



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

GOD, THE GREAT BENEFACTOR.



Psalm 116:12

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

Greetings! Recently I was reading something by the English preacher C.H. Spurgeon from about 160 years ago! He was



talking among many other things, as he often does, about how much God loves us and is filled with compassion and pity for His children. In fact he called God a ‘benefactor’!

This word, ‘**Benefactor**’, I had not really used much since I was young. I understood this and here is a simple dictionary

definition to start before we get rolling!

Benefactor is a noun

- 1. a person who confers a benefit; kindly helper.
- 2. a person who makes a bequest or endowment, as to an institution.

Synonyms: [protector](#), [backer](#), [sponsor](#), [supporter](#), [patron](#)

- ‘Bene facere’ is the original Latin word for ‘good’ and ‘to do’ even today Italians say ‘va bene’ for the meaning it’s ok, or it’s going good.
- Another prime example of ‘bene’ are ‘benediction’ meaning to speak well or to say well or well-wishing or to speak a blessing!

So, we see a benefactor is usually a person who benefits other people or institutions.

The **benefactor**, he or she, has it in their heart to **benefit** other people, often with no expectation of repayment. Obviously they must have some form of wealth, however small actually, so they are in a position to help, or benefit others!

So we humans, who are made

it the image of God, remember, are doing God-like deeds and words when we wish to benefit others.



This is in fact a natural course of human life and history. No one can really survive in this life unless they have benefits! Even receiving a birthday present or Christmas or Easter gift, makes you a person who receives a ‘benefit’, from the Benefactor!

When I was a young child, here in the country of England, I looked forward, like most children, to my birthday or Christmas! Because I knew that

was the time 'ten shilling notes' would fall, not from the sky, but from my aunties and uncles and parents, and even others I had never met, into my waiting grubby hands! This one reddish



note is now worth in spending power about £20 today in this country. I used to save them meticulously, and fold them up, as they were quite large, and put them in some form of either wallet or glass jar! God knows whatever happened to them!

I am sure you may have similar experiences in your own childhood or currency at some point in your life.

Now, here is a little experiment you can do to show how interesting this concept is of, first, being a benefactor, and secondly or conversely receiving benefits, money or favours from others (for free).

➤ First make a list, if you can remember, of all the people or groups of people you have been a benefactor for or to in the last year. You may not find this easy to remember them all, but they would include anyone or group to whom you gave money, gifts, provisions, kind words, material things of any type, and even prayers! Have a go on that and make a list at home.

➤ Secondly, make another list about how many benefits you have received from other humans in the last year. This may

be even harder, I think, if you do it properly. Why not pray and have a try at this.

At the end of this experiment, you should have some clearer idea and understanding of this life-long, present and historical occurrence. **

Examples of people being a benefactor to me:

Many people have been benefactors to me throughout my life; just as they have been to you I am sure. From my parents and early Christians, and even non-Christian teachers, to people who sponsored my rather feeble efforts to serve Jesus in various countries.

Later I became a person who tried to take up his cross and follow Jesus. In that work, I had to have multitudes of benefactors to help myself and others with me survive in many places.

Mark 8:34

He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

I couldn't make a list of all the people, there are so many people who were benefactors and gave to God's work over many decades, I hate to even list the ones who perform massive amounts of benefits. If I did that, it would be unfair to those who 'just' gave 1 US\$! God knows the heart of each person, like the widow Jesus praised for giving her two mites.

Examples of me being a benefactor to others:

I feel I have fallen short on giv-

ing as much as I could to the Lord's work. Nevertheless, over the years tithed and gave many extra gifts above that tithe into the Lord's Kingdom. But I still feel, I have a very long way to go.

Many people have told me that I have helped them considerable through kind words and encouragement. This is gift we can practice like Isaiah says: in



Isaiah 50:4

4The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Another way we can be a benefactor to others is through other things apart from money, that is: Prayer, speaking the Word of God to them, offering them Jesus Christ, a genuine smile, using your gift(s) of the Holy Spirit. You may have been given by the spirit spiritual gifts which you should be using and this is a great way to 'give' into the body of Christ!

God the greatest benefactor.

But as I thought about all this the other day, it became crystal clear that it is God, the creator of Heaven and Earth who is by far the greatest Benefactor!

When we stop to think and look in the Bible especially, we find that such words as 'merciful kindness' (God) pities, He forgives all sins and shortcomings, His grace and mercy is renewed every day and is therefore fresh and new! He supplies all our needs, in both spiritual and physical aspects, He performs 'wonders', does miracles and 'signs' to hungry people. He turns deserts into standing water, He provides rain and sunshine and all necessities for the four seasons so man can grow food on the earth and harvest it.

He gave His own son to benefit us with eternal life and live forever. His son Jesus built our mansions already in heaven; there is no rent or taxes up there, it is ALL FREE! He created all things for our benefit and his own benefit.

What He asks for in return is LOVE, praise and respect and a relationship in the Spirit, our spirits and His Divine Person. So that above is a list of how and what benefits God gives (This is an absolutely minimal list). We are also undeserving of all this. We did nothing to earn it in the first place! It's all a gift of God's Grace and Love.

To close, I wish to put in about twenty verses; many of them will be familiar to you I think. There are truly hundreds more. Some cover God's goodness and some ours to others and some warnings about not being thankful for the great benefits we have.

Why not let's take time going forward into a new week, to have a greater personal appreciation of all He does for us and has done for us, and defi-

antly will do!

Psalm 68:19

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

Psalm 103:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Psalm 116:12

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

2 Chronicles 32: 25

But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 18:10

If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

2 Corinthians 1:15

And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit;

1 Timothy 6:2

And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

Psalm 25:6

Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

Psalm 40:11

Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

Psalm 51:1

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 103:4

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Psalm 145:9

The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

Ecclesiastes 5:19

Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

John 4:10

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 8:20

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 3:7

Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Let us not forget our truly Great Benefactor, as some have done; let's go forward into the future with our eyes open to all his blessings.

God bless you.

Until next week,

God willing,

Jerry and the WCF Team

****the fact or frequency of something happening.**

[BENEFACTOR Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com](#)

[Benefactor: What it is, How it Works, Examples](#)



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