



# Will You Bless Me

*Note from Neal*



## *A Note to Parents from Neal Lozano*

As you read *Will You Bless Me?* with your children, they will learn to ask you to bless them.

The good news is, you can be confident that you have all you need to bless your children. In fact, God specifically chose you to communicate to your children the love that is in His heart for them. That is what a blessing is: something that is already in God's heart. A blessing is God's love, thoughts, and desires for your children to become all that they are meant to be. A blessing is God's gift of destiny for each and every one of us.

Listed here are some practical ideas about how to create a deliberate and special time of blessing in your family. Following these suggestions are some practical tips for overcoming particular obstacles to blessing.

*There are two types of blessing  
to speak to your child.*

The first type of blessing is a petition to God. We should all ask God to bless us. If you understand what a blessing is, you know that it is not selfish to ask to be blessed. We should all desire blessing for ourselves and others. In fact, a very special thing happens when someone else asks God to bless us, especially if that someone represents God to us. This is why it is very special for a parent to ask for a blessing for his or her child.

Moses taught the priests to pray for God's blessing for Israel:

Say to Aaron and his sons, thus you shall bless the people of Israel. You shall say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you: The LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:23-26)

All Christian parents represent God to their children. They are priests to their children and should petition God on behalf of their children.

There are many words you can use to ask God to bless your children. You could use inspired words like the blessing of Aaron above.

You could also use a traditional or poetic blessing. My grandson, Jamie, has a plaque over his bed with a prayer for blessing:

O Lord, as his days increase, bless and guide him wherever he may be, keeping him unspotted from the world. Strengthen him when he stands, comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful, raise him up if he fall, and in his heart may Thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

A blessing could be simple words like, "Lord, I think my daughter is terrific and I ask You to bless her."

It is important to realize how much God wants to bless your children. He has chosen you to be the primary person to communicate His blessing. You are not begging for something that God is reluctant to give. You are asking for something that is already in God's heart and that He longs to give. If someone or something is blessed, it is made holy for a purpose. It is set aside and belongs to God. To be blessed simply means to become who you really are as a child of Almighty God.

*The second type of blessing is speaking the thoughts of God into the heart of your child.*

Francis Bok was seven years-old when he was abducted from his South Sudanese family to be the slave of a family in the North. One day, some time before he was kidnapped, his father called him by a new name, "Muycharko," which means "Twelve Men." When Francis asked his father why he had chosen this name, Francis' father spoke about his son's character, saying that Francis was a hard worker, that he knew how to get what he wanted, and that he would never give up. "You are like twelve men," Francis' father said. "I think you will be able to do something important when you grow up." In his biography, Francis describes the moment like this: "I felt my father's words flow into my body and fill me with happiness." (Escape from Slavery, Francis Bok, St. Martin's Press, 2003.)

When Francis was sold as a slave, he was treated like an animal and made to work. Francis behaved as a typical slave before his captors, but inwardly he remembered that he was a son and somebody very special. The dream of seeing his family and the memory of his father's words kept him hoping and believing that one day he would be free.

Francis was a slave for ten years before he risked torture and death to escape. During that time, he cherished his father's words. And the words were true. By the time Francis was 23 years-old, he had told his story all over the United States, helping to expose the atrocities taking place in Sudan. He was a special guest in the White House for the signing of the Sudan Peace Act in 2002, and was personally greeted by the President.

There is great power in the words we speak. Our words can discourage our children or put courage and confidence into them. When we speak words of blessing, we are empowering our children to know who they are and who they are meant to be. Our words will help them to thrive and prosper for the rest of their lives.

Good parents desire to help their children to grow and develop. Parents teach by word and good example. They discipline out of love. But sometimes, parents act out of fear, which is unfortunate. As parents, we may wish to protect our children because we are

afraid that they will experience the kind of hurt, rejection, and disappointment that we experienced growing up. We may fear what will happen to them in the future or fear being embarrassed by our children. The practice of speaking a blessing counteracts fear. We speak blessings out of faith and trust. It is impossible to speak a blessing out of fear.

I have a friend who told me that his four year-old son was often behaving in a mean manner to his brothers. My friend chose not to focus on his son's behavior; rather, he looked into his son's heart with faith in God's plan. He started to call his son, "The King of Kindness." When his son would do something mean, he would say, "Jacob, I am so surprised because you are the King of Kindness." Whenever Jacob did something kind, his father would make a point of noticing and affirming him as the King of Kindness. Over time, Jacob changed and became more kind, just as his father had envisioned.

As you read *Will You Bless Me?* you will understand how simple it is to tell your children stories about who they are. You can express your hopes for your children and speak about the character traits you see in them.

You could also tell stories from their birth and early childhood that illustrate the character you see in them, just as Mary and Joseph told Jesus stories that helped Him to understand His divine nature and mission. When my son Philip was three years-old, he would crow like a rooster whenever he was excited. Later, we would tell him stories to encourage him to hold onto that confidence, exuberance, and joy that we knew was a part of his character. Those memories served Philip well when the circumstances in his life threatened to rob him of that confidence.

Another way to bless your children is to tell stories about their family heritage. My children loved to hear stories about my childhood, about Uncle John and Aunt Rita, and about their grandpa whom they never met. Stories about family help children to know they belong. A simple prayer imparting to them the meaning of the stories you have told is a good way to conclude these conversations.

No matter which way you choose to do it, the important thing is that the blessing needs to be spoken. Your children need to hear you say it; they need to hear you say it in front of others as a demonstration of your value for them. You can shape their future by speaking blessings. God is always present in the blessing. He wants to impart life as you speak.

Normally, the words are accompanied by a meaningful touch. Place your hands on the child in a way that affirms your love or communicates that you have God's authority to offer a blessing. You may place your hand(s) on the child's head or shoulders or hold the child's hand and look into his eyes.

Once a special blessing is spoken, it will be like a treasure planted in your child's heart. Just as Jesus opened the chest to look for his blessing in *Will You Bless Me?*, so too will your child look for and remember the blessing. Your child will know you have blessed her when she sees it in your eyes and feels your loving and meaningful touch.

## *Overcoming Hindrances to Speaking Blessing*

Many of us were never blessed by our parents. It is very hard to give something that you did not receive. It may feel unnatural to you to bless your children. You may feel a gnawing emptiness inside as you read *Will You Bless Me?* to your children. Perhaps you are even tormented by the thought: I was never blessed like that. You may even find yourself speaking those negative and critical words that were spoken to you. In the Bible, we read about blessings and curses. The negative words spoken to us are like curses that we, in fact, may pass on to our children. My wife and I travel the world giving "Unbound Freedom Conferences." Our ministry is to help remove obstacles that prevent individuals from receiving healing and blessing. You may be interested in reading *UNBOUND*, the book I wrote on this subject.

God is a good Father. He wanted your parents to communicate His love and His blessing to you. Because of sin, your parents failed to impart this blessing. God sent His Son to show us the way to the Father. He became the Way by dying on the cross for our sins. Through Jesus, we can forgive those who have hurt us and failed us. We can sort through all the evil done to us and the evil we have done. We can exchange it all. We can give Jesus our sin, our failure, and our shame. In return, He gives us His life, the life of the Son of God, so we can know the Heart of the Father.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us: "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

When we know the Heart of the Father through the Son, we are set free. When we take hold of our freedom, it is not just for us, it is for the generations that follow us. It is true that we need to receive the blessing of God so we can pass it on. But it is also true that as we give what little we have, we receive more.

It is my hope that the process of blessing your child will bring you a deeper awareness of God's love for you.

Perhaps that process can begin now as you whisper:

Heavenly Father, it is hard for me to trust that You have good things for me, that I will be able to bless my children freely. I do forgive my parents for all their failures to love me the way you wanted me to be loved. I forgive ... anyone else who misrepresented God to you ... Thank you. Thank you for sending Your Son to suffer for my sin and for making a way for me to know You. Thank You for choosing me to belong to Your family through Jesus. Amen.



# UNBOUND

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