

TURNING GOOD LUCK INTO GOD LUCK

The Toronto Blue Jays have certainly been experiencing the support of their fan base and an entire nation this past week and more. It was tense, but also exciting to see them win their final four games of the regular season in order to win the American League East title a week ago. This past weekend was equally exciting to see the Blue Jays win the first two games at home against the New York Yankees.

Something that can happen when a team like the Blue Jays goes on a winning streak is players and fans can become very superstitious about what they wear and what they do. An article about this appeared in my morning paper on Monday entitled, "**Blue Jay fans lean into superstitions to bring team luck.**" The article started off by sharing how the players have been wearing the retro white-panel ball caps during this recent winning streak. The suggestion to do so came from Jay's pitcher Jeff Hoffman who liked these retro caps that were worn by the Blue Jays back in 1992 and 1993 when they won back-to-back World Series titles. His teammates quickly agreed with the idea because many of them believe certain changes can bring about good luck. Naturally if the change results in a bit of good luck, players do not want to switch things up.

Athletes can be superstitious, but the writer of the article shared how many fans of the Blue Jays have also become this way during this recent winning streak. Some fans told the writer how they have been wearing the same retro white panel caps to the ballpark for good luck as well. Another regular season fan shared how she has worn the same outfit to each game because she feels it has brought the team good luck. I can understand fans and players doing this because I had my own superstitions when I used to be a goalie. My superstitious routines prior to a game included having a pregame nap, wearing the same pair of red socks and long johns with holes in the knees, and having my mother change ends in the stands after each period. All of these routines sound crazy 45 years later, but at the time they were important for me in my hopes of experiencing some good luck.

After reading the article on Monday morning in the newspaper I sensed this topic was to be the inspiration for my mid-week message. It came to me after a bit of reflection that by dropping one vowel in the word "good", all of a sudden it turns into "**God luck.**" I realized at that moment how appropriate it would be to focus on what is needed to experience "**God luck or blessings**" as we are about to experience another Thanksgiving and be appreciative for our many blessings.

The removal of the letter "o" from good reminded me how obedience is an important requirement for us to experience **God luck** or His blessings. This truth is shared In **Psalms 112:1**:

Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying His commands.

The psalmist here came to understand that respect for the Lord and obedience on one's part were the start of experiencing **God's luck** and blessings in life. Showing respect and obedience not only lead to the "**God luck**" of being blessed with joy, but also resulted in these additional blessings:

- **Light shines in the darkness for the godly (verse 4)**
- **They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust in the Lord to care for them. (verse 7)**
- **They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. (verse 8)**
- **Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor. (verse 9)**

If we respect the Lord and delight in obeying His commands then we can expect to experience "**God's luck**" and blessings in the form of joy, honor, security, hope, confidence and assurance. We still will face challenges and obstacles as revealed in some of these verses, but we will have these and other blessings from God that will help us overcome them.

The Blue Jays winning streak came to an end on Tuesday night in the Bronx. Will the players keep with superstition and wear the white panel caps on Wednesday night, or will they make a change in order to try and catch a new streak of good luck? We will know that answer by the time this message is sent out. As we cheer the Blue Jays on in this post season, may we keep wearing respect and obedience for the Lord in our hearts, so we keep up our "God luck and blessings."

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean