

## Am I Blessed or Happy?

What does the word *blessed* mean in Matthew 5:3-12? Is *blessed* the same as *happy*? How can Jesus promise we will be blessed or happy when much of life's events are the opposite? What does Jesus mean when He uses the word blessed?

### How do the major Bible versions translate this word?

Overwhelmingly the translators chose the word blessed.

Version	How the word is used
English Standard Version (ESV)	Blessed
Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)	Blessed
King James Version (KJV)	Blessed
Living Bible (TLB)	Fortunate
The Message (MSG)	You're blessed
New American Standard Bible (NASB)	Blessed
New International Version (NIV)	Blessed
New Living Translation (NLT)	God blesses
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	Blessed

### What are the meanings of this word?

The New Testament was written in Greek and the word used in Matthew 5:3-12 is makarios. The Old Testament, written in Hebrew and Aramaic, has a similar word but for this study we will focus on makarios. What does the word mean?

- 📖 The Complete Word Study New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates: Blessed, to be fully satisfied. In the New Testament it indicates the state of the believer in Christ. He is indwelt by God because of Christ and as a result is fully satisfied. Makarios differs from "happy" because "happy" describes the person who has good fortune (from the English root hap, favorable circumstances). In the biblical sense, a blessed person is one whom God makes fully satisfied, not because of favorable circumstances, but because He indwells the believer through Christ. Makarios is the one who is in the world yet independent of the world; his satisfaction comes from God and not from favorable circumstances.
- 📖 Strong's Concordance: supremely blessed; by extension fortunate, well off: - blessed, happy.
- 📖 New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance: makarios; from makar (happy); blessed, happy: - blessed, fortunate, happier, happy.

## Where and how is the word used in the New Testament?

One great tool for Bible study is to trace a word through Scripture to see the various places where it's used. From those texts we can draw insight on what the word means in our context under study.

These verses dispel the idea that makarios is the same as our word happiness, a giddy feeling of elation based on positive circumstances. The word refers to a spiritual contentment only achieved when we do life God's way. Circumstances are not part of the equation.

Translated as **blessed** in these verse:

Mat\_5:3-11

Matthew 11:6 - "And **blessed** is he who does not take offense at Me."

Matthew 16:17 - And Jesus said to him, "**Blessed** are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 24:46 - "**Blessed** is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

Luke 1:45 - "And **blessed** is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

Luke 10:23 - Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "**Blessed** are the eyes which see the things you see,

Luke 11:27-28 - While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "**Blessed** is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nurse. But He said, "On the contrary, **blessed** are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

Luke 12:37-38 - "**Blessed** are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. "Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, **blessed** are those slaves.

Luke 12:43 - "**Blessed** is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

Luke 14:14-15 - and you will be **blessed**, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "**Blessed** is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

John 13:17 - "If you know these things, you are **blessed** if you do them.

John 20:29 - Jesus \*said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? **Blessed** are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Acts 20:35 - "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more **blessed** to give than to receive.'"

Romans 4:7-8 - "**BLESSED** ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. "**BLESSED** IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

1 Timothy 1:11 - according to the glorious gospel of the **blessed** God, with which I have been entrusted.

1 Timothy 6:15 - which He will bring about at the proper time--He who is the **blessed** and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Titus 2:13 - looking for the **blessed** hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

James 1:12 - **Blessed** is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:25 - But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be **blessed** in what he does.

1 Peter 4:14 - If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are **blessed**, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Revelation 1:3 - **Blessed** is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Revelation 14:13 - And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, **Blessed** are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

Revelation 16:15 - ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. **Blessed** is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")

Revelation 19:9 - Then he \*said to me, "Write, **Blessed** are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he \*said to me, "These are true words of God."

Revelation 22:7 - "And behold, I am coming quickly. **Blessed** is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:14 - **Blessed** are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Translated as **fortunate** in this verse:

Acts 26:2 - "In regard to all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, I consider myself **fortunate**, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today;

Translated as **happy** in this verse

Romans 14:22 - The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. **Happy** is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Translated as **happier** in this verse

1Corinthians 7:40 - But in my opinion she is **happier** if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.