



Eight Steps to Experiencing His Victory

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Step Eight: Receive God's Blessing

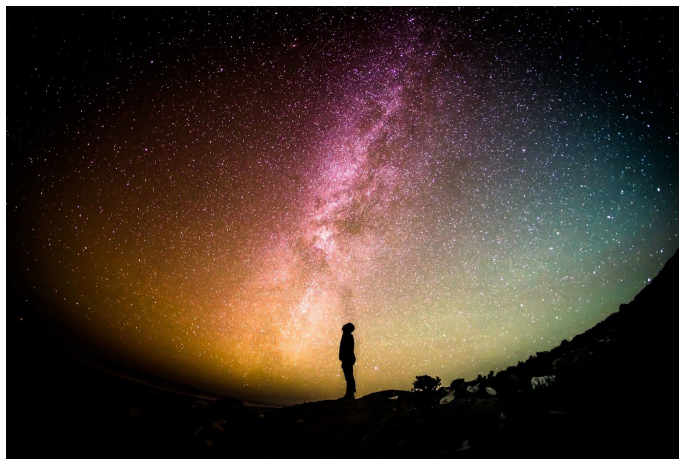
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What is a Blessing Anyway?

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Someone sneezes and even a complete stranger will say, “Bless you” or “God bless you.” Many people say a blessing before they eat their food. God had the priests speak a blessing over the children of Israel. At the end of his life, Jacob blessed his children. Jesus blessed the little children. So the question we are going to answer today is what is a blessing anyway?

The general concept is easy to describe. Take this simple dictionary definition: “God’s favor and protection.” Simple. Straightforward. Easy. But as with most concepts, there is a depth of meaning that can be found if we are willing to take the time to dig deeper.



All Blessings Start with God

God is the creator of all that exists. He created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it. He spoke everything into existence until it came to the creation of man. Instead of speaking the man into existence, God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed life into him and he became a living being (Genesis 2:8).

The very first recorded words in the Bible that God spoke to man was a blessing. Genesis 1:28 says,

God blessed them (Adam and Eve); and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

God creates man in His image and gives them the authority to rule the earth. This rule was to be conducted through a personal relationship with Him. Man is created out of the love of God to love Him and rule with Him.

So it only makes sense that God desires for man to flourish and experience his favor and protection. He wants Adam and Eve to grow into the fullness of life as He intends it to be. This is as it should be since,

17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. (James 1:17)

Recognizing that God's love is the wellspring of every blessing is foundational. God loves us with an everlasting love and wants to pour out His blessings upon us.



Blessings are Spoken to People

There's power in words. God spoke words and creation came into existence. The Bible tells us that we can speak words that will bring life to people and words that will bring death.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.
(Proverbs 18:21)

Blessings are very similar to prayer. The difference is that in praying we speak to God and in blessing we speak to people.

A blessing is more than kind thoughts toward a person. A blessing is more than a prayer lifted up to God in your mind. A blessing is a spoken word said in the presence of the person(s) being blessed.

Blessings are Speaking God's Intentions for Others

A blessing is not the kind intentions that we have toward a person and what we want to happen in their life. It is a declaration of God's intent toward a person.

Since God is the source of all blessing, we must go to Him to find out what His intentions are toward the person we want to bless. In one sense a blessing is very similar to a prophecy.

Prophecy is more direct where it says what the Lord will do, whereas, blessings are what God wants to do in a person's life. The reason I say wants to do and not will do is that we can short-circuit what God desires to do in our lives through disobedience.

God has immeasurable riches He desires to pour out upon us. These riches are only available as we learn to walk in His ways



Blessings are a Conduit for God's Grace

Frank Dimazzio speaks of a blessing as a “transmission or endowment of the power of God's goodness and favor poured into my life.” When we speak a blessing over a person, it opens the door for God to work in their lives as only He can do.

Another way to describe it is to say that when we bless someone we are directing God's goodness to them. We are inviting God's power to show up in their lives to bring about a change in their situation.

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary says a blessing is,

The act of declaring, or wishing, favor and goodness upon others. The blessing is not only for the good effect of the words; it also has the power to bring that to pass.

Once we understand that God is the source of all blessing and we have received a blessing from Him for a person, we can be assured that He has the desire and ability to carry it out in the life of the person we blessed.

Blessings Always Release Increase

The first phrase in God's blessing of Adam and Eve is "Be fruitful and multiply." Both of these terms signify a great increase. God desires to pour out His blessings in ways that will astound us. He is the God who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

I found this great definition in the Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament,

To endue with power for success, prosperity, fecundity [which means, the ability to produce an abundance of offspring or new growth], longevity, etc;

God wants us to experience the fullness of His blessing in every area of our lives. Here are a few of the things He desires for us:

love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, goodness, meekness, patience, eternal life, compassion, mercy, grace, strength, encouragement, freedom, wholeness, support, purpose, meaning, value, hope, gifts, talents, fulfillment, right relationships, blessings, promises, an inheritance, strength, comfort, healing, restoration, reconciliation, unity, harmony, edification, fellowship, communion, soundness of mind, prosperity, abundance, an overflowing cup, generosity, companionship.

Two Examples of Blessings

The first blessing comes from Genesis 27:28-29. It is where Isaac thinks he is blessing his son Esau, but in fact is blessing Jacob. Notice how the word "may" is used.

28 Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,
And of the fatness of the earth,
And an abundance of grain and new wine;
29 May peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you;
Be master of your brothers,
And may your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be those who curse you.

And blessed be those who bless you.”

The second example is the blessing that God commands Aaron to speak over the children of Israel. This blessing doesn't use the word may. It simply speaks what the Lord desires to take place in their lives. God calls it invoking His name on the sons of Israel.

22 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 23 “Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

24 The Lord bless you, and keep you;

25 The Lord make His face shine on you,
And be gracious to you;

26 The Lord lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace.’

27 So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them.
(Numbers 6:22-27)

Next week we will look at this last blessing in more detail to help us understand how the Lord wants to bless His people.

My Blessing For You

Before you go I would like to speak a blessing over you:

May the Lord open your eyes to the greatness of who He is.

May you understand all the richness of His blessing.

May you receive a revelation of the importance of speaking blessings.

May He give you insight into how you can speak blessing into the lives of others.

May He give you ample opportunity to speak His blessings to those around you.

May you abound in the things of the Lord and increase in His favor

See you next week.

Aaron's Blessing : The Anatomy of a Blessing

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I'm very fired up about the whole topic of blessings. Studying It has stirred up something in my heart that I pray grows and continues. I want to be a person who experiences the full blessing of the Lord in my life. I also want to be a person who blesses others in the name of the Lord so they can experience life as God intends it to be.

I've said this my whole adult life, God is good. I said it even before I came to know the Lord. I said it to my family and friends who were at the graveside service for Suzette and my son, Zachariah Lee, who was born premature and lived for only one day.

So here I was, an unbeliever, telling all those who would listen that God is good. I told them not to blame God for Zach's death because God is good. Have I said it enough? Probably not. God is good. God is good. God is good. God is good.



God Wants to Bless You

God is in the business of blessing. God is love and so it is natural for Him to want to pour out His blessings on His people. God wants to bless you.

As we saw last week, God is the source of all blessing. Everything good flows from Him.

God wanted to make sure that His people knew His heart toward them. He told Moses to have Aaron bless His children every day of the year. He commanded Aaron and his sons (the priests) to bless them at the close of the daily service.

Let's look at the passage and then break down the anatomy of God's blessing to see what it entails. Numbers 6:22-27 says:

22 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 23 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:
24 The Lord bless you, and keep you;
25 The Lord make His face shine on you,
And be gracious to you;
26 The Lord lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace.'
27 So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."

Notice that it is God who is the one who initiates the blessing. That is awesome because He is the one who created us and knows us the best. If anyone knows how to bless it is God. That is why we want to take this blessing apart piece by piece to see what God is speaking about.

The Anatomy of a Blessing

There are six main themes to God's blessing. Before we look at them I want to share a couple of fun ideas. The first is the word LORD is the personal name of God which was revealed to Moses when God called him to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt.: Yahweh.

The second is Yahweh is used three times in this blessing. Some see the three members of the Trinity in the repetition of the name of God three times. The Father blesses and keeps us, while the Son gives His presence and is gracious toward us, and the Holy Spirit pays attention to us and brings us peace. How exciting.

So let's take a moment and look at each of the six aspects of blessing that God wants us to experience from Him on a daily basis. Remember, this blessing was to be spoken on a daily basis to the children of Israel for life.

In other words, God wants to bless us with these things each and every new day of our lives.



The Lord Bless You

We covered the concept of blessing last week in *What is a Blessing Anyway?*, but I want to hit the highlights again this week:

- All blessings start with God. He is the one who initiated this blessing, not Moses or Aaron.
- Blessings are spoken to people. That is why God was having Aaron and his sons speak this over the people daily.
- Blessings are speaking God's intentions for another. He wants the people to know His intentions toward them.
- Blessings are a conduit of God's grace. God's mercies are new every morning and He wants us to experience His blessings daily.
- Blessings always bring increase. He wants us to experience His presence and abundant life.

Are you sensing that God is for you and He only wants what is best for you? Are you starting to realize that God has already made all His blessings available to you and is waiting to pour them out on you?



The Lord Keep You

The main concept behind this word is God is exercising great care over us. The idea is guarding or keeping in a careful, diligent way. He is always watching over us. This concept brings two passages to my mind that speak of God's great care for us.

The first passage is Psalm 121:1-8. It reads,

121 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;

From where shall my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not allow your foot to slip;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

4 Behold, He who keeps Israel

Will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord is your keeper;

The Lord is your shade on your right hand.

6 The sun will not smite you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will protect you from all evil;

He will keep your soul.

8 The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in

From this time forth and forever.

The second is Psalm 23:1-6. It says:

23 The Lord is my shepherd,

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I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
3 He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Even in the midst of the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us and will protect us with His staff and rod.



The Lord Make His Face Shine on You

This phrase has a lot of meaning to it. Face speaks of God's presence. Of course, we don't get to see God's face, but Moses could speak to God as a man speaks face to face. God would descend in a cloud and speak with Moses. The idea is that God wants us to experience His presence on a daily basis.

We always have the promise that God will never leave us or forsake us, but this is more than just His presence in our life. It speaks of His Divine approval and goodwill toward us. God is looking for an intimate relationship with us.

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Again this speaks of His favor. This is the same word that Gabriel spoke to Mary when he greeted her. He said, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God” (Luke 1:30). It is also the same word that speaks of Jesus increasing in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52). Isn't it wonderful that God is pouring out the same blessing upon us as He did on Jesus?



The Lord Be Gracious to You

This is a fantastic word in which God describes His desire to show an act of kindness, compassion, or benefice to another. It is God's heartfelt response to us. He has what we need and He wants us to receive it.

God shows His graciousness out of His giving nature. It's not something that can be earned. If it was earned it would be our due. What the Lord is clearly saying is that He wants to give us gifts of grace that are sourced out of Him and His abundance.

God is a God of grace. He gives us precious gifts that we could never deserve or earn.

So often I hear people say they don't deserve anything from God because of the way they have lived their life. They are so used to earning things and know they don't deserve what God is giving.

Yet God values us so much that He is willing to give us things we don't deserve. He sees value in us that we don't see ourselves. He sees us as we really are, not just the actions we have taken. He wants to pour out His grace on us in ever increasing ways.



The Lord Lift Up His Countenance on You

This phrase has a different focus than the previous one. It deals with God's presence and His attitude toward us. This phrase focuses on the idea of God paying attention to us. He is looking for us. An interesting point some of the word study experts point out is that this phrase also connotes that God is looking at us and smiling.

Do you ever think that God is pleased with you and when He sees you He smiles? God loves you. You are His child. He looks at you and rejoices.

When Jesus was baptized by John God said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:17). I know, you might be thinking, "Yeah, but that's Jesus. There is no way God is pleased with me." Oh yeah.

If you are living in a way that is not pleasing to the Lord, He is there every single day of your life with every spiritual blessing you need for life and godliness. He desires to turn His face to you and help you in your time of need, We are never helpless or hopeless for God is looking and there to help.



The Lord Give You Peace

The more I study the word Shalom (peace), the more excited I get about it. This word is so much more than the English word peace means. It is used in the Old Testament 250 times.

The basic idea behind it is massive and impacts every part of a person's life. The very foundation of this word means completion and fulfillment. It means prosperity, well, health, completeness, safety, and satisfaction. Are you getting the breadth of this word?

It is used in the Bible as a greeting and as a way to say goodbye. "To wish someone shalom implies a blessing . . . to withhold shalom implies a curse." This is an important concept.

Nearly two-thirds of the usages of shalom "describes the state of fulfillment which is the result of God's presence."

This is how God wants us to live in the abundance of His provision. This is what He speaks over the people day after day.

Invoke My Name

God said Aaron and his sons would invoke His name on the people and He would bless them. Invoking the name of God means to call upon Him to do this blessing. He is the only one who has the ability and the resources to bless us.

It seems to be quite a simple thing. If we will invoke His name He will bless. Look around you. Everywhere you go there are people God desires to bless. He even encourages us to bless our enemies and those who do us harm.

Remember, God takes no joy in bringing judgment to anyone in the world. He sent His Son Jesus to pay for the sins of the world. We are to be blessers and not cursers.

Next week we will look at the scope of God's blessings. Just a forewarning. They are huge!

The Incredible Extent of God's Blessings

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I think it is hard to imagine all the blessings that God desires to pour out upon His people. After all, He is the one who “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

God’s heart is for us and He has plans for us that are amazing. There is no doubt in my mind that God wants to bless you.

1 “Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)

There’s a perfect passage of Scripture that speaks of the manifold blessings that the Lord wants to give to His people. It comes from Deuteronomy Chapter twenty-eight where Moses brings the children of Israel and tells them of the all the blessings that will come upon them as they enter into the promised land if they obey His ways and the curses that will come upon them if they don’t.

So what are the blessings God is talking about? He lists them in Deuteronomy 28:3-14:

3 “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

4 “Blessed shall be the [d]offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.

5 “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

6 “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

7 “The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways. 8 The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you. 9 The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. 10 So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will be afraid of you. 11 The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 The Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, 14 and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.



God’s Blessings Come Through Doing Things His Way

Since God is our creator He knows what is best for us. He knows the things that will cause us to grow and increase and prosper. He also knows that things that will hinder our growth, bring decrease, and lead us to poverty.

God has graciously given us knowledge of His ways and the wisdom we need to live life to the fullest. His commandments are for our good. A lot of people look at His commandments as a list of restrictions seeking to hinder their freedom and keep them from experiencing life. But, quite to the contrary, they are the things that ensure we can experience life as God intends it to be.

For example, every piece of equipment I get comes with a manual telling me about my product and telling me the best practices to keep it running at its best. My car manual tells me the type of gas I should use, how often to change the oil, the air pressure in my tires, and a ton of other instructions.

Why in the world are there so many instructions? I just want to drive my car.

Do you know what would happen if I filled my car that uses unleaded gas with diesel fuel? It would run for a while and then slowly deteriorate as the fuel injectors, filters, and fuel lines clog up. If left this way the diesel fuel could damage the engine and I would not be able to drive my car any longer.

Why does the manufacturer only allow a certain kind of fuel? Why are they so restrictive? The commonsense answer is that the engine was created to use unleaded fuel. If you want it to work right you must follow the commandments of the manufacturer.

I'm sure you see the parallel. God is our creator and He created us a certain way. If we desire to have a life that runs to its full potential, then we need to listen closely to the Creator's instructions. God's commandments are for our good and ensure the blessings of God in our lives.



God's Blessings Will Pursue You

I love how verse two pictures the results of obeying God. Moses says that if we obey God all these blessings will come upon us and overtake us.

If we walk in God's way we are assured that the blessing will come to us. They will arrive in due season. They will overtake us. The word is used to describe someone who is chasing after someone to catch up with them.

Can you picture in your mind all the blessings we just read in the passage above running after you and catching up to you because you are doing things God's way? Well you should, it's what Moses is saying.

The Scope of God's Blessings



Prosperity

The first part of verse eleven says, "The LORD will make you abound in prosperity." It doesn't matter if you live in the country or in a city, God will make you prosper. It carries the idea of whatever is "good, pleasant, beautiful, delightful, glad, joyful, precious, correct, righteous" (TWOT). It's everything God wants to pour out upon us.

God wants to bless the offspring of our bodies, the produce of the ground, the offspring of our beasts and herds. If your not a farmer or rancher, then God wants to bless the work of your hands. He wants to bless you in your job and see you increase.

Whatever we put our hand to, God will send blessings to catch up and overtake us.

The story that comes to mind is that of Joseph. His brothers sell him into slavery and he sold to Potiphar. Potiphar senses the presence of God on his life and places Joseph in charge of everything he owned.

Joseph is then falsely accused and cast into prison. The chief jailer senses the presence of the Lord upon Joseph and he is promoted to run the things in the prison.

Then one day Joseph is called out of the prison to tell Pharaoh the interpretation of his dream and suggestions on how to prepare because of it. He is elevated to the second-in-command of

Egypt. That is definitely a story of prospering wherever you may be, whether in bad or good situations.



Protection

The Lord promises His protection against our enemies. All the plotting and planning of our enemies will come to naught. They will come in one way, but God will send them out in seven ways.

The one who comes to mind is David. The shepherd boy who slew Goliath and sent the Philistine army fleeing for their lives. He was soon the one fleeing for his own life as King Saul sought to kill him out of jealousy and fear of losing his kingdom to David.

Many times in the Psalms, David cried out for help from the Lord. Even when he was in the depth of despair he would lift his eyes to the Lord and declare His trust in Him. In Psalm 28:7-9, David says:

7 The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him.

8 The Lord is their strength,
And He is a saving defense to His anointed.

9 Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;
Be their shepherd also, and carry them forever.



Spiritual Well-Being

Moses reveals that part of the incredible blessings of the Lord is that we are the Lord's people. He says in verse 9, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you."

We are the people of God and hold a special relationship with Him that the world doesn't have. We are called to be holy or set apart to Him. In our love and trust in God, we walk in His ways.

An interesting thing takes place. As we walk in God's ways His blessings come upon us and other people see and they glorify God. All the people of the earth will recognize that we are Lord's people.

This reminds me of the story of King Solomon who requested from God wisdom to lead the people. God gave Him wisdom and riches so great that the people came from all over the world to marvel at his understanding and learn from him. Listen to the story in 1 Kings 10:1-10:

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions. 2 So she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. 3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. 6 Then she said to the king, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. 8 How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom. 9 Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness." 10 She gave the

king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great amount of spices and precious stones. Never again did such abundance of spices come in as that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

We are a marked people. God wants to pour out His blessings at every level of our lives so that people will see the effects and come and seek the wisdom and blessing of the Lord.



Prominence

Moses says it a couple of different ways. If we choose to follow after God, He will make us prosper to the point that others will recognize the hand of the Lord upon us and hold us in esteem. Remember Joseph.

The idea of us being exalted is not so we can lord it over others but so we can be a light shining in the darkness and drawing people to Him. Remember Solomon.

This exaltation is not for personal gain or glory. It is for the glory of the Lord. It is those who are humble before God and submitted to His ways that are exalted. Even Peter understood this and told us in 1 Peter 5:6:

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time

God told Israel that if they would follow His ways He would “set [them] on high above all the nations” (v. 2) and they would be “the head and not the tail” (v. 13).

The Lord truly wants to bless and elevate us in the minds of the people around us so that they will be drawn to Him. We may never stand before Kings, Queens, or Presidents, but He can elevate us before the eyes of those with whom we have contact so they will seek us out for help.

I remember I got a job making walk-in freezer and coolers for restaurants. On my breaks, I would read the Bible. One guy saw this and made fun of me. Every day he would mock me before the rest of the crew.

I just ignored him and let him have his fun. I didn't appreciate it much, but what was the point of arguing and making a scene in front of the others?

After I was there a few months, something happened in this man's life. He came back to where I was working humble and broken asking for my help. I gladly sought to help him.

In his time of need, this man knew to come to one who knew the Lord. He saw something in my life and when he was in trouble he sought me out. Remember that people are watching your life. There may come a time when they seek you out because of your witness. This is a time to be a blessing to them.

My Blessing to You

May the Lord bless you.

May the blessings of the Lord come upon you and overtake you.

May the Lord prosper the work of your hands.

May He protect all that is yours.

May the Lord establish you and give you prominence.

May people be drawn to you and come to the knowledge of the Lord.

Blessed to Be a Blessing

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This is the 100th episode of the Experiencing His Victory Audio blog. One hundred! That is exciting and definitely a big deal. Wahoo!

I have absolutely no desire to become so famous where people recognize me in public and seek me out for autographs. I do have a desire to impact the world around me. I want to leave a legacy behind that will continue past me and go down through the ages.

Just think about all the people you've come in contact with over the years? Was it a good experience or bad? Of course, I want to be a blessing to people and touch their lives and see them grow in the Lord.

I would love to know how many people I've touched for the Lord over the years and then those who have touched others because of my touch. My guess would be that the number would be astronomical.

We touch many more people than we know. People are always watching. We'll probably never know the depth of our impact on the world in which we live.

I was talking with my buddy, Vince, in church on Sunday and he was telling me all the various people that he forwards these post to all across the world and the ways that people are using them. I asked him to write up what he told me and here is what he said:

What is happening? A tiny spark came down from heaven and touched a few people, but from them the rich kindling that had been in waiting ignited. It began to spread in more ways than can be counted. It touched years, changed souls, was communicated, translated, digitized, personalized, written, spoken, sang, danced, played and is now being transmitted all over the world.

How could such a thing happen? A handful of people read or listened to a series of lessons from Experiencing His Victory. From each one of these, conversations with friends, family, and coworkers, developed. Those spread these teachings, and soon, people were sending them all over.

From just one of these people, these teachings have reached many of states in the US, several countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America. Some of that person's friends speak other languages, and have friends and relatives far and wide. Freedom is priceless, and yet, an immeasurably great price has been paid to set all the captives free.

Wahoo ! Join the fun !

I agree Vince. I love it that he said wahoo. I think I'll join him. Wahoo!

Today we want to look at a person who God promised would be a blessing to all the families of the earth. Now that is quit the impact.



The Story of Abraham

Now the Lord said to Abram,
“Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father’s house,
To the land which I will show you;
2 And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,

And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
(Genesis 12:1-3)

God spoke to Abraham and asked him to leave his country, his relatives, and his household. God had a new plan for him. If Abraham would believe God, then God would show him a new land, make him a great nation, and bless him even to the point of blessing all the families of the earth. That's huge.

I only want to focus in on one aspect of this passage, that Abraham was blessed by God so he could be a blessing. When God wants to pour out His blessing upon the world it usually comes through a person.

I believe there are many principles that we can learn from the story of Abraham that apply directly to our lives today. God is still looking for people to bless and pour out His blessing through to touch the families of the earth.

Blessed to Be a Blessing

There are six key concepts in the words God spoke to Abraham. The truths revealed here are not only true for Abraham, they are true for us.



1. Blessings are Received Through Obedience

There is only one way to receive the blessings that God so freely gives and that is through obedience. Some struggle with the concept of obedience. It can cause something on the inside of us to rise up and say, “You’re not the boss of me.”

A lot of the problems in our lives come about by trying to get what God has already given to us by another way. God's blessings only come through Jesus. God's blessings flow into our lives as we walk in simple obedience to His word.

God commanded Abraham to leave his country, his relatives, and His family and go to the land He would show him. The promise from God to receive the land as an inheritance came from God after Abraham obeyed him and traveled to the land.

Blessings come through obedience. A lot of time we connect obedience with earning something or deserving something, which is totally wrong. Obedience just proves we believe what God has said and we are willing to do it to receive the promise.

Suppose I say to you, go to the bank and pick up a check that I wrote for you. You reply, "Don't tell me what to do. I'll go to the bank if and when I want to. The check is there and you will never receive it.

Suppose I say the same thing and you go to the bank. You walk in and receive the check and cash it. Can you take any credit for going to the bank? I earned this money by going to the bank. I deserve this money because I believed what you said.

We can see the foolishness behind this type of thinking. The check was already there. You did not earn it or deserve it because you chose to believe me and go to the bank. Your obedience resulted in you receiving the free gift I gave to you.



2. God Wants to Bless You

God has proven His love for you and His desire to bless you. He has done everything that is necessary for you to receive His blessings through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I've mentioned these Scriptures before, but I want to repeat them again so we can see the abundance of blessings that are available to us as we learn to walk in God's ways. God has given us such clear direction on how we can receive and walk in these blessings.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)

3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

If you want to picture it this way, the blessings of God are sitting in a bank account for you to experience. The only way to get to the bank is by obedience to the Lord. He has already blessed you with them. He has already granted them to you. He is waiting for you to walk in His ways and receive them.



3. God Has a Specific Plan to Bless You

Jeremiah 29:11 is a favorite verse of many. It says:

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

These words were spoken to the children of Israel as they were being told they would be carried away to Babylon for seventy years because of their disobedience. After this time God would bring them back into the promised land because God knows His plans for them and He wants them to be blessed and He wants to prosper in His promises.

These words also hold true to you. God has a specific plan for each of our lives. Of course, there are so many general blessings that apply to each believer, but He has some unique

blessings that will only flow into your life as you obey the voice of the Lord and fulfill the specific things He has called you to do.

There is only one Abraham, Moses, Joshua, John the Baptist, and Jesus. Each had their own unique call and plan of God for their lives. Each was blessed to the fullest as they obediently follow God's purpose for their lives. The same is true for you. As you walk out God's plan for your life His blessings will pursue you and overtake you.



4. God Wants to Make You Great

God's purpose in making Abraham great was so he could be a blessing. I think the same is true for you. God wants to make you great in the eyes of people so that they will come to God and receive his blessings.

God wants you to increase in favor with God and man so that people will see the glory of the Lord in your life and be drawn to God. God will probably not exalt you by giving you a new land and making you a new nation or giving you Jesus as a descendant (that's already been done). But God does want to elevate you in the eyes of the people around you to impact their lives and bring them the blessing of the Lord.



5. God Wants Your Life to Bless Many Around You

God calls believers the light of the world. Our lives shine brighter than we think. We influence more people than we think. Even when we think we are just living life normal and doing our job, others watch and see what we are doing.

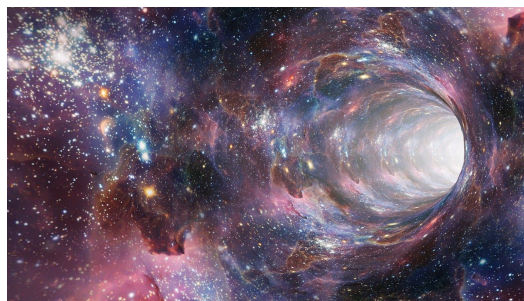
This came to light for me when a person I was working with on a secular job looked at me and said, “You’re more like Jesus than any person I’ve ever met.”

I was blown away. She knew that I was a pastor. I never preached the gospel to her. From time to time she would ask me to pray for her. I never knew that I had that kind of impact in her life.

So often we think that it is the big things that we do that make people stand up and take notice. More than that it is the little things as we live life and simply walk out the truth of the Gospel day to day.

God wants to raise you up as a lighthouse to those with whom you have contact. It’s not so you can say, wow look at me, I’m awesome. It’s so God can draw people to Himself so He can bless them.

Let your light shine.



6. God Will Expand Your Blessing from Now to Eternity

We will never know the amount of people that we have touched while we are here on earth. Who knows if the Lord will let us see those we have had an impact on when we get to heaven. It

would be fun, not so we could boast, but so we could see how important our life was while we were here on the earth.

I just want to let you know that your life impacts many more than you think. You are important. When you impact another person's life you impact those they come in contact with and those they come in contact with.

They have a saying in my circles. Change a pastor's life and you will change the life of the congregation. The idea is that if you touch the heart of the pastor, it will affect everything he says and does.

What you do matters. Your touching others in the name of Jesus is accomplishing more than you know. I remember someone telling me one day that something I said to them twenty years prior changed their life forever. I never knew.

You may never know how many you touch. Just know that you do. I even pray the Lord would have one or two of the ones you touched contact you and let you know how their lives were changed because of you.

A Blessing as I Go

I want to bless you as we finish this post.

May your light shine brightly in the darkness.

May the Lord open your eyes to see how many people you touch with your life.

May He give you insight into the little things you can do to bless those around you.

May God make you great and increase your area of influence.

May those you have blessed come back to bless you.

How to Release a Blessing

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There are many ways to bless people. You could mow a neighbor's lawn, complement a person on how they're dressed, or buy someone a meal. I'm sure they would be grateful for the kindness that you showed them and blessed that someone cared enough about them to do something special.

This type of blessing is wonderful, but I'd like to talk about another way you could be a blessing to others that includes more than what you can do or offer a person. It is blessing someone in the name of the Lord.

Blessings Don't Have to Be Formal

Many times when we think of the idea of a blessing it happens at church at the end of a service when a pastor says the benediction. Or there is a special ceremony where a person is blessed by a priest or some other religious leader.

This type of blessing is well attested in Scripture and is a valid aspect of a blessing, but I want to challenge you to be one who blesses those around you on a daily basis. It takes a change of mind and a change of vocabulary.



A Change of Mind

The change of mind comes in when we understand that we can bless people with the words that we speak. A blessing is more than a compliment. It's more than encouragement. A blessing is releasing the life and power of God in the life of the one being blessed.

There is a valid gift of exhortation that comes from the Lord. It's where a person speaks words that bring life to your soul. I love this type of person because every time you leave their presence you feel like you are the most awesome person in the world.

An exhorter will speak things that build you up and encourage you in your faith. They're like a breath of fresh air on a stagnate day. They refresh your soul and leave you feeling loved and supported.

A blessing goes beyond encouraging words to invite the presence of the Lord into a person's life. We talked about it in [Aaron's Blessing: The Anatomy of a Blessing](#) a few weeks ago. God told Aaron to invoke His name over the children of Israel.

To invoke means "to petition for help or support." God was telling Aaron to call upon His name to come alongside the children of Israel to help them and support them in certain ways. The reason a blessing is more than encouragement or something we do in ourselves is that it calls on God to help the person. We are going beyond what we can do and invite God to minister His life and bring His ability to the person.

A Change of Vocabulary

If we are going to release God's blessing upon people, we are going to have to change our vocabulary. The reason for this is that we must invoke the name of the Lord. We must use His name and ask for a certain blessing to be released.

Invoking God's name doesn't mean we're bossing God around. It's a recognition of God's desire to bless people. He wants people to experience His life.

A simple way to release a blessing on a person is to frame it using the words “May God.” So simple, yet so profound. May God. The word ‘may’ speaks of possibility and our desire to see this blessing come into the life of the one being blessed. The word “God” brings God into the picture.

A blessing also doesn't have to be long. You don't have to change the tone of your voice or be religious. It's simply a spoken word that invites God to work in a person's life. It can be as simple as three words.

I have a friend that calls me on the phone often. We talk and before he hangs up he'll often say, “God bless you.” Those three little words have begun to make an impact in my heart.

God bless you. So easy to say. So easy to be taken as a trite statement. Yet, so powerful as to touch a heart and release the blessing of the Lord in a person's life.

I want to give you four more examples of ways that we could release the blessings of the Lord on a daily basis one person at a time.



If Someone is a Blessing in Your Life? Tell Them

I like this one because it includes both encouragement and a blessing. Maybe you've been thinking about a person who has been a blessing in your life. A smile comes on your face as you think of the person. You are so grateful for who they are in your life.

Instead of just sitting there and smiling, why not grab your phone, call them up and tell them the ways they bless you? They'll never know how deeply they've touched your life unless you tell them.

If you're like me, I think a lot of good things about people in my head but rarely tell them my thoughts. I'm not sure why that is, but it is something that I want to change and have been changing over the years.

So you decide to call your friend and tell them what a blessing they are, how can you turn this opportunity into a time of blessing? Here is a possible short conversation as an example.

“Hey Bob, I just wanted to call to tell you what a blessing you are to me. I so appreciate how you always have encouraging words to say to me and make me feel like I’m special and able to do what God has called me to do.”

“Thanks, it’s no big deal.”

“It’s made a big difference in my life. May God give you more and more opportunities to bless others as you’ve blessed me.

In one short sentence, I invoked the name of God and asked him to help Bob touch others as he has touched me. Pretty easy. Very powerful.



If You Catch Someone Doing Something Right

Maybe I’m showing a flaw in my character, but it seems easier for me to correct something that is done wrong than it is to complement that which is done right. I’ve been told often that I’m always correcting people telling them how to do things better.

It’s not done maliciously. It’s done with the idea of helping, but I can see how it would get old quick. So I started thinking about how to catch people doing things right and complimenting them for it.

The other day I was at church and saw someone bend down and pick up a piece of trash. It was a small thing, but one worthy of praise.

I said, “Thanks for picking up that piece of trash. It shows that you care what our church looks like.”

I didn’t say this, but hindsight is twenty-twenty. I could have said, “May God open your eyes to more ways to make a difference.”

Quick and easy, but it encourages the one doing the good thing and opens more possibilities of increase for the future.



If You Leave Someone's Home

Every Wednesday evening we have a group that meets in our home. It's usually the same ten or twelve people with occasion guests that pop in.

There is one person who as she leaves always says something like this. "God bless this home." or "God may your blessing be on this home." She does it every time and it is a blessing to me.

Suzette and I have dedicated our home to the Lord and regularly ask for His peace and blessing to be upon our home. You can't believe how many people walk into our home for the first time and mention how peaceful it is.

The next time someone invites you over to their house, as you leave thank them for the invite and invoke God's blessing upon the house. It will do more good than you may know.

If You Sense God's Purpose on a Person's Life: Bless It

Everyone is called of God and has a purpose for their life. The hardest thing for some is to discover what God has for their life and to walk in the reality of that call.

One reason that some struggle with the call of God in their life is that the devil attacks the very area in which they've been called. He'll viciously attack that area to keep a person from entering into the fullness of God's purpose for their life.

Immediately after coming to the Lord, God began to place thoughts in my heart to be a pastor. The answer screaming in my mind was, "Who do you think you are? You're not worthy to be a pastor."

This battle raged in me for six months. I was becoming more and more distracted. The battle in my mind with the thought of being a pastor was becoming an all-consuming issue in my life.

One day I sat through a Sunday morning service and did not hear one word of the pastor's sermon. The battle was raging. I was fighting against the thought of being a pastor. I wasn't fighting God because I thought that I was the one making up the thoughts. I didn't know it was God speaking to me.

I went up to the pastor after the service to shake his hand and greet him. He looked at me and said, "Terry, I think God is calling you to be a pastor."

I burst into tears so strong that I couldn't talk. I knelt by a chair and sobbed and sobbed. I wasn't going crazy. I wasn't making it up. God wanted me to be a pastor.

My pastor didn't say a blessing over me that day, but he opened my eyes to see what the Lord was doing. A way we could do the same thing as a blessing would be to say, "Terry, I recognize the call of God in your life to be a pastor. May God open your eyes to see the fullness of His plans for you.

Within weeks of the pastor telling me God was calling me to be a pastor, God placed three verses in my mind that would not go away. I was at the church cleaning it for Sunday service. I strongly sensed three verses in my mind, but again thought I was making it up.

The verses would not go away. I didn't know the Bible very well since I was only saved six months, so I hunted down a Bible so I could see what these verses said. Here is what I read:

16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:16)

9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. (1 Corinthians 16:9)

7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. (Ephesians 3:7)

All doubts about my call vanished.



Go Ahead and Bless Someone

Your words can make a big difference in a person's life. God's blessing can release the very thing they need to move to the next level with more confidence and favor. So why not make it your goal to bless someone today?

May God bless your efforts to touch others in His name. See, I just did it to you. I just blessed you. Have a great week.

Jabez: An Example of How to Bless Yourself

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Has anyone looked at you and called you a pain? If you're like me, you've been called worse. Yet that doesn't stop the words from cutting into your heart, especially if you hear them over and over again.

After hearing the same words over and over again they begin to sink in and shape how we see ourselves. It can even shape how we act and how we expect others to act toward us.

But what if your mom named you "he will cause pain" or "he causes pain"? That is exactly what the mother of Jabez did. We can read about it in a very short story in 1 Chronicles 4:9:

9 Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother named him Jabez saying, "Because I bore him with pain."

"Thanks, mom, I am glad that you remind me every time I hear my name that I caused you pain." After all, it's not like he did it on purpose. He was a baby being born. He didn't hurt her on purpose. Yet he was to be reminded of it for the rest of his life.



When Those Who Should Bless You Don't

Parents are supposed to be a blessing to their children. They should cherish them, nurture them. Help them grow in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord. They should be there to support them, encourage them, help them navigate life, and help them to enter into the plan of God for their life.

I don't want to make a bigger deal out of this verse than I should. I have no information on how they treated Jabez after he was born. The family could have been great and very supportive. Yet I have lived enough life to know that there are many families that are very lacking in the area of blessing and encouragement.

I used to have a neighbor that cussed her kids out and told them how stupid and useless they were. The grandpa used to tell the kids that they better behave or they might cause him to have a heart attack and kill him. This is just the tip of the iceberg, but you get the idea.

We called Protective family services many times for the things we heard and saw. This family was definitely not blessing the children as they should be blessed. They were speaking death and constantly berating them on a daily basis.

No one should be treated in such a manner. No one should have to endure constant verbal abuse and put-downs. No one.

Jabez Sought God's Blessing

There are a couple of things that I like about Jabez. First, he was more honorable than his brothers. He did not let his name define who he was. He definitely chose a life that would not cause pain.

How easy it is to let the words of others define who we are. It is important to choose who we listen to. Will I listen to those who deride me or will I choose to listen to what God says? That is what Jabez did.

Second, Jabez sought out a blessing from God. This is encouraging to know that we can ask the God who created us to bless us. He knows who we are. He knows our call and purpose in life. He knows what He has for us better than anyone on the face of the earth.

10 Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. (1 Chronicles 4:10)

In seeking God Jabez asked for four things. I think these are four things we can ask for ourselves.



Bless Me

Jabez didn't mess around. He went directly to the source of all blessings. He didn't ask any human to bless him, he asked God.

A couple of posts ago, I wrote about how God spoke to Aaron and his sons and told them to speak a blessing over the children of Israel every single day of the year at the evening sacrifice. His desire to bless His children is evident in His command for this to be done.

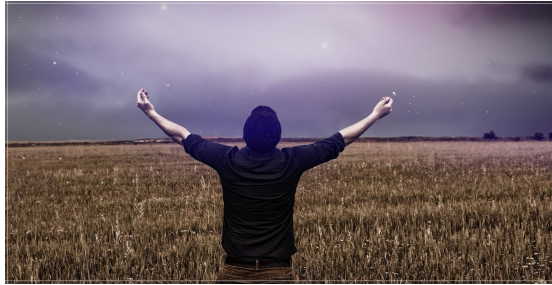
Aaron and the rest of the priests were to invoke God's name. They were to call upon God to bless the children of Israel without ceasing.

This morning I read Psalm 103 over my wife, Suzette. Here is the portion I want us to focus on.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
3 Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;

4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
5 Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

David is reminding himself to “forget none of his benefits.” God has benefits available to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have even more blessing available than David did and we can get them by calling out to the Lord and asking Him to bless us.



Enlarge my Border

A major promise of God to the Israelites was the possession of the Promised Land. The land was clearly marked out by tribe. The problem was that there were enemies in the land that needed to be cleared out.

Jabez was asking God to enlarge his borders and help him possess all of the land that was promised to him. He wanted everything that God had for him and nothing less. After all the land was his inheritance and part of the inheritance he would hand down to his children.

It is never selfish to seek to have everything that God has made available to us in Christ. It is part of our inheritance. It would be like your father dying and leaving you an inheritance, but you don't want to touch a certain portion of the inheritance so you don't look greedy.

We can see how silly that idea sounds, but then we can do the same thing by not feeling like we deserve what God has given to us. We struggle with going after all the blessings available because it will make us somehow look greedy.

A personal application of our borders is the calling in our lives. God speaks and calls us to step into the destiny He has for us. We think, “Who do I think I am putting myself in this position?” When in fact, God has called you to it.

Rise up and take your place. Ask God for every inch of the land He has promised to you. Part of that comes by stepping out in faith and believing what God has spoken.



That Your Hand Might Be With Me

I love this one. He wants God's presence and power to be with Him. He didn't want to take the land without having the presence of God going with him.

It reminds me of the time when God told Moses He would not go with the children of Israel into the Promised Land, but in His place, He would send an angel. Moses told God that if He did not go with them, he wouldn't go.

Moses knew that the presence of the Lord is the most important part of the promise. A promise apart from God is not worth pursuing.

He wanted God's presence in His life and nothing else would do. I would say that God was the focal point of Jabez' life. Maybe that is why God decided to mention him in these two verses.

That You Would Keep Me From Harm

Jabez not only wanted God to bless him and help him to expand into the full promise of God for his life, he also refused to go ahead without the presence of God and His protection. He knew that things would be tough and there would be dangers ahead. There always is when we enter into warfare to destroy the enemy in our land.

I'm not sure why God has decided to do it the way He has, but He wants us to rise up in faith and force the enemy out of the land. It reminds me of God speaking to Joshua and telling him that God had given him every place he would set his foot.

There were massive cities and many a giant to fight in the land. In Joshua chapter 1, God told Joshua to be bold and courageous a number of times. It would take faith to step out to battle against the evil forces in the land and take it. Wherever Joshua was willing to go, that is the land he would possess.

I think the same holds true for us today. As I was typing the paragraph above I thought of the command God gave to Adam. He said to go into all the world and subdue it. There are many

enemies that are standing in the way of our inheritance. The question is, will we rise up in faith and place our foot upon the land and take it for our own?

The best part of the story is that God granted what Jabez requested.

Go Ahead and Bless Yourself

If you're feeling like there is no one around that is blessing you, don't despair. Ask the Lord to bless you, because He will. Don't sit around waiting for someone to bless you. Go to the source and ask Him to do it for you.

He wants to bless you. He's proven it over and over again. Now is the time. Seize the moment. Ask God to bless you, expand your territory, to be with you, and to protect you. I think you'll be glad you did.

The Power of a Spoken Blessing

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I was a brand new believer. I didn't know much about the Lord, but what I did know I was trying to put into practice. A group of people from our church would go out every Friday and Saturday to the parks and speak to anyone who would listen and invite them to come to what we called the New Wine Cellar.

Our church building was in the process of being built and so we would meet in the basement. That is why we called our meetings the new wine cellar, we met in the basement. We would get a Christian Rock & Roll band and fit as many people in the place as we could and then play music, preach a gospel message, and see people come to Jesus.



Words Have the Power to Kill

It was somewhere near the end of 1979, and I was telling the Associate Pastor of our church all that was taking place at the New Wine Cellar. He looked at me and said, "What do you know anyway. You're just a new believer."

When he said those words, I literally felt something impact my heart. It felt like an arrow punched through my chest and entered my heart. I was devastated.

Over the next four years, every time I stood in the presence of anyone in authority I would get tongue-tied and start sweating. I was very uncomfortable because all I could think about was how they were going to tell me that what I was saying didn't matter.



Words Have the Power to Bring Life

It was through another spoken word that I was set free from the affliction of those simple words spoken over me.

I was in charge of hosting the Worship and the Word at Eugene Bible College. Our guest speaker was prophetic. During the service he looked at me and told me about the words that were spoken over me and that I was bound by them. He spoke a prophetic word, rebuked the spirit afflicting me, and spoke a blessing over me.

Wonderful. Powerful. I was free. God touched me that night and did a great work in my heart through a spoken word. He combined three different kinds of words: a prophetic word, a command, and a blessing.

The Bible is so very accurate when it says that life and death are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). I am living proof. One word held me in bondage for four years and another set me free to be who I am today.

The enemy will attack your calling and try anything he can to stop your destiny in God. God was calling me to be a pastor and the words the pastor spoke hindered me from speaking in front of anyone in any area of authority.

The power of a spoken blessing released me into what God had for my life. Prior to that I was restricted, nervous, timid, and insecure. That evil word really messed me up.

If you're like me, the pastor's words were not the only negative words I had spoken over my life. There were many more and all of them had an impact on me. They were not powerful enough to stop me, but they sure did hinder my freedom and liberty to be what God called me to be.

Just think of how many people around you have had negative words spoken over them to hinder them from stepping into the fullness of God's call in their lives. I think it's safe to say, every single person you meet.



Blessings Have the Power to Give Hope

Suzette and I were in a conference in Birmingham, AL. We went out to eat and Suzette felt she had a word of knowledge from the Lord for our waiter, Marcus. So she asked a simple question, "Do you like to sing?"

Marcus sat our waters on the table and said, "It was my passion, but I don't sing anymore."

As he walked away, Suzette said, "When you come back I want to hear why you aren't singing anymore."

He nodded as he continued walking.

When he returned he told us how he used to sing but didn't do it anymore. He just didn't have the passion for it.

Suzette asked if he knew the Lord.

He said, "Yes, Ma'am."

Suzette said, "The Lord told me that He loves your voice and he wants to hear you sing."

A huge smile crossed his face, "Really."

I said, "God loves you so much that he told my wife that He wants to hear you sing."

"Yeah, I guess you're right," he said.

Marcus came by our table several times with a huge smile on his face and asking us if there was anything we needed. As we were getting ready to leave he came up and thanked us profusely for telling him that word and that it had made his day.

It made our day too. So we released a blessing on his singing and encouraged him to sing for the Lord.

I'm not sure what Marcus did with the word, but I bet it went a long way to correcting what had stolen his passion for singing. Our words can help release a person into the destiny God has for their lives.



How About You?

I can almost guarantee that you've had words spoken over you that are hindering you from walking confidently in all that God has for your life. The enemy has used various people to speak words of death to the very purpose to which God has called you.

I want you to take a moment and think about some of the negative things that have been spoken over your life. Who said them and what did they say? How did the words affect your life? In what ways have they stopped you from freely pursuing the things you know God has called you to do?

If you want to get serious about this, you could write the words down on paper and choose to reject the things that were spoken over your life and receive encouragement and freedom from the Lord.

When you have the time grab a piece of paper and go through the following steps:

1. Ask the Lord to show you the words that were spoken over you that are hindering your purpose in Him.
2. Write down what was said and who said it.
3. Forgive those who have spoken the words over your life.
 - a. Say, "I forgive _____ for speaking words of death to me by saying _____."
4. Repent to God for believing the words.

- a. Say, "Lord I repent for believing the lie that I _____. I ask you to forgive me and cleanse me from the power of this word curse in my life.
5. Renounce the lie (meaning you are making a formal declaration that you are rejecting this lie and will not hold to it any longer).
 - a. Say, "I renounce the lie that I _____, and break it's hold over me in Jesus' name.
6. Ask God to reveal His truth about you and write down what He says. Make sure to review what the Lord has said for the next month to get it deep into your heart.
7. Now move ahead in the freedom of the Lord to fulfill His purpose for that area of your life.

The great thing about this process is you can use it every time you realize that you are believing an ungodly belief. Get used to doing this. It's a lifelong process that God will use to change you from glory to glory.

A Blessing From Me

May the Lord open your eyes to the words that were spoken over you that negatively impacted your life. May He give you the grace to repent for believing them and the conviction to renounce them once for all. May He open your eyes to see your future as He sees it. May you hear His voice and receive His words of encouragement deep in your heart. May you rise up and fulfill God's call in your life.

The Father's Blessing

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This is the final article of the Eight Steps to Experiencing His Victory series. Over the past year, we've looked at the various things God uses to bring freedom into our lives. The first step begins with your relationship with God. We must see Him as He truly is and come to Him as our savior and lover of our souls.

God is love and He is inviting us into the love relationship of the Trinity. It all begins with God and it all ends with God. This final post is called The Father's Blessing. In it, I want to speak a blessing over you as if it were coming from the mouth of the Father directly to you.

Everything I say will be from the Bible. I believe it is God's heart for each of us. May you hear God's heart toward you in the words I am about to write.



The Father's Heart Toward You

My beloved child. Yes, you. You are My beloved child and there is no one else like you on the face of the earth. You are My special creation.

May You Know How Unique and Special You Are

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are not an accident. Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. My thoughts about you are precious. They are so many that if you could count them they would be greater than the sands of the earth.

If only you knew the thoughts that I have toward you. If you could hear them you would be amazed. For My thoughts for you are for peace and not evil. I want to give you a future and hope.

My plans for you were formed before I created the heavens or the earth. My purpose for you was set before you were even born. My gifts and calling are without repentance. I have never changed your purpose.

No matter where you have been or what you have done, My call for your life remains the same. I have not changed My mind.

I am calling you into the fullness of My purpose for your life. Choose today to accept the entirety of My call. Reject the things of the past which are hindering you. Lay aside everything that doesn't look like Me. Put on everything I have freely given to you.

Listen. Can you hear it? That still, small voice deep within your heart calling you to greatness is My purpose for your life. Believe it. Receive it. Walk in it.

May You know the Love I Have for You

I have loved you with an everlasting love. There is no beginning or end to My love. My love for you has not changed one day of your life. I cannot love you any more or any less than I do at this moment.

I have proved My love for you in sending My Son, Jesus. Your sin had caused a great gulf between us that you could never cross by yourself. I did the only thing that could ever repair the breach and bring you into My arms.

Jesus took your place on the cross. He bore your sin. He bore your shame. He took all the wrath that you deserved and took it upon Himself. He became sin for you so you can be forgiven. He became a curse for you so that you could receive His blessing.

You are my beloved child. I have adopted you into My family. You are wanted. You are loved. I cherish you.

I am your Father. The moment you believed in My Son Jesus, you became My son, My daughter. You now have a new family heritage and inheritance that comes from Me. All things become new.

I take great delight in you and nothing can separate you from My love. Nothing. Neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate you from My love.

It is on the basis of this love that I release this blessing over you today.



The Father's Blessing

May you receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Me. May the eyes of your heart be opened so that you might know the hope of your calling and the riches of your inheritance in the saints.

May your mind be renewed and your life transformed as you read and hear My word. May you be changed from glory to glory into the image of Christ.

May you cast down everything that seeks to exalt itself against a true knowledge of Me. May you take every thought captive that comes into your mind by the power of My Spirit. May you destroy every stronghold of the enemy that has been formed in your life over the years.

May your mind dwell and think upon whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, and is excellent and worthy.

May you be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in your inner man so you might be rooted and grounded in My love. May you comprehend what is the breadth, and length, and height, and depth of My love for you so that you can be filled up with My fullness. May you experience in your heart My love that surpasses understanding.

May you take up the full armor that I have provided you to fight against the schemes of the enemy: My truth, the righteousness of Christ, the Gospel of peace, faith in Me, and My powerful word empowered by the Spirit.

May you be strong in Me and the power of My might. May you experience the surpassing greatness of My power that I am working in My strength and might. May you be strengthened with all power according to My glorious might.

May you be filled with a knowledge of My will with all spiritual wisdom and knowledge. May your love abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may

approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless, until the day of Christ.

May Christ dwell in your heart by faith. May you experience My peace that passes all understanding. May you walk in a manner worthy of being a child of God. May you be sincere and blameless. May you be pleasing in all aspects. May you bear fruit for every good work. May you attain steadfastness and patience proving in your life what is My good, acceptable and perfect will.