

Blessings, Train Stations, and Tea Bags

[Jim Williams](#)

Editor's Note: We all have thoughts – some good - some bad, but nonetheless they are thoughts. Our thoughts should be reflected upon and dealt with biblically (Rom. 12:1-3; Gal. 6:3; Phil. 3:12-17; Phil. 4:8-9; 2 Pet. 3:1, etc.). 'Just Thinkin' Out Loud' (spelling of 'thinkin'" is purposeful) is a series of thoughts that are being made public. You may or may not agree with all of the thoughts you read in this series, but it will help all of us to discuss them – out loud. The hope of the author and editors at IIIM is that this will assist all of us to begin personal reflection upon our own thoughts and compare them with God's perspective in Holy Scripture. Readers are encouraged to use small discussion groups and/or our RPM forum for any irenic discussion(s) of these specific thoughts and others they may bring about.

Once upon a time, in Memphis Tennessee, there were two kinds of train stations. One, the Union Station, was a station where the trains approached and departed from and to one direction. Down the street, at the other station, the Grand Central, was another arrangement. Some of the tracks came and went from one direction, but some others came and went from north and south. One famous train, the City of New Orleans, could approach and depart Memphis just as it did at the depots in small towns, from either direction.

Blessings are a bit like the two stations. Some just come to you and stop. Other blessings come to you, and, if you let them, go right through. As they pass, though, they take a bit of you with them. They take your smile, tone of voice, etc.

While I like both kinds of train stations and have no favorites in that regard, I particularly favor the kind of blessings that go through me.

Blessings have a resemblance to tea bags, too. Water never goes through a bag with being colored and flavored by the contents of the bag. What comes out of the bag depends on the contents of the bag, and how they have reacted to the processes applied to them. It is sort of like the flavoring and coloring people have in their souls. Because of the mixture of their attitude, the experiences they have been through, and their reactions to those experiences, they act and react in certain ways to opportunities. So does a tea bag when it steeps in hot water. The flavor you taste when you drink the tea is similar in nature to the "flavor" someone else experiences when you are a blessing to them.

So, tell me. What kind of tea bag are you? What is going to come out when you let a blessing flow through you?

Tell me what you think, I'm just thinkin' out loud!

This article is provided as a ministry of [Third Millennium Ministries](#). If you have a question about this article, please [email](#) our *Theological Editor*. If you would like to discuss this article in our online community, please visit our [RPM Forum](#).

Subscribe to RPM

RPM subscribers receive an email notification each time a new issue is published. Notifications include the title, author, and description of each article in the issue, as well as links directly to the articles. Like RPM itself, *subscriptions are free*. To subscribe to [Reformed Perspectives Magazine](#), please select this [link](#).