

WHY COUNT BLESSINGS WHEN WE CAN PARTY

How often do you forget all the good things God has brought into your life? Do you often go through times of discontent? If you do, welcome to the club. You may be one of the many Christians that are found to be negative or worse, a complainer. A complainer is a person who feels pain, sorrow, grief, and unhappiness with people, things or circumstances in life. These type people are also in the bible.

RULES FOR A PITY PARTY

Revelation 12:9-10 The Devil doesn't come and remind us of the good things God has given to us and he doesn't remind us of all the good that we have done for God. He accuses us of things we want to forget, things that we should have done and didn't do. He reminds us of the negative issues with people around us and their shortcomings, failures and sins. Satan wants God's people depressed and beaten.

Matthew 12:10-14, 22-24 Jesus was teaching great truths, performing great miracles, healing and feeding the multitudes so what did the religious leaders think and do? Did Jesus have a pity party?

I Kings 19:1-4, 9-10 We have all had our own pity parties. Like Elijah we are the only one invited to the party. In those parties the discussion centers around how bad we've got it. Usually this pity party comes shortly after some kind of good event, a victory of sorts in our personal life or at church.

- **Rule #1** – Life is filled with highs and lows, usually close together (**I Kings 18:37-40**)
- **Rule #2** – If we want to get depressed, get off by ourselves and stay there (**I Kings 19:3-4**)
- **Rule #3** – Focus all the attention on yourself and why you deserve better (**I Kings 19:10**)
- **Rule #4** – God does not like His children involved in personal pity parties. He knows how to stop them in a hurry and tells Elijah to “go back where you were before you got into this pity party. Get busy doing what I told you to do and be faithful doing it. Start looking around and get helping others. Don't think your the only one. I've got others just like you. Trust Me that I'm at work in your life. You do your part and I'll do mine.” (**I Kings 19:15-19**)

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

James 1:17; II Peter 1:1-3 Instead of having a pity party why not start thinking on the many outstanding things God has done for you and blessed you with. We cannot change circumstance, the past, others personalities or the obstacles that God allows in our paths but we can rejoice in what God has done in our life like our salvation, heaven, His promises, health, food, shelter, family and friends.

Psalms 103:1-5 We are reminded of His blessings in this Psalm of David: He pardons our sins, He heals diseases, He redeems us from the pit, He crowns us with lovingkindness, He satisfies us.

Hebrews 10:23 We can look forward to every promise from God to those who have trusted Christ being 100% fulfilled because He cannot lie and it is His good pleasure to give good things to us.

Romans 8:28 This often quoted but forgotten verse teaches us that it is a blessing that God is able to take the raw material from our every day life and work it into something beautiful in the end.

John 13:12-17 It is a blessing that God has taught His children the secret to have a happy life is to focus our attention on others. When we are focused on others we won't have time for a pity party.

Philippians 3:1; 4:4 God wants us to be a rejoicing people. He knows our life isn't always going to be a bowl of cherries and we will suffer persecution. However, He knows we can rejoice through Him.

Philippians 4:6-8 It is a blessing for all believers that we can bring all our cares and heartaches to God in prayer. When we are praying, thanking Him and thinking on holy things we will be less likely to get depressed and start thinking negatively.