot do the things I once did, my health may fail, and my riches may be lost but my spiritual blessings are abundant.

I have a friend who is terminally ill. Her health has failed. She resides in a small apartment and can no longer get out of her house to shop or enjoy the world around her. She may not possess many earthly blessings but she is rich through the abundant spiritual blessings in Christ.

God has blessed us with exceeding great and precious benefits in Jesus Christ. Matthew Henry expresses that spiritual blessings are those that come from heaven and prepare the believer for his heavenly estate. Some of those blessings enumerated in the verses 7 and 8 are redemption, forgiveness of sin, wisdom, and prudence. One writer has listed profound peace, a settled soul, joy, grace to let go, eternal life (rich and free), a home in heaven, and a best friend in God. These are some of God's spiritual blessings.

Blessings are given to us by God's grace. We have not earned His blessing. They are not our rights. They are a gift produced by God's love and generosity.

In this New Year, we will be wise to focus on the principal things, the best blessings. Colossians 3:2 tells us to "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*"