

# Spreading the **WORD** Ministry



## LUCK VS BLESSINGS



Some people say life is a matter of luck, being in the right place at the right time. But the Bible paints a very different picture. It tells us that the steps of God's children are ordered, not accidental but purposeful, not random. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delighted in his path." Psalm 37:23 To understand the difference, consider the story of a man named Patrick.

Patrick had always considered himself "lucky." He joked that he was born with a four leaf clover in his pocket. If he found a parking spot near the door, he called it luck. If he avoided a wreck by a few seconds, he chalked it up to chance. Even when he received a promotion at work, he told his coworkers, "Guess I got lucky again."

One afternoon, Patrick stopped at a small roadside grocery store. As he walked in, he noticed an elderly woman struggling to gather her spilled groceries. He hesitated, he was in a hurry, but something nudged him to help. He knelt down, gathered the cans, and carried her bags to her car. She smiled warmly and pressed a small coin into his hand.

"This is for you," she said. "It's not worth much, but it reminds me of something important. I used to believe in luck. But then I learned that every good thing in my life came from the Lord, not chance."

Patrick looked at the coin. On one side was a faded clover. On the other side, etched by hand, was a tiny cross.

"That cross," she continued, "reminds me that blessings aren't random. They come from a God who sees us, loves us, and provides for us and even died for us."

Driving home, Patrick couldn't shake her words. He realized that he had been giving credit to "luck" for things God had orchestrated. The promotion he received wasn't luck, it was God opening a door. The near missed accident wasn't chance, it was God's protection. The parking spot wasn't coincidence, it was God's kindness in the small things.

That night, Patrick placed the coin on his dresser. From that day forward, he stopped saying "I'm lucky" and started saying "I'm blessed."

Luck Is Random. Blessings Are Intentional.

The Bible never attributes anything to luck. Instead, it points us to a God who is actively involved in the lives of His people. James 1:17 reminds us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." Not some gifts. Not occasional gifts. **Every** good thing.

Blessings often come through obedience. Patrick's turning point came when he obeyed a simple nudge to help someone. Deuteronomy 28:2 says, "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." Obedience positions us under the waterfall of God's favor. It doesn't mean life will be perfect, but it does mean God's presence, provision, and peace will follow us anywhere we go.



When we call something "luck," we remove God from the equation. But when we call it a "blessing," we acknowledge His hand, His care, and His purpose. Maybe you've been like Patrick, quick to call things "luck," slow to recognize God's hand. But the truth is, if you are breathing today, you are blessed. If you have been forgiven, you are blessed. If God has ever opened a door, protected you, comforted you, or guided you, you are blessed.



**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSING FLOWS!**

"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the **WORD** of God." Romans 10:17

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## A Time Of Preparation

It's winter. It's cold and ugly. The days are too short, and the nights are too long. As I look out my window, all I see is drab, dark, and dreary. Spring seems like an eternity away.

I cherish this time of year. Winter is a season for reflection and growth. As I observe the bleakness outside, I am reminded of our Lord's unwavering path. From the comfort of my home, I realize that Jesus faced the seasons' hardships directly, remaining resilient in the face of nature's challenges.

I want to walk with Christ. *Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). But I know that to do so, I must choose the path less traveled. Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few (Matthew 7:13-14).*

Jesus' ministry embraced the pain of winter with unwavering commitment. He:

- Relinquished all worldly possessions and journeyed tirelessly as an itinerant preacher.
- Carried no provisions, relying solely on faith.
- Possessed no great wealth, demonstrating humility and devotion.
- Bravely endured the harsh criticism of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- Faced the crowds' demands for miracles and healing with patience and compassion.
- Continually ventured into distant, hostile lands where Jews were despised.
- Understood that His divine mission would ultimately lead to His death.

And yet I must walk closer to Jesus: *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Colossians 3:1*

By Jesus' life and work, I am convinced that spiritual growth occurs during the winter seasons of life. Rather than avoiding winter's pain, I must embrace it, for only then can I deepen my understanding of the Christian walk. It is through this acceptance that I can truly grasp the suffering Christ endured on the cross and experience the profound joy of Easter.

## STWM.ONLINE STILL CHANGING

### Accessing Past Newsletters: A Helpful Tool for Sharing the Gospel

One of the greatest blessings of Spreading the **WORD** Ministry has always been the ability to stay connected with friends, supporters, and prayer partners across the country and around the world. Each month, we send out a newsletter filled with ministry updates, testimonies, stories of God's faithfulness, and encouragement from the Scriptures. These newsletters are more than just pages of information, they are a lifeline of fellowship, a reminder that God is still working, and a tool you can use to share the Gospel with others.

Over the years, many of you have reached out with a familiar question: "I missed last month's newsletter, can I still get a copy?" Others have asked for extra copies to share with a friend, a Sunday school class, a neighbor, or someone going through a difficult season. We understand how meaningful these newsletters can be, and we want to make sure you never miss an opportunity to read, print, or share them.

That's why we are excited to remind you that every past newsletter since February 2024 is now available online. Whether you misplaced an issue, want to revisit a favorite article, or feel led to pass one along to someone who needs encouragement, you can now access them anytime.

Simply visit [stwm.online](http://stwm.online). At the top of the page, you will see a tab labeled "Newsletter." When you click on it, you'll find a collection of past newsletters arranged for easy viewing. Just select the one you want, and it will open right on your screen. From there, you can read it, print it, or share it with someone who might be blessed by its message.

This feature has already become a valuable resource for many. Some use it to catch up on an issue they missed. Others print copies for Bible study groups or those who are unable to get out, all enjoy reading the uplifting material. Still others share the link with family members or friends who live far away. No matter how you use it, our prayer is that these newsletters continue to spread the hope of Christ and strengthen the faith of those who read them.

We believe that every newsletter carries a message for someone. Sometimes it's a reminder of God's promises. Sometimes it's a testimony that stirs the heart. Sometimes it's a story that brings a smile or a scripture that brings peace. And sometimes, it's exactly what someone needs at exactly the right moment.

In Isaiah 55:11, the Lord declares, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void." That is the heartbeat of this ministry. Whether the newsletter arrives in a mailbox, is printed from a computer, or is shared through a simple link, we trust God will use it to accomplish His purpose.

We also want to encourage you to think of someone in your life who might benefit from receiving a newsletter. Maybe it's a friend who is discouraged. Maybe it's a family member who has drifted from church. Maybe it's a coworker who has been asking questions about faith. A printed newsletter can be a gentle, meaningful way to open a door for conversation and plant a seed of hope.

If you ever miss an issue—or simply want to revisit one—you now have a simple, convenient way to do so. And if you feel led to share a newsletter with someone else, we hope this online archive makes that easier than ever.

As we continue moving forward, we will keep adding each new newsletter to the website. Month by month, the collection will grow, creating a lasting record of God's goodness and the ongoing work of this ministry. We pray it becomes a blessing to you and a tool you can use to bless others.

Thank you for your faithful support, your prayers, and your heart for sharing the Gospel. Together, we are spreading the **WORD**—one newsletter, one testimony, and one life at a time.