

The Roots and Origins of Luck





LUCK

Where Everyone is a Winner



WHAT IS LUCK?

Luck:

Noun: Success or failure apparently brought by chance rather than through one's own actions.

Verb: Chance to find or acquire: "he lucked into a great job".

Synonyms: fortune – chance – happiness – fate – felicity

Defined:

1. The chance happening of fortunate or adverse events; fortune: They met one day out of pure luck.

2. Good fortune or prosperity; success: We wish you luck.

3. One's personal fate or lot: It was just my luck to win a trip I couldn't afford.

intr.v. **lucked, luck·ing, lucks** Informal. To gain success or something desirable by chance: lucked into a good situation; lucked out in finding that rare book.

4. Events that are beyond control and seem subject to chance; fortune

5. Success or good fortune

6. Something considered that would bring good luck

Idioms:

7. As luck would have it

8. As it turned out; as it happened: As luck would have it, it rained the day of the picnic.

Question: How much of the above sounds scriptural to you? Is this something Jesus taught? Our lives tossed to the wind and let's see where we land. This is what "Luck" would have us believe.

How many of us for one reason or another have said to someone, or wished someone “Good Luck.” Generally this is said as means of expressing support or a way of wishing someone a safe trip. At best it is a little catch phrase we learned as kids that has become practically an automatic response to someone as they go for a job interview or are about to take a test or something similar. By telling someone good luck we just want them to know we wish them the best.

All of this sounds easy, right? “So what is the problem” you might ask. It is really more involved than just a few simple words?

What you say with your mouth is more powerful than what you do with your hands. If you want to hurt someone, the tongue is more effective than the fist is. If you want to apologize to someone, all the flowers in the world won’t accomplish what two little words like, “I’m sorry” can do. If you want to communicate to someone your wishes of the best for them, then good luck, as you will find out, is the wrong thing to say.

When you wish someone good luck you are wishing on them the favor and protection of “Luck.” Now I ask you, does luck have a face? Who or what is this luck you are wishing on someone? What would you say if you knew that what you were wishing on them actually had its roots in pagan idolatry and Greek Mythology?



Who is the lucky one here, the man or bull?

Someone was overheard saying to this man “Good Luck in the ring today.”

The Mythology of the Ancient Greeks

TYCHE GODESS OF FORTUNE & LUCK

How many times have you heard or have said to a friend “Good Luck.” What you meant as a favorable comment that they may have or find favor and fortune, is in reality wishing on them the favor of an ancient deity or goddess. This tradition of wishing favor and fortune (luck) upon one another dates back to the time of Greek mythology and the goddess Tyche.

Tyche¹

Tyche was a noble but stern goddess who opposed evils of the society and punished those unworthy of good with misfortune and kind people with good luck. She was the most influential goddess throughout the legacy of Greece and was also adopted by Rome as their most important goddess, Fortuna, hence deriving the term, fortune.

Tyche was a demigod born to Zeus and before immortality she was a demigod, her name was Alethia (truth). After she helped save Olympus from the evil schemes of Gaia and Nemesis she was offered immortality through Zeus and the spirit of fortune through Nyx.

Her spirit of fortune made her a deity of greedy subjects who prayed to her for fortune and wealth and luck.



¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyche>

“Freedom” ... A Pearl of Great Price

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Jn. 8:32



Freedom in small things is a great thing. The Apostle Paul spoke of freedom quite a bit, freedom from thoughts that cause us to sin, freedom from habits that when left unchecked have become the things we practice and that compromises our testimony. Freedom starts in the small things, the things you would not even think about. A bad habit if practiced or repeated long enough is still a bad habit, just one you have gotten use to.

Along your Christian journey God will send you one of His “Pearls of Great Price,” a truth that will open your eyes and understanding of Him. So what will you do with that truth when it is presented to you? Do you really want to be wishing upon your friends, family and acquaintance’s the favor of an ancient deity or goddess? I know it’s only words, but your words are powerful.

This can also be argued as a mild form of idolatry. Though you may not be worshipping or giving God’s praise to an idol, you are wishing that favor and good fortune, peace and safety be from an ancient deity or demon. You are removing God (and what is His to give) from the blessing and inserting a demonic deity in the words you speak to one another without even knowing it. A wrong done or spoken over the centuries still doesn’t make it right. Your intentions are good and honorable, but the words you speak reflect your understanding of whom the real blessings come from. Do you want your friends and loved ones to be lucky, or receive God’s favor today? Which is the greater to be sought after?

The habit of saying “Good Luck” needs to be broken and replaced with words like, “God bless, God’s speed, be blessed and blessings to you.” Even saying nothing is better than bringing up idea of being lucky. It’s time to do some house cleaning of the words we speak.

Yes, sometimes some things good and bad just seem to happen by chance, but let me assure you that it only seems that way. Behind the scene unknown to you there is a plan and as the scriptures tells us.

James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights ...”

Matthew 7:11, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?”

Nowhere in the Bible do you find the word “Luck,” instead you find the invoking of such things as Grace and Blessings through Jesus Christ. No ancient deity ever promised and delivered the things Jesus has promised you. It is Jesus and Him alone who gave us the greatest promises. Remember, Jesus the Son of God cannot lie.

So next time ...

- Instead of wishing someone good luck, remind them of the words Jesus spoke, that “all things are possible with God.”²
- Instead of wishing someone good luck, remind them “all things are possible to him who believes!”³
- Instead of trusting in luck or good luck, tell them to listen to the words of Jesus when He said, “... Have faith in God.”⁴

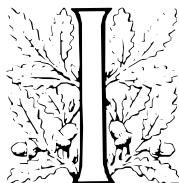


² Mt.19:26; Mk.10:27

³ Mk.9:23

⁴ Mk.11:22

Why do we say, “God bless you”?



If someone sneezes or does something very good, we often hear someone say, “God bless you!” This is a phrase that asks the Lord to protect you, keep you in good health, make you holy, and fill your life with good and happiness. It is the very best thing we can want for someone.

Centuries ago the causes of diseases were not well known, but people knew that sneezing often came before illnesses that could be life threatening. So, the immediate response was, “God bless you!” (meaning, “God protect you from sickness and death!”). And even as we become better at treating disease, isn’t it still the best thing to ask God, to keep us well? So we say, “God bless you!” to this very day.

If someone does something nice for us, we ask God to reward him or her. We say to them, “God bless you!” (meaning, “God reward you with His blessing in return for the good you have done!”). Whenever we use the phrase “God bless you!” we are actually saying a very short prayer. The English language used to be full of all sorts of prayers and blessings. Only a few have survived in our modern, post-Christian society — “God help you!” or “God help us!”, “Please God!”, “God forbid!”, and “God speed!” The last phrase is used to ask God to watch over someone who is traveling.

To quote Tiny Tim from Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, “God bless us, everyone!”

The End