

Bulletin Insert for Sunday Nov 2

Giving and Receiving Blessing

As we consider and anticipate the Congregational Blessing that will express God's loving desires and hopes for us, it is important for us to remember the blessing is not complete until it is received. In the Doctrine Covenants 65 we are counseled not just to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom but that people will receive it.

Likewise, as we ask God to bless us we must prepare ourselves to receive what is given. Even the best gifts can be rejected, ignored or misunderstood. God desires to bless us; we must equally desire to receive all He desires to give us.

As we consider preparing to receive what God chooses to share with us, keep these principles in mind:

1. We must accept not just the blessing but the responsibility that comes with it. Blessings are always given so they can be shared. Be intentional about who, where and how to share the blessings you will receive.
2. We must be willing and eager to respond to the blessing, not just agree with the message. He chooses to bless us so we may be better servants, instruments through which he does his work. It is not agreement he wants; it is the renewed commitment of all that we are to serve Him and his people he sends to us.
3. The blessing is given to those who are already endowed with the capacity to respond. He has abundantly given us capacities, aptitudes and "power" that enable us to do what He blesses us to share with others. Our blessing and strength is always in God and the power He has given us to do much good.
4. We receive not to keep the blessing but to give it away. Our joy is multiplied and His Kingdom comes into the lives of others as we deliberately give away our blessings to others. God desire to bless all not just a few; we freely give what we have freely received.
5. We receive Jesus, not just His message. The blessing being given is not just inspired ideas and insights; it is the presence of Jesus. Jesus is the "Living Word", freshly presented and eagerly given for our blessing. Let us receive with gladness the gift of Christ Himself and his blessing of hope and encouragement.