

Blessings by Laura Story

If you'd like to watch the video for this song: https://youtu.be/MCjApw_Ticw

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace, comfort for family, protection while we sleep.
We pray for healing, for prosperity. We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering.
And all the while, You hear each spoken need, yet love us way too much to give us lesser things

Refrain:

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops? What if Your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?
And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear, and we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near.
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love, as if every promise from Your Word is not enough.
And all the while, You hear each desperate plea, and long that we'd have faith to believe.

Refrain:

When friends betray us, and when darkness seems to win, we know;
the pain reminds this heart that this is not, this is not our home. It's not our home.

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops? What if Your healing comes through tears?
And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?
What if my greatest disappointments, or the aching of this life,
is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy?
And what if trials of this life, the rain, the storms, the hardest nights, are Your mercies in disguise?

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Psalm 119:58 *"With all my heart I want Your blessings. Be merciful just as You promised."*

The Living Bible

Psalm 57:1-2 *"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge until the destroying storms pass by. I will cry to the Most High, to fulfill His purpose for me."* New Revised Standard Version

What blessings do you pray for? Do you pray for yourself, or only for others? If you don't pray for yourself, why is that? Take some time to consider how you would ask God to bless you. Offer these, and any hesitations you might feel to God.

If you need any encouragement to pray for yourself, spend some time reading the Psalms, and note the many ways the psalmists pray.

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Psalm 94:19 *“Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer.”* The Living Bible

Hebrews 11:1 *“What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.”*
The Living Bible

Do you doubt God’s goodness when things don’t happen as you expected/hoped? Why do you feel that way? What steps could you take to move toward “confident assurance” as Paul calls it?

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What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?
And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

Mark 5:25-34 *“A woman who had suffered a condition of hemorrhaging for twelve years—a long succession of physicians had treated her, and treated her badly, taking all her money and leaving her worse off than before—had heard about Jesus. She slipped in from behind and touched His robe. She was thinking to herself, ‘If I can put a finger on His robe, I can get well.’ The moment she did it, the flow of blood dried up. She could feel the change and knew her plague was over and done with. At the same moment, Jesus felt energy discharging from Him. He turned around to the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched my robe?’ His disciples said, ‘What are you talking about? With this crowd pushing and jostling you, you’re asking, “Who touched me?” Dozens have touched you!’ But He went on asking, looking around to see who had done it. The woman, knowing what had happened, knowing she was the one, stepped up in fear and trembling, knelt before Him, and gave Him the whole story. Jesus said to her, ‘Daughter, you took a risk of faith, and now you’re healed and whole. Live well, live blessed! Be healed of your plague.’”*
The Message

The woman with the hemorrhage had been taken advantage of by the systems of the time. But it was because of this suffering that she found Jesus. It was only Jesus who healed her physically, and offered her far more. He called her daughter – the only time it is recorded that Jesus did this – and in doing so welcomed the unnamed woman into His family.
Can you see yourself in this story? Have you suffered from a debilitating and/or chronic disease? Have you struggled with an unfair system? Have you taken the step of reaching out to Jesus, whether in private or in public? What was that like?

When friends betray us, and when darkness seems to win, we know; the pain reminds this heart that this is not, this is not our home. It's not our home.

Isaiah 9:1a,2 *“Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair shall not go on forever! The people who walk in darkness shall see a great Light – a Light that will shine on all those who live in the land of the shadow of death.”*
The Living Bible

Hebrews 13: 13-14 *“So let us go out to Him beyond the city walls (that is, outside the interests of this world, willing to be despised) to suffer with Him there, bearing His shame. For this world is not our home, we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.”* The Living Bible

When you consider the betrayal Jesus endured, does it effect how you view your own dark times? How?

What if my greatest disappointments, or the aching of this life, is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy? And what if trials of this life, the rain, the storms, the hardest nights, are Your mercies in disguise?

Luke 1:78-79 *“Through the heartfelt mercies of our God, God’s sunrise will break upon us, shining on those in the darkness, those sitting in the shadow of death, then showing us the way, one foot at a time, down the path of peace.”*
The Message

The sun always rises, even if the clouds obscure our view. The same with God’s mercies. They are always there, even if we can’t see them.

Have you ever had the experience of looking back on a dark time and finding there were blessings during that time, even if they weren’t clear to you at the time? Describe how that felt to you – in that time, and currently. What helped you view that time differently?

Do you find it difficult to move on from dark times? If you do, take some time to consider the reason(s). Share anything you realize with God, and ask for guidance in handling the situation. Things won’t change immediately, but they can change if you are willing to release those dark times to God. Continue to offer those times, and any concerns you have relating to them, to God.

“But this precious treasure – this light and power that now shines within us – is held in a perishable container, that is our bodies. Everyone can see the glorious power within must be from God and not our own. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don’t know why things happen as they do, but we don’t give up and quit. We are hunted down but God never abandons us.

We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.”

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 The Living Bible