

Heavenly Rewards

Luke 14:12-14

Luke 14:12-14 (NASB)

¹² “And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and *that* will be your repayment.”

¹³ “But when you give a reception, invite *the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,*

¹⁴ and you will be blessed, since they do not have *the means* to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Some Christians think it’s wrong to want rewards, but our Creator knows people are motivated by incentives. In fact, He made us that way, which is why His Word makes exciting promises for those who walk in His way.

Some of these benefits are available here on earth—like fulfillment, joy, and good favor—whereas other blessings will be bestowed once we are in heaven. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we need never fear judgment ([Romans 8:1](#)), for we are clothed in righteousness through His blood and will not face divine wrath.

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

¹ “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

To help us understand this, the Bible describes several crowns. **First, the crown of life** is granted to believers who stand firm and endure trials without giving up or losing heart ([James 1:12](#)).

James 1:12 (NASB)

¹² “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

The second crown, called *imperishable*, is given to those whose great desire is to walk obediently before God ([1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#)). Through struggles and even failures, they continue to die to their flesh and follow the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NASB)

²⁴ “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

Next, the *crown of righteousness* is bestowed upon those who long for Christ’s appearing and live righteously through Him ([2 Timothy 4:6-8](#)).

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NASB)

⁶ “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Lastly, God will give the *crown of glory* to those who share His Word with others ([1 Peter 5:2-4](#)). As Scripture tells us, we will be awed by Jesus’ magnificence and honored just to lay our crowns at His feet.

1 Peter 5:2-4 (NASB)

² “Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

The supreme reward is for us to manifest God’s glory throughout eternity. We will experience joy in His presence forever, but we don’t have to wait: We can invest today by serving Him obediently and humbly. Done with the right motive, service blesses us now and in the future.