

THE BLESSING

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CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS A BLESSING

We talk a lot about the word ‘blessing’ or ‘to bless’, but I sincerely doubt whether many of us that use the word really know what it means.

A blessing is a spiritual substance; it is not just a prayer or a wish that someone sends in your direction. It is a spiritual substance that confers upon the person that has it the ability to succeed.

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply..."

Gen 1:22

A blessing is that which confers upon you the power of fruitfulness and productivity. A person in a state of blessedness has been empowered to succeed; he is not a struggler; things just by themselves fall into place for such a one without the struggles of a common man.

It is vital you understand this, that a blessed man or woman cannot fail; he may have trying times and seasons of learning, but he or she cannot ever fail. The emphasis with the Lord has always been that people will be blessed. What the Lord wishes to give to people is the thing called ‘the blessing.’

It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich...

Prov 10:22

Note that it did not say ‘the blessings’. The reason is because it is just one thing. Blessings are physical manifestations that a man may have; but ‘the blessing’ is a spiritual tangibility that manifests in the realm of the physical as blessings.

For lack of understanding, men run helter-skelter daily looking for material substances. They are looking for riches, but the Lord is saying that what they really need is that thing that only He can give and which is called ‘*the blessing*’. When you have it, it will make you rich by itself.

Struggles cannot make a man rich; neither can wise planning or rich thinking.

...the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability...

Eccl 9:11

What makes a man or woman rich is the blessing. This thing is a spiritual substance that the Lord places in a man that makes every thing He touches, figuratively speaking, turn to gold.

Blessedness is a state you exist in, not just a chance occurrence in your life. A man that is blessed is blessed; for him there is nothing like “opportunity comes but once”. What happened once

The Blessing

can and will happen again and again.

For this reason, a blessed person is not an opportunist; he is not concerned that “this might just be my chance”. The blessedness inside him continually causes things to turn around in his favour.

Remember the case of Abraham.

Abraham was a man blessed of God; he had the blessing. The blessing on him was recognized by Melchisedec who was the priest of God Most High.

*“Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth.”*

Gen 14:19

The Lord had promised Abraham this blessing, and here we see the priest of God restating the fact. This was after the battle with the kings who had earlier defeated the king of Sodom and taken Lot, Abraham's nephew, captive.

Abraham was so sure of this blessing that though he had a right to all the goods that were with him after conquering the kings, yet he refused to keep them, choosing rather to give them back to the king of Sodom. He knew that this blessing will soon produce an abundance of wealth for him and he didn't want anyone mistaking the source of the wealth.

Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, "I have made Abram rich."

Gen 14:22-23

He was not seeing it as an opportunity; “opportunity comes but once” is not the gospel of the blessed. He recognized that the blessing that he had would most certainly produce for him the riches needed at the appropriate time.

My emphasis to you is that you recognize that if that blessing is in you, it will cause you to be productive anywhere you might be. It is not important whether you are in Africa, America or Asia. The Bible says the same God is rich unto all and there is no difference.

...for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

Rom 10:12

If you have the blessing of God, you have no need to go anywhere because you think there are greener pastures there; the blessing of God in you will cause a barren ground to blossom for your sake. The Lord has promised again and again that he will do this.

The Blessing

"The beasts of the field will glorify Me; The jackals and the ostriches;

*Because I have given waters in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert,*

To give drink to My chosen people.

"The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise."

Isa 43:20-21

What you see a lot is that children of God who are supposed to be blessed people give no cognizance to the blessing of God, but they run to what appears to them as green places, forsaking many times the covenant of their God in the process. They thereby expose themselves to the evil one.

The Lord is not afraid of the dry land; His plan is that He will cause waters and rivers to be in those dry places when you are there so as to give you enough to drink.

Let us take a note from the life of Jacob.

He recognized that there was a blessing tied to the covenant that his father had with the Lord. He wanted it very much. We are all aware of the method by which he obtained it, by getting his brother to sell him the birthright at a critical point of need. Most of us don't like that; however, the relevant thing here is that he obtained it. He was ready to do virtually anything and to forsake everything to make sure he got this thing.

Now it is instructive to note that as far as material possessions go, Jacob ran away from home, and away from his father made most of his fortune. Esau was the one that was home and must have gotten most of the physical inheritance from their father Isaac.

But there is this blessedness that was in Jacob, when it manifested, it made him rich no matter where he was and how much Laban, who he was living with and working for, tried to ensure otherwise.

*These twenty years I have been in your house;
I served you fourteen years for your two
daughters and six years for your flock, and you
changed my wages ten times.*

*If the God of my father, the God of Abraham,
and the fear of Isaac, had not been for me,
surely now you would have sent me away
empty-handed.*

Gen 31:41-42

The blessing of God was his protection against all the wiles of Laban. This blessing of God in Jacob even affected the prosperity of Laban himself.

*But Laban said to him, "If now it pleases you,
stay with me; I have divined that the LORD has
blessed me on your account."*

Gen 30:27

Imagine that a blessed man like this is looking

The Blessing

for where blessings are happening instead of recognizing that he is a blessing to someone and some place because of the blessedness in him.

So we see that what Jacob got most significantly from Isaac was the blessedness that went with the covenant with the Lord. Once he got that, all other things were added unto him.

He could not want for prosperity; he could not want for an everlasting posterity. It was his protection everywhere he went. It produced wealth for him; it produced children and grandchildren for him. Even his descendants would partake of this blessing. His environment would catch its own part of it. If it was a dry land, it had to become a well watered garden. The issue was just to get the blessing.

*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;
May peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you;*

Gen 27:28-29

That was Isaac, describing what this blessing would do for Jacob.

I mentioned earlier that this blessing is a force; it is a spiritual substance that causes things to be. It is a defence; it is an energizer of productivity. It is

not just a wish which one should try to bring to pass; it is a living force in itself.

It causes one to prosper where others are failing. It was that blessing in the life of Isaac that made him prosper where others were failing by reason of environmental issues and were obtaining visas to go to more prosperous places.

The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you...

Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy;

for he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great household...

Gen 26:2-3,12-14

This blessing makes nonsense of the predictions of doctors.

If a doctor says your condition indicates an early death or that you cannot bear children, the blessing stretches its hands to the scripture that says,

The Blessing

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 8:11

It takes over your flesh and causes life to be. It causes you to live long and bear a quiver full of children

This blessing follows you in and out; it is with you everywhere.

Blessed shall thou be in the city, and in the fields...

So we see that this blessing is all a man would need and nothing else. If he has it, he has everything. It follows therefore that it should be the very desire of your heart and the sole object of your strivings.

CHAPTER 2

HOW COMES THE BLESSING

It will be good for us to see how it is that we can get this blessing of which we speak.

You see, the things of God are obtainable, and His blessing is one thing that is really obtainable.

The Person of Jesus

There is something about the person of the Lord Jesus that makes Him stand out from everyone else that has ever walked the surface of this earth. He is not just superior to all the founders and masters of all other world religions but He is indeed completely different from them; they are not at all of the same type. He did not come to establish a religion but He came to bring the blessing of God unto this earth.

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12

When Jesus said "I am the Light of the world", what He was saying is that all the good that the

The Blessing

world needs will come to it by Him. To be the light of the world means that the blessing meant for the world will come through Him.

Jesus came as an embodiment of God's blessing. You see, as a result of sin, the whole world came under the power of death.

Now, death does not just mean to pass away in an endless sleep; rather it is a spiritual force that corrupts the operation of what the Lord has made.

Death causes the earth to become unfruitful; it causes the body to become subject to disease. It spoils the home and wrecks the joy of the human race.

For this cause the compassion of the Lord dictated that He produce for man a deliverance.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Jesus is the answer of the Lord God for the suffering of all mankind; He is not just a deliverer, He is the deliverance. He is not just a teacher of the ways of God, He is the way. To be told to accept Jesus is not so that you can be religious. No! It is so that you can experience the deliverance of the Lord from bondage.

The blessing of which we speak is in Jesus. I said something once that surprised some folks

before I explained further. It is that the plan of God is not to make the whole of the human race Christians; His aim is to bring them out of death into a living existence in which they fulfil the purposes of God for their lives and experience the joy of living, not just in this life but also in that which is to come. It is just that the only way by which this can be truly achieved is through faith in Jesus and His propitiatory sacrifice.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 14:6

The Lord God referred to Jesus as a blessing when he prophesied concerning His coming to Abraham.

... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Gen 12:3

So you see that the first thing to do in receiving the blessing is to receive Him who is indeed a personification of that blessing.

In Him was life

I mentioned above that the Lord came so as to deliver mankind from the dominion of death. The

The Blessing

truth is that death exists only in the instance of the absence of life. What Jesus came to give was that life.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:4

For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.

John 5:26

The blessing is a form of spiritual life; it is like blood flowing through your spiritual veins, carrying nutrients and healing to everything that concerns you. Anywhere you see the word life, or eternal life, spoken of in the Bible, it is this same blessing that is being spoken of.

...I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse...

Deut 30:19

So you see that the blessing is life.

Life is a spiritual force that upholds everything that the Lord has created; it is like an extension of the Spirit of God that maintains all that He made. This life affects the environment around the one that has it. It affects the very earth upon which you

stand. It is the solution to all sicknesses and failures; the solution to all natural disasters, to all pestilences and to all failure of the fields.

Something to note

Once you have accepted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and saviour, that blessing is immediately dropped into you. Now, I do not say this just to sound like a preacher; I am saying it because it is the truth.

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.

Eph 1:3

...in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:14

In Christ Jesus, the blessing of God is placed inside the believer. If you are a child of God, a believer in Christ Jesus, then you already have the blessing in you even though you may not know it. All we will be examining now may not amount to

The Blessing

anything more than ways by which we can release the blessing. I do not believe there is a blessing possible that is not already provided in the believers' package.

CHAPTER 3

THE BLESSING IN YOU

Do you really value it?

You see, the value you attach to a thing determines the amount of zeal with which you pursue it. It is true what David Oyedepo said “that your sense of value determines the flow of virtue to you”. Mike Murdoch said that “what you don’t respect, you don’t attract”.

The things of God are only released to those who value them. In one of the parables of Jesus in Matthew 13, He described a merchant who saw a pearl of great price and sold all he had to obtain it. Please note that he bought that thing from somebody; maybe the fellow who sold it did not understand the worth, so he was ready to sell.

What I’m saying is that if you do not value this blessing enough to be ready to sell all that you have to get it, you probably will never get it. This was the difference between Jacob and Esau. Esau did not understand the value of the covenant that his father had with the Lord. He thought he did not need what blessing it was that the birth-right would confer on him. He was man enough on his own; his own hands would bring him prosperity and security. He

The Blessing

was self sufficient.

Jacob, on the other hand, saw the blessing in the birth-right; he realized that this was the end to all struggles. He knew that his own hands could not bring him the good he wanted in life. For this reason, Jacob was ready to die to get this blessing, if it would require that. That was the passion with which he pursued it, so that when the opportunity came, he grabbed it.

In the natural, Jacob may have appeared cunning, but the real spiritual reason why he got the blessing out of the hands of Esau was because of his passionate love for it; a thing that Esau despised.

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Gen 25:34

It is interesting to note that his lack of regard for the things and the blessing of God is called immorality and godlessness.

...that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

Heb 12:16

It is also good to note that this same portion of scripture called this birth-right that he missed ‘the

blessing'.

*For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit **the blessing**, he was rejected...*

Heb 12:17

My friend, if you are going to experience the blessing of God manifested in your life, you must place a great value on it. You must want it dearly, thirsting for it with the whole of your being.

The reason why many do not long after this blessing is because of their trust in what they have. "Why do I need to get this blessing to make me rich when my father is already rich and I stand to inherit all his property when he dies?" You may not use those words, but it is manifested in your actions. You trust more in human connections than in prayers; you trust more in a rich job to make you rich than in locating the place that the Lord has planted you.

A person who does not value this blessing does not give attention to it, to nurture it with the word of God. He is busy planning, looking for human connection, trying to marry a rich person and compromising the values of the gospel he or she has been taught, just to get rich. He believes that he is disadvantaged just because he does not have the 'right' parents or he does not have the right degree. He thinks that the colour of his skin is a disadvantage; he is persuaded that he cannot

The Blessing

breakthrough as long as he is in a place that does not look like it is blossoming. He does not understand the value of this blessing.

Let us see again the case of Abraham in his encounter with the king of Sodom. He understood the value of the blessing of God and lived a life full of the expectation of the release of that blessing. This was why he could refuse what looked like an opportunity.

A small caution

There is something we need to know about the riches that you get in life as a believer that do not come as a product of this blessing.

You see, the way you get a result is the way you will have to sustain it. The riches you gained by the flesh will have to be sustained by the workings of the flesh. You will have to continue with the sleeplessness that brought it to you; you will have to continue with the bribery and the begging that started it. Eventually all this will crystallize into your flesh in the form of hypertension, diabetes, depression, marital problems and other forms of troubles. These are the things that the Bible called sorrow.

*It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich,
And He adds no sorrow to it.*

However, if it came as a result of the expression of the blessing of God, then the sorrows are not a part of it. It is born by the will and Spirit of God, and by the same means it will be sustained. It will continue to grow and multiply because it has within it the life of God.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world...

1 John 5:4

Whatever is born of God! If your riches came out of the blessing of God, it will continue to triumph and to grow; it will endure for generations after you. This is why you need to be careful to ensure that it is the blessing of God that is making you rich.

Anything produced from the struggles of the flesh will not stand testing.

...All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it...

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

Isa 40:6-8

The Bible says it is like the flower of the field; when the Spirit of the Lord blows in the testing of

The Blessing

trials and adversity, it will wither. That is all that a man can produce by his own qualifications outside the blessing of God.

As a child of God, be careful! Be sure that you are being blessed by God and not by the whims of your flesh. Be careful so that you will not be disappointed when it might to be too late to recover. All the crooked dealings that are putting plenty of money in your pocket are only setting you up for failure later; you will lie down in sorrow.

Who is among you that fears the LORD...

Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Behold, all you who kindle a fire...

Walk in the light of your fire

And among the brands you have set ablaze.

This you will have from My hand:

You will lie down in torment.

Isa 50:10-11

Those He loves

The Lord pours His blessing on those who know they need Him and live like they do. He has no time for the Esau type of people who feel they are okay and are able to succeed by themselves. I met

a man once who was doing fairly well in his medical practice and business; while discussing with his friend he remarked that “I don’t believe in God, I only believe in myself.” I felt sorry for him especially because he said it in my hearing and the Lord will have to blow on him if only to make a point to me His child.

The Lord never has need for any such person.

The people He wants are those who will say like Jacob that *“I will not leave you until you bless me”*.

You need to deliberately forsake your apparent advantages and tell Him that without Him, you are nothing. My friend, as a believer you have to come to that point, either willingly now or inevitably eventually. The Lord’s name will most certainly be glorified.

Paul said it this way:

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection...

Phil 3:7-10

This is why faith in God appears to be easier

The Blessing

for those that do not have much to trust in the flesh; they do not have rich parents, neither do they have good welfare coverage to depend on. Those earthly advantages are often a hindrance to faith; they hinder one's dependence on the blessing of God. This is why ministers have noticed that they see greater miracles when they go to undeveloped nations and to unenlightened people.

The Lord Jesus at a time explained the difficulty in a man having earthly riches entering the kingdom of God. He also taught the disciples that though it is the Father's good pleasure to give them the kingdom, the prerequisite was the forsaking of all earthly advantages.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

"Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Luke 12:32-34

If you place value on this blessing, you will be willing to sell all that you have to get it because you understand it is the most precious thing that a person can ever hope to possess.

Please let me explain something that is expressed in the above quoted passage of scripture:

When the Bible says that something is reserved in heaven for you, it does not at all infer that you will get it only when you die. Heaven is a store just like a bank is a store; the contents can be collected for use when the need arises. To have treasure in heaven means to have a spiritual back up of supply for the time of need.

It is also important that we understand that treasure stored in heaven are real and they control the movement of physical resources.

...it is Heaven that rules

Dan 4:26

The distribution of wealth on the earth is not an accident; it is controlled by what happens in the heavens. When the Lord says you will have treasure in heaven, all He's saying is that your treasure will be stored where there can be no bank failure or collapse of the stock market. He is not saying that you will suffer in this world and then enjoy in heaven after you have died. Please get it straight.

CHAPTER 4

MORE BLESSINGS.

Apart from the main blessing that we called the blessing, there are other blessings in life that we are affected by in our lives. These ones are inferior to the blessing but they are still important in our day to day lives. They are mainly blessings that come to us as a result of our actions; they would settle comfortably upon the presence of the main one, which we called the blessing.

Whether it is the main blessing or other kinds of blessings, the implication of a blessing is still the same; it is an empowerment to succeed and to prosper.

The impartation of blessings- The power of words

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

*"Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, "Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. **You shall say to them:***

The LORD bless you, and keep you;

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

The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

"So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."

Num 6:22-27

Here, the Lord was teaching Moses the method by which blessings would be passed on to the people of Israel. Notice that the way the Lord commanded the blessing be passed was simply by what is said. It was not by the laying on of hands or by anointing with oil; it was by the use of words.

Words are very powerful! They are literally alive and they shape the events of life around us and the events of the future. You will notice from the scriptures that the patriarchs always gave their blessings to their descendants using words.

The problem is that in this our generation, words have been so trivialised that we do not realize that indeed they have very powerful effects.

Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

Behold how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

James 3:4-5

The Blessing

When the above portion of the scriptures says that the tongue boasts of great things, the boast is not an empty one; what is inferred is that the tongue has a great record of accomplishments. This is because of the power of words.

The point I am getting at is that there is a great deal that will come to you as words of blessing are being sowed in your life.

CHAPTER 5

“GOD BLESS YOU”

Parents

Those in authority over you have a great power over your life and the words that they speak over you have very significant effects. I do not mean your boss at work but those that have spiritual authority over you. Most prominent among these are your parents, most importantly your father; if you are a married woman, then your husband.

There is spiritual hierarchy in life and the Lord respects this. The blessings of a father can only be surpassed in a person's life by that of the Lord Himself. This has nothing to do with whether your father is a believer or not. You determine by your attitude whether you will be blessed by him or not.

A young man narrated an event to his friend. He had been meditating on why it seemed that he was the only one among his siblings that life was going relatively well for. His siblings seemed not to just be able to get their acts together in life. Thinking about it, he remembered once when he and his brothers and sisters ganged up against their parents and had a heated disagreement over an issue. It must have been a serious event because he

The Blessing

recollected that after the whole thing was over he was deeply troubled in his heart about the challenge and disrespect that he had showed his parents. So he went to where they were sitting and prostrated full length on the floor in repentance and apology. He said that when he was through, his father pointed at him and said “You, it will be well with you.”

Believe me, the difference in his life is most probably a result of that blessing. The word from his father is a word of blessing, a word of empowerment to succeed.

The story above illustrates to me that life is more than meets the eye. We are very quick to blame many other factors for a person’s success or failure in life; the truth is that some people have a word of blessing acting as a defence and a guide to success in their lives while others have a curse following them about. This is why many will never see good; they can labour all they want, but there is this factor of blessedness that needs to be remembered.

A man that is cursed will labour and use all the success principles in life but will always seem to miss it at the last moment. This is like what was happening to the children of Israel at a time when the Lord withheld blessing from them.

...he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.

Listen to me, it is by your attitude and actions that you will cause your father or mother to pronounce a blessing on you. If you honour your father and your mother as the Bible has pronounced, then you will trigger the release of blessings on yourself from their mouth.

The reason many do not honour their fathers is because they feel like the man does not deserve it; they feel that the fact that he did some things or did not do others to them or their mother is good enough an excuse to disregard him. Unfortunately, when the Lord gave the commandment to "*Honour your father and mother that it may be well with you...*" He did not qualify it with statements like "if he had been good to you." For this reason, you will have no excuse before God for not doing what is right.

How do you honour your father or mother?

While you are still under their authority, obey them.

When you have a home of your own, seek after their welfare; give to them, pray for them and show them that you really care with all your heart.

My prayer for you is that your father and your mother will really bless you from the bottom of their hearts and say to you "It shall be well with you."

Let us make a note of the issue with women.

If you are a woman, the greatest blessing you can receive after you have gotten married is from

The Blessing

your husband. All the blessings of your parents as you leave their home and that of the officiating minister at your wedding are inferior to that of your husband.

I realized this when I examined the life of Rebecca; I noticed that she was blessed greatly by her people before she left them for her husband. However, for the next twenty years she did not bear a child. Then one day, the Bible says that...

Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Gen 25:21

The word to the Lord from the husband was more powerful than every other one.

Notice that after the Lord made the Woman in the garden in the beginning, He brought her to Adam to see what he would call her. The power to bless her was thus placed upon Adam; she would become whatever he would call her. Many men have called their wives all kinds of things and they have been having what they have been saying.

For this cause, when I got married, in the evening after the whole ceremony was over, I took time to bless my wife properly and to pronounce upon her all that she might ever wish for and that I might ever want in her. I still do it regularly; I bless her day; I bless her womb; I entreat the Lord for her

sake. In fact, if I don't do it for some time, she calls my attention to it.

To the young men I say, be careful what you call women because that is just the kind of wife you will get. I have seen people who call all women untrustworthy; they should get ready for it in their homes.

To the women I say this, if you want the blessing of your husband to come upon you, then love and respect him as the Lord has commanded. You can invoke the blessing of his words by your attitude to him. These things are real.

Give to these.

Another group of people that can pronounce a blessing on you and it will stick are those who you give to, especially those who are in need.

Job was a man who the Lord himself commended his life; he was a blessed man. At a point he was enumerating all the greatness he had and there was a lot to say; this is recorded in Job 29: 1-11. At the end of this he explained how it came to be.

Because I delivered the poor who cried for help,

And the orphan who had no helper.

The Blessing

*The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me,
And I made the widow's heart sing for joy.*

Job 29:12-13

When you help someone in need or in distress and he or she blesses you, those words are very powerful.

You see, a lot of believers think that the giving that counts is the one given to ‘the work of God.’ Sorry, the bible teaches differently; giving to the so-called work of God is good, but so also is giving to the needy. Some preachers have even preached that the poor is lower than you and since the Bible says that the lower is blessed of the greater, it follows that the poor can’t bless you. This, I beg to say, is arrant nonsense. When you give to the poor, you are giving to the Lord and He sure can bless you.

One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD,

And He will repay him for his good deed.

Prov 19:17

If you want to see how God repays those who lend Him stuff, go see Peter’s payback in Luke chapter 5 when he lent the Lord his boat. He got more than many days catch in one swoop.

*He who is generous will be blessed,
For he gives some of his food to the poor.*

Prov 22:9

Having said all these, let me take a short time at this point to explain that our actions by themselves invoke blessings or curses on us. In fact, it seems to me that the words of a man only affirm those blessings or curses. We can see this from the life of the sons of Eli.

*For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons **brought a curse on themselves...***

1 Sam 3:13

We see here that the sons of Eli brought a curse upon themselves by their actions as they profaned the sacrifice of God.

I believe it is good that as you go about everyday, that you get a lot of blessing in your life from the mouth of many people; it will come to you as you do good to people. Help those in need; help a lost person find his way; give to a minister of God. When you do these things, do them without expecting gratification; in fact, you should refuse it when given to you so that your reward will be great before your Father who is in heaven.

The little God-bless-you's you get here and there will amount to a great thing in your life. It will

The Blessing

deliver you in time of trouble; it will give you favour before men.

Bless yourself

The words you speak over your life are just as important as the words spoken by others, if not more important. The children of Israel talked themselves out of entering into the Promised Land; they prophesied failure upon themselves.

"Then the LORD heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying,

"Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers."

Deut 1:34-35

It was by the things that they said that they closed the way of blessing unto themselves. Joshua and Caleb did not talk like the rest of the people but spoke words that were in agreement with the will of God for their lives, the Lord also heard and promised them an inheritance in that land.

For this cause you have to watch the things that you say concerning yourself. You shall indeed have what you say!

Speak the words of blessing upon yourself daily. Speak that which is in agreement with God's

word.

“I am above and not beneath.

“I am a giver and not a beggar.

“I am well from the top of my head to the soles of my feet.

“I am rich and not poor. Blessings follow me and overtake me.

“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will not fear any evil for the Lord is with me.

“I shall live and not die and will see the goodness of the Lord.

“The diseases that kill multitudes will not even come near me.

“Everything I touch is blessed; I am a blessing to my generation.”

Words like these are better words to speak than words of complaining about the wrong things in life. They impart blessings into your surroundings.

CHAPTER 6

THE RELEASE

Having said all we have so far, I believe the importance of blessings should have become clear to everyone reading this book; both of ‘the blessing’ and other blessings. We have seen that it is not our obeying the principles of success that is important in our ability to succeed in life. Blessings are the foundation for growing rich. All the books you have read on success and all the principles of growing rich you are practicing will amount to nothing if you are not a blessed person.

Why do you spend money for what is not bread,

And your wages for what does not satisfy?

Isa 55:2

For this reason you will agree with me that a sane person who knows this will first seek to get that blessing before anything else. This should be your first craving in life, and the first object of all your labour. Once you get it, all other things shall be added unto you.

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest...

Heb 4:10-11 KJV

Friends, our pursuit must be to enter into this rest where we are truly blessed.

Labour to enter

Mike Murdoch made a statement that the proof of desire is pursuit. That means that there are things that you will do that will show the amount of value and desire you have for a thing. John the Baptist told the people to bear fruit that is in keeping with repentance.

The foremost thing that you need is to ensure that your life has been handed over to the Lordship of Christ Jesus; remember that we explained that the real blessing is that life that is present only in Him. Please, if you are reading this and you have not given your life to Christ, do not bother to read any further until you have done that. That is the first and greatest thing to do if you want this blessing.

If you really desire the manifestation of this blessing as a child of God, there are things you must be careful to do. They are the manifestations of your desire.

The Blessing

But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it."

Luke 11:28

Obedience

The major thing one needs to do to tap into the blessing is to completely obey the word of God without reservation. The blessing of God is consequent upon obedience to His word. This was the message of God 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;
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;
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 shall be blessed."*

Gen 12:1-3

No matter how much the Lord desired to bless Abram, nothing could happen until Abram completely obeyed the simple instruction given him.

Let me digress a bit to get some point in.

You see, people love to pray and they believe a lot in the power of prayer, believing that the blessing of God is so obtained. Prayer is good and does get the blessings of God a lot of times, but the truth is that it is futile if it does not follow a habitual obedience to the word of God, or at least a dedication to same subsequently.

People want to live the way they want and then pray the blessing of God down. It reminds me of a university student caught cheating in an examination, she lamented that "... and I prayed this morning that I will not be caught."

God is God, not a blessing machine. If you examine the 23rd Psalm, you will notice that the 'I shall not want' is consequent upon 'the Lord is my shepherd'. Friends, the way the blessing of God comes is by keeping an obedient attitude to the word of God as revealed in the scriptures and in some added cases, as revealed specially to you.

*How blessed is the man who does not walk in
the counsel of the wicked,*

Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

The Blessing

And in His law he meditates day and night.

Ps 1:1-2

You need to know that the Lord judges you by the attitude of your heart to His word, and not by the fervency of your prayers.

*"But to this one I will look,
To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and
who trembles at My word.*

Isa 66:2

Please do not forget:

*"...blessed are those who hear the word of God
and observe it"*

Faith

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD
And whose trust is the LORD.
For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the heat comes; But its
leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit.*

Like we mentioned sometime earlier, it is vital to note that a major requirement for the release of the effects of this blessing is a personal attachment to it. You must know and live like you do, that there is no other good you may have in life apart from the one that will come as a result of the blessing. This is what Abram demonstrated when he rejected the goods that had belonged to the king of Sodom; he was absolutely confident of the coming of the manifestation of the blessing and this knowledge removed covetousness from his eyes.

The one who will experience the blessing must know that it will certainly come. The Lord has promised and He will not fail.

Now, this is the main problem with a lot of believers; we often find it hard to wait for the Lord. The Lord's blessing tends to appear slow in its manifestation; it is usually quicker to do your own thing following the way of the world than to wait for the time the Lord will come.

The thing about the Lord is that though He takes time, He doesn't waste it. He takes the time and uses it to build strength and character into you so that the riches and power and honour He will send will not bring you to destruction. This is the main difference between the riches the Lord brings and the one the devil orchestrates.

The devil will make you rich quick if you strike a deal with him but this will come with an unusual amount of sorrow and a propensity for an early grave. The Lord, on the other hand, will only give

The Blessing

you a promise; that promise will guide you in your planning and actions for life; it will be a restraint and an impulse for your soul; it will be your star to lead you until you get to the birthplace of the king.

Now all this will take time, that is before you arrive there. The time is used to teach you how you will live in your land of prosperity. In that period the Lord will by many means build the strength of character that is needed to stand prosperity into you. Your staying with the Lord through this period of schooling you is what is called patience.

I define patience as faith projected over time. Faith, of course, is your confidence that the promise will eventually come to pass.

...that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Heb 6:12

It is faith together with this patience that will see the promise manifested.

So we see that the Lord does come on time, at the appropriate time, at the time that He decides that we are ready, but not at the time that we may expect.

There is an appointed time for everything...

He has made everything appropriate in its time...

Beloved, let me emphasise to you that the Lord cannot ever fail to come through; He is worth waiting for; He will not fail.



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