

Is it Wrong to ask for God to bless me?

I. Introduction:

1. Prayer is about advancing God's Kingdom and revealing his glory in us and through us.
2. As you pray "Cause me prayers" and as you come to God with all your problems, and God is being glorified, you will have more joy. This process will result in your prayers getting answered, and in God blessing you.
3. It is not wrong to ask God to bless you as long as you are asking to advance God's kingdom.

II. Body

1. Eph. 3.20-21 God can bless us in ways we've never imagined before. Keep watching the different ways God wants to bless you.
2. Old Testament definitions of blessing
 - i. Bawrak: bending the knee in blessing. You are honoring God, blessing others and this brings God glory.
 1. Jacob's life (Gen. 32-47)
 1. He was blessed by God and his father
 2. He wrestled to get God's blessing but obtained a limp.
 3. Although Jacob was blessed, he felt like the years of his life had been unpleasant. (Gen. 47.9)
 4. Although God wants to bless you, He may answer your prayer by giving you opportunities to go through tough times.
 5. God's blessings come in various and different forms. Don't just expect the standard blessings of "things" or "successful in the world" eyes.
 2. Joseph
 1. It says that the, "The Lord was with Joseph and he became a successful man, yet he was suffering as a slave. Gen. 39.2
 2. He had biblical success not like worldly success.
 3. He was blessed because of what God did through him and he made God look good.
 4. Joseph made God famous and he revealed and reflected God's glory.
 3. New Testament Definition of blessing
 - i. Makayrios= being so satisfied with God that no matter what the circumstances may be, you still have peace and joy.
 - ii. Stephen (Acts 6.6-8.2): he was full of God's grace and power and testified about Jesus and God. Even though he was stoned by jealous religious leaders, he died in peace and gave forgiveness to his killers.
 4. Miscellaneous Passages on being blessed.
 - i. Job 5.17 Blessed is the man whom God corrects.
 - ii. Pro 8.34 Blessed is the man whom listens to God.
 - iii. Pro. 14.21 Blessed is the man who is kind to the needy.
 - iv. James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres.

III. Conclusion:

1. You are blessed when you are poor in spirit, when you mourn, when you are meek, when you hunger and thirst for righteous, etc.
2. When you endure all these things with joy, you are making God look good and that's what life is all about.