

I. Introduction:

1. I Tim. 6:17 says, "God wants us to enjoy the things of this world."
2. Is it okay to ask God to bless you with things that are not directly related to advancing God's kingdom?
3. Is there anything in the Bible that says God will bless me with things when I am delighting primarily in Him and not in things?

II. Body

1. There are examples in the Bible of God giving His children things, requests or answers to prayer that became a snare to them.
 - i. Num. 11- The Israelites were hungry for more than manna and they grumbled and became greedy or lusting after things. God gives them meat, so much that they would gag on it. They put God to the test, they were demanding. The Lord struck the people with a severe plague and many died.
 1. If our desire for things becomes lust and greed, we can be rejecting God.
 2. The Prodigal son(Luke 15.11-31)- He demanded his inheritance early and the father gave it to him and he left the father.
 - ii. Craving for, lusting after things because we are not satisfied with what God has given to us, can be considered evil in the eyes of the Lord. It can be seen as a form of rejecting God.
 1. The Father gave the son the inheritance that enabled him to leave the father's presence.
 2. You need to be very careful what you pray for because you may be asking for something that actually takes you away from God's presence.
 3. God is looking for Christians who can survive the blessings.
 - iii. Mal. 2.2- The blessings we seek from God, may be the very thing he curses if we do not keep focused on Him and keep honoring His name.
 - iv. Ezek 14.7-8. These elders go to the prophet for advice but they have idols in their hearts. They don't want the truth, they want a "rubber stamp of approval" to do what they want.
 1. There are those who go to God and are not interested in doing what God tells them to do, but who ask for God's blessing on what they want done.
 2. God will either not answer that prayer or give them over to their idolatry or sin.
 3. God does not want them to stay this way, he wants to recapture the hearts of those who given in to idolatry or left his presence.
3. Conclusion: We need to be careful or beware in prayer.