

I know that is not really possible to have everyone think highly of you, or like you, and even more importantly love you. Even Christ could not accomplish this, as much as He desired it¹. I have long since given up all hope of this happening. So I especially appreciate those that actually do love me and show it.

But I try to pray for those who don't seem to care about me, and even those whom I know do not love me (as clearly evidenced by their behavior). I know that the Teacher proclaimed that we should love our enemies – that we should do good to and even ask for God's blessing on those who curse, persecute, or otherwise mistreat us^{2,3}.

I feel that it is appropriate, then, that if I am going to pray for my enemies, I can ask a special blessing for those who love me. The Psalmist gave an example of this, I think, when he wrote, "May those who love you be secure⁴." He prayed against his enemies⁵ (but sometimes for them⁶), but he knew how valuable his true friends were⁷.

For some reason I am reminded of the story of Elisha when he took the mantle from the great prophet Elijah: he asked for a double portion of the Lord's power⁸. So in a similar way I ask God for a double blessing for those who truly love me!

It occurs to me that even more than this double blessing, the Christ gives an infinite (rich and abundant) blessing to those who love Him and recognize Him as their Savior^{9,10}. He gave His life for us, and bore the burden of our sin in giving us that great blessing¹¹.

1. 1 Timothy 2:3-4
2. Luke 6:27-28
3. Matthew 5:43-44
4. Psalm 122:6b
5. see Psalm 69:27-28, Psalm 109, and many others
8. 2 Kings 2:9
6. 2 Samuel 18:5; "Be gentle with the young man Absalom"; likely David prayed for his son...
7. Friends in the darkest hour, when Absalom usurped David's throne: Ittai the Gittite, Zadok and Abiathar, Hushai the Arkite, Barzillai the Gileadite
9. Romans 10:12b; "the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him..."
10. 2 Corinthians 9:8a; "And God is able to bless you abundantly..."
11. 1 Peter 2:24