



Capacity for Blessings: All Blessings Are Imputed to Plus-R, 2 Cor 5:21; Logistics Are Guaranteed, Matt 6:33; but Escrow Demands Capacity, Heb 10:35-36

7. First of all, blessings are never granted to the believer but rather to the perfect righteousness of God that is imputed to him at salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - God the Father made God the Son who knew no sin [impeccability] to be sin as a substitute for us [judgment of our sins on the cross], in order that we might become the righteousness of God [judicial imputation of God's perfect righteousness at salvation] in Him [baptism of the Holy Spirit: current positional truth].

Matthew 6:33 - "Seek first the kingdom and God's righteousness [judicial imputation of God's perfect righteousness at salvation]; and all these things [food, drink, clothing (v. 25ff)] shall be provided to you [logistical grace support is imputed to divine righteousness]."

8. It is only through spiritual growth that the believer can acquire the capacity for the superior blessings God desires to impute to His righteousness. James calls it "greater grace" in James 4:6. The writer of Hebrews challenges the believer to not lose his confidence built up by doctrine in:

Hebrews 10:35 - Therefore, do not throw away [ἀποβάλλω, apoballō: to lose something of value] your confidence [παρρησία, parrhēsia: confidence and happiness built on knowledge of truth], which has a great reward [conveyance of the temporal and eternal escrow].

v. 36 - For you have need of endurance [ὑπομονή, hypomonē: fortitude and perseverance under the pressure of momentum testing], so that when you have done the will of God [executed the sophisticated spiritual life], you may receive what was promised [escrow conveyance in time and eternity (Ephesians 1:3-4)].

9. The conveyance of the eternal escrow is our Lord's subject in Revelation 2-3. In these two chapters the disclosure of the seven Nike Awards are introduced by the phrases τῷ νικῶντι, **tōi nikōnti** in the dative case in Revelation 2:7 and 17, and ὁ νικῶν, **ho nikōn** in the nominative case in Revelation 2:11, 26; 3:5, 12, and 21.
10. The two are uses of the verb:
νίκη, nikē - "victory"
11. A description of the **nik** word group is helpful to our understanding that blessings are conveyed to the believer's imputed righteousness because of the victory of Christ on the cross.

Kittel, Gerhard (ed.). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1967), 4:942; 945:

νικάω, νίκη (nikaō, nikē). The word group denotes "victory" or "superiority," with the basic sense of genuine superiority and overwhelming success. It is also generally assumed that **nikē** is demonstrated by an action, by the overthrow of an opposing force, and that the success is palpable and manifest to all eyes. (p. 942)

The word **nikaō** is in the New Testament a word of promise, an eschatological word. But the promised victory is materially no other than the victory of Christ:



Revelation 3:21 - To the winner [*nikaō*], I [**Jesus Christ**] will give him the privilege of sitting with Me on My throne [**appointment to the General Assembly of the theocracies of the Millennium and the new earth**] as I have been victorious [*nikaō*: **Operation Reconciliation**] and have sat down with My Father on His throne [**session**].

Hence the promised victory is present already:

1 John 5:4 - For whatever is born of God [**spiritual life**] conquers the world [*nikaō*]; and this is the victory [*nikē*] that conquers [*nikaō*] the world—our faith.

v. 5 - And who is the one who conquers [*nikaō*] the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Evil is overcome by good:

Romans 12:21 - Stop being conquered [μή νικάω, *mē nikaō*: **descriptive present imperative of prohibition for what is now going on that must be stopped**; also called a “pictorial present” since it presents to the mind a picture of the events as in process of occurrence] by evil, but conquer [νικάω, *nikaō*: **customary present imperative mandating what must habitually occur to accomplish the objective**] evil by means of the good [ἀγαθός, *agathos*: **good of intrinsic value: fruits of the Spirit**].

Those who through human unfaithfulness have been plunged into doubt and temptation are re-established by the biblical promise of divine victory:

Romans 3:4 - Let God be proved reliable, though every man a liar, as it stands written [**Psalm 51:4**], “That you might be demonstrated just or vindicated by means of your doctrines and that you might be the victor [νικάω, *nikaō*] when you are slandered.”

The rare word ὑπερνικάω, *hypernikaō* is used in Romans 8:37. For the warrior whom no earthly affliction or defeat perturbs *nikaō* is almost too weak a term. Paul does not have to restrict himself but can say in:

Romans 8:37 - ... we obtain the supreme victory [ὑπερνικάω, *hypernikaō*] through Him who loves us.

(p. 945)