

There is an increase in trials and tribulations in our lives every day. Crime is on the rise, natural disasters, and wars. We need faith and God's blessings in our lives.

Do Not Read This Book!

By Renae Bradley Jones

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All scriptures are taken from the King James Version.



INTRODUCTION



I have been truly blessed since the day I was born. I have had a home, food and a loving family. We didn't have a lot of money, but that is not what blessings are all about. If you think it is, then you are very poor! I never desired to be rich, just to have enough to be able to give to others. That is where I find joy! I had a safe and healthy childhood. I was blessed with a wonderful and safe nursing career. Now I have two children, a boy and a girl, in which my prayers were answered. I have five grandchildren; they certainly have my heart. I have one stepson and two step grandchildren; they live next door and that is awesome. I was blessed with a long marriage of forty-two years, until death do us part. I am now blessed with a new beginning with my husband of three years whom I love dearly. I have found blessings in all seasons of my life. Sometimes you need to look for them. They are there. We just take them for granted. God always knows what you need, but he also likes for you to ask and to be thankful. His words say you have not because you ask not. God wants to bless his children! Our pastor always starts his service with a song and ends his service with a blessing over the congregation. When you say it and receive it, then it will come to pass. I hope this

book is a blessing to you and helps you on life's journey. I want you to enjoy God's blessings in your life every day!

I stand on my porch looking at the tree in our backyard. The leaves are beautiful. They are yellow, orange, and red. They are wet in the morning dew; when the sun hits them, they shine like colored diamonds. I see squirrels running from tree to tree; a groundhog stands up and looks around in the field. I can look across the road and see cattle and sheep grazing. I think God used fall as his masterpiece. He painted this area with vibrant colors. Brightly colored birds are sitting in the shrubs where they raised their young this summer. The sky is so clear—not a cloud in sight. There is a brisk breeze in the air; it is cool on my face. This is my favorite time of year! I think God gives us the seasons to remind us he is here and in control. He gives us beauty year around if we only take the time to enjoy it. How can anyone deny there is a GOD!

In early mornings, there is heavy fog. Deer are on the hill eating apple peelings from yesterday's canning of applesauce. I am so blessed with food canned in the cellar, food in the freezer, a roof over my head, and a warm bed to sleep in. How blessed can you be?

I know most people count their blessings by the material things they possess, but money can't buy peace, joy, and contentment. I wouldn't trade them for all the money

in the world. In the fall, my little place on this earth is close to heaven on earth. We all need to slow down and enjoy what God has given to us. I never had a father, but I am blessed with a heavenly Father who loves me unconditionally.

Humans are a race that is full of greed. You do remember the greed of Adam and Eve brought sin into this world that we are paying for today, don't you? We could be living in a garden that gave us everything we need and have perfect peace! We would not have to work and walk with God every day. Wow! That sounds great to me!

If only the world could see things through the eyes of children, they would see beauty in nature and in others. They are quick to believe, trusting in what they cannot see. That's how God wants us to be: relying only on him. He will bless us and take care of us if we let him. We may not get everything we want but we will get what we need. Just like parents take care of their children he will take care of us! I am so blessed to have children and grandchildren. I know I would do anything for them, and I am sure God will do anything for us, since we have been adopted into his family. We are his children!

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing (**Genesis 12: 1-3**).

Our blessings started with Abraham. If he had not listened to God's instructions, we would not be able to have the blessings we have today. Listen to what God is telling you and obey him. Consider the following:

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his Law Day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. Not so wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (**Psalms 1: 1-6**)

We are living under grace today—not the law that our ancestors had to live by. It was impossible to keep all the laws. Religious leaders upheld the law and death came to those who did not obey it. You didn't have the holy spirit as we do today. Sacrifices had to be made for atonement for their sins. The following scripture explains:

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: For blessed are they that keep my

ways. Hear instructions, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso finds me finds life and shall obtain Favour of the LORD. (Proverbs 8: 32-35)

Also, let us examine the following verses:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because
of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of me. Rejoice and be
glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you. (Matthew
5:3-12)

To be blessed is to have God's favor and protection! Divine
Favor! How can we activate the blessings of almighty
God? To walk in his blessings, we must first harken to
God and obey him. As it is written in **Deuteronomy 28**
verses 1-14:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt
hearken diligently unto the voice of the
LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his
commandments which I command thee this
day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on
high above all nations of the earth:

And all these blessings shall come on thee,
and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto
the voice of the LORD thy God.

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed
shalt thou be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy Kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Blessed shalt thou be when thou come in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou go out.

The LORD shall cause thine enemies that revolt against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way and flee before the seven ways.

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

The LORD shall establish thee a holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God and walk in his ways.

And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

Another example of blessings is found below:

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. (**Deuteronomy 28: 1-14**)

God wants to bless us, but he is still performing miracles too! When Jesus was on the earth, he went around performing miracles and healing those who were afflicted

with illnesses. He raised Lazarus from the dead. He healed the woman with a blood disease she had for over twelve years by just touching his garment. Jesus is not here with us today, but his spirit is within us. If we ask with a pure heart, there is nothing God can't do! God's ways are not our ways, sometimes his healing for us is taking us home to be with Him.



Fall is a time of beauty; I think it is God's masterpiece!

All the beautiful colors are truly amazing.

The cool crisp air makes us feel alive.

*We all experience different seasons in our
lives. Some we enjoy more than others.*



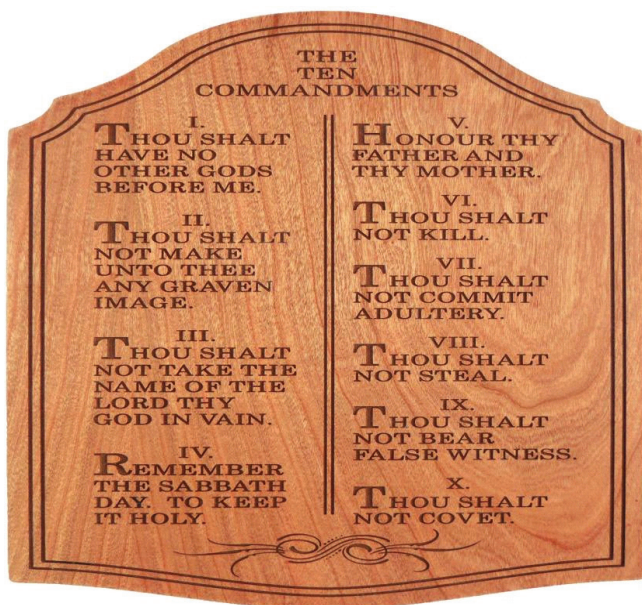
CHAPTER 2



The true Christian must forget oneself and walk in love and love others every day. You can sit in church every time the doors are open and not walk in the love of God. I do not mean that we judge others! There is not one Christian that can throw stones. Not even Jesus would do it and he truly was perfect. We must honor the commandments; you know the top ten!

I know that the blessings of God will rain down on you if you do what the Holy Spirit puts on your heart. Remember, if it does not line up with the word of God then it is not from God.

The Ten Commandments have existed since the beginning, but God still expects us to keep them today! So, guess what? You need to know the top ten and OBEY!



Exodus 20:2-17

Let us examine each of the commandments one by one.

No Other Gods Before Me: This is not hard: if the word of God says do it then do it. There are commandments that may seem easier for most of us to keep. You realize this means several things: money to buy what you want! Do you worship money? How many of you scream and cry if you can't get exactly what you want willing to pay any price, then become hateful and rude if you can't obtain it. To worship another God is not just a graven image, which is easy for us not to worship. Idols can be in many different forms, so be careful with your priorities! You can worship many things, be sure to keep God first!

Taking the Lord's Name in Vain: How do we respond to anger? Do we have the right to take the Lord's name in vain when we stomp our toe? God didn't put that chair there just waiting for us, so why do we cuss and blame him? It's just as easy to grit your teeth and say nothing as it is to cuss and through a fit! Is anyone listening? This is only a small trial. How will you do in the big ones?

The Sabbath: We need to keep it holy! I think it pleases God for us to go to a Bible based church! Not to please the congregation! It's important we worship with fellow believers. The Holy Spirit is always with a group of believers that have come together to worship! Church will not make you a Christian. We are the church outside of its doors. Do we act like it? We need nonbelievers to say, "I can tell she is a Christian by how he or she acts." Or what about her works outside of the church? I often hear how Christians are rude and disrespectful when out in the community. We need to try our best to act like Jesus and I know it's hard, but you can do it!

Honor Your Parents: This doesn't mean until you are eighteen and then it falls off the list! I didn't have a father to honor, but I would like to have grown up with one. So, be thankful. I didn't have a great relationship with my mother either. I tried to honor her wishes until it wasn't safe for her anymore. Your parents have a lot of wisdom. They don't want us to make the same mistakes they did. When you are young you think you know everything but believe me: you do not! I have plenty of experience in this matter. Treat your parents with respect! Try to obey their wishes.

Murder: Most of us don't go around killing people. Do you know you can murder someone with your tongue? (Not physically, of course.) You can never take back what you say and make someone feel the same about you. Suicide is on the rise. Sometimes words can hurt worse than to be beaten or shot. Words can put someone over the edge. In my opinion, bullying is a form of murder if it leads to suicide.

Adultery: It says in God's word that if you lust for another, you have committed adultery! Of course, I believe it would be much worse to be unfaithful to your spouse. You can ask God to forgive you when you lust, but you must ask God and your spouse if you are unfaithful. Much worse, don't you think? Please think about all that will be hurt. God is not going to bless this, so if you think it is okay, it isn't. This, my friend, is coming from the evil one. If it doesn't align with God's word, it is not okay!

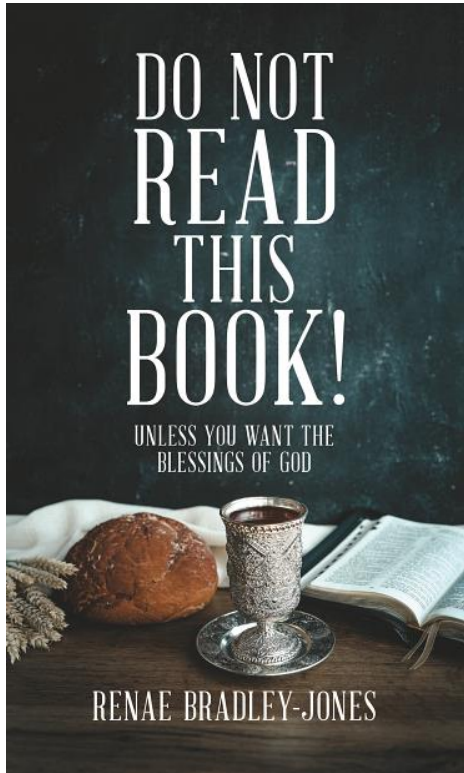
Stealing: Most of us don't steal. Stealing is taking anything that is not yours. This also means the small stuff, like something from work. No! It's not the size or reason in God's eyes. If you need food for you or your family, there should be someone to ask for help. That is what us Christians are for! God doesn't mean we are to keep every person, but what about the young girl who didn't abort her baby, is a single mom, and needs help? We need to step up and help her! Just remember, if you didn't buy it or it was not a gift, it is not yours! We have enough looting and stealing in our society today and it needs to stop!

False Witness: Do not lie! The world is full of lies today, from the government to our everyday lives. Christians are not supposed to lie! This is truly the downfall of relationships. People lie so much today they believe their own lies. If you always tell the truth then you never have to worry. If you tell one lie then you must lie again and again to back up the first one and you will get caught! I know people who exaggerate things just to make their experience more interesting but this is still lying. It always hurts someone and maybe you!

Covet: Oh my! Our flesh always wants what someone else has! You know that scripture about dying to self? Well, here we go! I know how you think: well, this person is not a child of God, and they have everything they want. Really? Would you change your relationship with Christ for a new car or house? If you would you are missing the big picture! As you mature with God, possessions are not near as important as they once were. God gives us what we need. The person living in the beautiful house with the new car may cry every day from loneliness. They may not have any peace, joy, or self-worth. Don't compare your life to others. That is not God's way!



harvest and storing food for the winter!
Now is the time of first fruits, don't forget about giving!
You are blessed to be a blessing



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