ALL of us want to be blessed. *The* *American* *Heritage* *College* *Dictionary* says that blessings promote “happiness, well-being, or prosperity.” Since Jehovah is the Giver of “every good gift and every perfect present,” every real, lasting blessing originates with our loving Creator. ([James 1:17](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/0/0)) He showers blessings upon all mankind, even upon those who do not know him. Jesus said of his Father: “He makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous.” ([Matthew 5:45](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/1/0)) However, Jehovah shows special concern for those who love him.—[Deuteronomy 28:1-14;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/2/0)[Job 1:1;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/2/1)[42:12](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/2/2).

The psalmist wrote: “Jehovah himself will not hold back anything good from those walking in faultlessness.” ([Psalm 84:11](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/3/0)) Yes, those who serve Jehovah have rich, meaningful lives. They know that “the blessing of Jehovah—that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it.” The Bible also says: “Those being blessed by [Jehovah] will themselves possess the earth.” ([Proverbs 10:22;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/4/0)[Psalm 37:22,](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/4/1)[29](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/4/2)) What a blessing that will be!

How can we receive Jehovah’s blessing? For one thing, we need to cultivate qualities that are pleasing to him. ([Deuteronomy 30:16,](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/5/0)[19, 20;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/5/1)[Micah 6:8](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/5/2)) We see this in the example of three of Jehovah’s servants in ancient times.

**Present-Day** **Blessings**

These accounts demonstrate that the lives of those who serve God are truly meaningful. As Jehovah’s people develop such qualities as obedience, faith, and appreciation of spiritual things, they are richly blessed.

How are we blessed? Well, while millions within Christendom suffer from spiritual famine, we can be “radiant over the goodness of Jehovah.” ([Jeremiah 31:12](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/15/0)) Through Jesus Christ and “the faithful and discreet slave,” Jehovah has provided a bountiful supply of spiritual food that helps us to remain on “the road leading off into life.” ([Matthew 7:13, 14;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/16/0)[24:45;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/16/1)[John 17:3](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/16/2)) Association with our Christian brotherhood is another rich blessing. At meetings and on other occasions, being with fellow worshipers who demonstrate love and who earnestly endeavor to put on “the new personality” is a source of great happiness. ([Colossians 3:8-10;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/17/0)[Psalm 133:1](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/17/1)) However, our greatest blessing is the precious privilege of having a personal relationship with Jehovah God and of following in the footsteps of his Son, Christ Jesus.—[Romans 5:1,](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/18/0)[8;](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/18/1)[Philippians 3:8](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/18/2).

Reflecting on such blessings, we realize how precious our service to God really is. Perhaps we think of Jesus’ parable of a traveling merchant who sought out fine pearls. Jesus said of this man: “Upon finding one pearl of high value, away he went and promptly sold all the things he had and bought it.” ([Matthew 13:46](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/19/0)) Surely that is how we feel about our relationship with God, our privilege of serving him, our Christian association, our Christian hope, and all the other blessings related to our faith. There is nothing more precious in our lives.

**Give** **Back** **to** **Jehovah**

Because we recognize Jehovah as the Giver of every good gift, our hearts are stirred to express appreciation for the blessings we receive. How can we do that? One way is by helping others to enjoy these same blessings. ([Matthew 28:19](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/20/0)) In over 230 lands, Jehovah’sWitnesses are busy visiting their neighbors to do just that. As they do so, they expend their limited personal resources—time, energy, and material possessions—to assist others to “come to an accurate knowledge of truth.”—[1 Timothy 2:4](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/21/0).

Consider the pioneers living in Glendale, California, U.S.A. Every Saturday morning, they travel about 65 miles **[100** **km]** round-trip to visit a federal detention center. Even though they can spend no more than a few hours on each visit with the prisoners, they are not discouraged. One of them says: “It is so rewarding to serve in this unique territory. We are doing it with much joy. We have so many interested ones that it is hard to keep up. Presently, we are studying with five people, and four others have requested a Bible study.”

Zealous Christian ministers are happy to offer their services free of charge to perform this lifesaving work. They reflect the attitude of Jesus, who said: “You received free, give free.” ([Matthew 10:8](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/22/0)) Millions around the world are engaged in similar unselfish service, and as a result, crowds of honesthearted ones are responding and are becoming disciples. In the last five years alone, nearly 1.7 million have dedicated their lives to Jehovah. Caring for the needs of this ongoing expansion requires the production of Bibles and Bible-based publications as well as the building of new Kingdom Halls and other meeting places. Where does the money to supply these needs come from? Entirely from voluntary donations.

Because of the poor economic conditions in some parts of the world, many struggle to provide the bare necessities of life for their families. According to the magazine *NewScientist,* one billion people spend at least 70 percent of their household income on food. Many of our Christian brothers and sisters are in that situation. Without help from fellow believers, they simply could not afford such things as Christian publications or suitable Kingdom Halls.

Of course, that does not mean that such ones are content to let others carry their load. But they need assistance. Moses, when encouraging the Israelites to make material contributions as a way of thanking Jehovah for their blessings, said: “The gift of each one’s hand should be in proportion to the blessing of Jehovah your God that he has given you.” ([Deuteronomy 16:17](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/23/0)) Hence, when Jesus saw a widow contribute “two small coins of very little value” in the temple, he praised her to his disciples. She did what she could. ([Luke 21:2, 3](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/24/0)) Similarly, Christians in poorer circumstances do what they can. And if there is a deficiency, it can be supplied by contributions from fellow Christians who are not so materially poor.—[2 Corinthians 8:13-15](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/25/0).

When we give back to God in such ways, it is important that we have the right motive. ([2 Corinthians 8:12](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/26/0)) Paul said: “Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” ([2 Corinthians 9:7](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/27/0)) By giving freely from the heart, we both support the theocratic expansion that is now taking place and increase our own joy.—[Acts 20:35](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/28/0).

Sharing in the preaching work and making voluntary contributions are two ways that we can give to Jehovah in return for the blessings he has given us. And how encouraging it is to know that Jehovah wishes to bestow his blessing upon many more sincere ones, who presently may not know him! ([2 Peter 3:9](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/29/0)) Let us, therefore, continue to use our resources in God’s service so as to find honesthearted ones and assist them to develop such qualities as obedience, faith, and appreciation. That way, we will have the joy of helping them to “taste and see that Jehovah is good.”—[Psalm 34:8](http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/bc/r1/lp-e/2001806/30/0).