

Isaiah 58:9

***Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'
"If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking
wickedness,***

People want the blessings of the Lord, but not obedience to the Lord.

How often do we cry out to the Lord for help, and for His blessings, yet turn around after we say Amen, and live a life that is not pleasing to Him?

- Some say, “*Lord, bless our relationship*” while they are actually sleeping together or even living together outside of marriage.
- Some say, “*Lord, bless me in my job*” when in fact they are the worst worker at the job, and even steal and are dishonest in their job.
- There are some who say, “*Lord, bless the tithe I am giving*” when all they do is throw ten or twenty bucks in the offering plate thinking they have done their “duty” to the Lord.
- There are those who say, “*Lord, I am NOT going to read through the bible, because I know you wouldn't want me to do a check list reading your bible everyday.*” When in reality, they would rather check off levels they achieve in a video game every day instead.
- There are those who say, “*Lord, bless my marriage*”, when they don't even go to church, and live a life that is unpleasing to the Lord, or would rather watch porn and fantasize about someone one else instead of their spouse.

These are also the ones who usually only call out to the Lord in times of troubles, and the real, so-called, “spiritual ones” also say a prayer before each meal. But that's as far as their relationship with the Lord goes.

What if our spouse or kids or friends treated us the same way, how would we feel? Would that encourage us to bless them, or not bless them? Do we really think that God would try and buy our love by giving us things?

Well, if you think about it, God did buy our love, with the payment for our sins by the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, Who paid the ultimate price for us all.

✠ **Ephesians 1:7 (NLT2)** *He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*

But God is not buying our love by giving us cars and homes and paying all our bills, I don't think God is in the business of buying peoples love and affection with earthly things. Sure He

will give us earthly things, and He does bless us with earthly things, but He does so because He loves us, not to earn our love.

† **1 John 4:19** *We love Him because He first loved us.*

† **Philippians 3:18-19** *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.*

† **Colossians 3:5 (NLT2)** *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.*