

Introduction:

- *“Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel with this special blessing: ‘May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.’ Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, I myself will bless them.”* (Numbers 6:23-27, NLT) This prayer was primarily a prayer for the Lord’s presence, grace, and keeping power.
- The word bless is word that is thrown around loosely in Christian circles of conversation.
 - “That just blessed me!”
 - “It will be a blessing to them.”
 - We have used the word in meaning of being generous to someone, or in praise of someone or a feeling of joy that we associate our definition to what God does in blessing...He is generous to us or praise us.

I. What Does Blessing Mean to God?

- A. First usage: Gen 12:2-3: *“I will make you into a great nation. **I will bless you** and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”* (NLT)
- B. “To bless in the OT means “to endue with power for success, prosperity, fruitfulness, longevity, etc.” Oswalt, J. N. (1999). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 132). Chicago: Moody Press.
 1. God blessed the living things. God blessed Adam and Eve. God blessed the 7th day.
 2. So the blessing really began in the Garden of Eden. All that God created was for Adam and Eve. Every thing He made was good! And then God created man in His image and set in the middle of everything that was good! That was a blessing! And to top it off Adam could not get any closer to God than in that atmosphere/there in the garden with God.
 3. When Adam sinned, he and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden. They were driven out of the BLESSING of God!
 4. So what does God do? He immediately goes to working His plan in order to get man back into His blessing. God is working to restore the Blessing to mankind!
 5. God immediately went to work to restoring man with power for success, prosperity, longevity, and fruitfulness.
- C. Genesis 9:1 God blessed Noah and his sons...with what? Be fruitful and multiply!
 1. Ham and Japheth went the way of Adam...into sin. Babylonian system.
 2. Shem followed the blessing. Abraham came from Shem, Christ from Abraham, and we were grafted in! Ro 11:17
- D. To Bless in the NT is to step into the Blessing of Abraham.
 1. *“The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said,*

"All nations will be blessed through you." So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith." (Galatians 3:7-9, NLT)

2. *"But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith."* (Galatians 3:13-14, NLT)
- E. What does blessing mean to God? It means to be connected with Him in fellowship so that we are connected to the One who has the ability to endue us with power for success, prosperity, longevity, and fruitfulness.
1. You only get the blessing if you are connected with God!
 2. To not be connected to God puts your life, family, and nation under a curse.
 3. The blessing was how God redeemed us from the curse.
 4. His presence confers blessing (II Sam 6:11-20), and it is only in his name that others can confer blessing (Deut 10:8, etc.). Indeed, God's name, the manifestation of his personal, redemptive, covenant-keeping nature, is at the heart of all blessing. The Blessing and the Anointing seem very similar.

II. What Does The Blessing Do?

- A. It makes you fruitful, prosperous, successful and live long.
1. Look at Job: *"You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is!"* (Job 1:10, NLT)
 2. *"The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it."* (Proverbs 10:22, NLT) Rich with no sorrow... no toil is the translation.
- B. Do it mean we are free from trouble? No absolutely not because we live in a fallen world.
1. Abraham had trouble. Lot his nephew seem to always be in trouble. He wanted a son all his life but had none...until he was very old.
 2. Noah, built an ark before there was rain. He built and ark while people mocked him.
 3. David - killed lions, bears, Goliath. He had his encampment destroyer and wives and children taken. He fought many wars with surrounding nations.
 4. The history of Israel is full of war, famine, and temporary set backs.
- C. In light of this we are to stay connected with God and win a testimony.
1. In the process we grow stronger in trust, increase in faith, and prosper along the way.
 2. What we discover is that God is our source. We do what we know to do and God, our source makes provision.

III. How Do I Get This Blessing?

- A. Gal 3:14 The blessing of Abraham comes through faith. Two words: through faith.
1. Through faith you are born again and become the seed of Abraham.
 2. Through faith we become legal heirs of the Blessing

3. Through faith we release its operation in our lives.
 4. It is the will of God for us to live in the Blessing, and because faith is what connects us to it, we can't please Him without it. You cannot work your way into the blessing....only believe.
- B. The Bible has lots to say about faith! In fact...Heb 11:3 says that the worlds were framed by the Word of God.
1. Faith comes by hearing the message. Ro 10:17 Hear it, trust it, receive it believe it speak it.
 2. *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." (Joshua 1:7-8, NLT)*
 3. The Word lets us know what to believe Him for.
- C. The blessing comes through faith. And faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

Conclusion:

- God wants us to live in the Blessing.
- Think of how far He went to provide a way for us into the Blessing.
- Jesus birth, cross and resurrection.