Count Your Many Blessings

Of all the hymns we sing, none expresses the joy of thanksgiving better than the 1897 song, “Count Your Blessings.” With its true to life lyrics and lively tempo, it is difficult to sing the words without thinking upon the countless blessings we have received from a loving, caring, and benevolent God. The first verse describes a life filled with difficulty; a life tossed about by the tempest of life. One can become discouraged, thinking there is no reason to carry on but then offers a simple remedy, count your many blessings, naming them one by one. The surprising result is coming to the realization of just how much God has done for us. The second stanza speaks of the heavy burdens and the cross one may have to bear. But remember that cross bearing is part of discipleship (Luke 9:23) and God has given us the church to help bear our burdens. (Gal. 6:2). The third verse mentions observing the wealthy of the world who seem to have it all. But for us, real wealth is found in Jesus Christ, and we have everlasting riches laid up in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). The fourth and final section describes a God who is in control of all things (Dan. 2:21) and our relationship with the Lord will give us help and comfort throughout our life’s journey. With such encouraging words, confirmed by the Scriptures, how can we not have a song in our heart and rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Jay Launius

“Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.”