



“Count Your Blessings”

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much **blessing** that there will not be room enough to store it. Malachi 3:10*

The other night I was walking home after a full day at school during a chaotic time of the year and life seemed awful busy. I walked through a quiet little path and noticed the peacefulness of the water and its inhabitants (ducks) and I lamented that I was “busy”. Then a small still voice in the recesses of my brain was heard which said in very clear terms. “Quit whining, you are so blessed” and I began the process of reminding myself of how incredibly blessed I am.

In my reading from a book by James Bryan Smith entitled “The good and beautiful God” the author suggests we list our blessings beside our concerns and see how they measure out. One of the benefits of service projects, mission trips and other opportunities to serve is to begin to appreciate the blessings we receive. We may lament what we don’t have but we will have a difficult time holding to that lament, when we begin to recognize and appreciate all we do have.

In times of political unrest, of job insecurities, of rising costs of living, perhaps it’s time to begin those lists which reveal a faithful God who has blessed us with so much that at times we become spoiled, entitled children. By the time I walked into my yard that evening, I was made aware of how misguided I was in my “feeling sorry for myself”. *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.**”* John 16:33. The context may be different but the promise remains constant. You will have some concerns in this world, some may even set you back on your heels and call for adjustments. However God is faithful and true. He will provide if we are actively doing His will.

“Count your blessings. Name them one by one. Count your many blessings. See what God has done!”

P.S. During this thanksgiving season, while you are counting your blessings, consider how you too can be a blessing. It really then becomes a matching gift.

Mr. Brandsma