

Introduction:

- Thank you to FCC for a special Bday.
- *"By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones." (Hebrews 11:20-22, ESV)*
- I want to release you in a supernatural power that I am sure many of you do not know you have.
- Most of us are very familiar with curses and generational curse. For example: A history of heart disease, allergies, weight gain, alcoholism, drug addiction. My family always seems to get the short end of the stick, we are always going from crisis to crisis. Divorce, Immorality, failure, and the list goes on. When you go to the doctor, they want to know your families medical history.
- Many believers do not realize they can be intentional with blessing their children, grandchildren and the generations.
 - Isaac blessed Jacob.
 - Jacob blessed his sons.
 - Joseph spoke blessings of hope to the Israelites.

I. What Does It Mean To Bless?

A. Defined:

1. To bless in the OT means "to endued with power for success, prosperity, fruitfulness and longevity." (from Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament. Copyright © 1980 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)
2. From the time that God entered into covenant with Abraham, and promised extraordinary blessings to his posterity, it appears to have been customary for the father of each family, in the direct line, or line of promise, immediately previous to his death, to call his children around him, and to inform them, according to the knowledge which it had pleased God to give him, how and in what manner the Divine blessing conferred upon Abraham was to descend among them

B. The verbal blessing was normally futuristic. (Ibid)

1. It could be descriptive that the person addressed was empowered by God with this grace, skill or talent.
2. It could be directive, guidance
 - a) The blessings of men were also good wishes, personal or official
 - b) Communicates hope and love
 - c) So much can be solved and dealt with in our lives if we would learn to bless and not curse.
3. The greater must always be the blessing. The greater, is the one who blesses the lesser. In this context of blessing, something is being given away. The lesser is always blessed by the greater.
 - a) Principle of authority.

- b) Therefore we must honor those who have gone before us. We do this to position ourselves to receive from them. IE. A few years ago at a children's conference we had Becky Fisher lead us in an exercise where the younger honored the older. It was so moving, watching Tom Healy a veteran submariner weep as the kids acknowledge his sacrifice.
- c) Requires: respect, honor, submission, receptive heart to receive those blessings.

II. Why should I bless?

- A. To release the grace of God in your lineage.
 - 1. Grace is God's ability in me to do what I cannot do in and of myself.
 - 2. Spiritual things are released when we bless. Yes after Abraham there are many bad things recorded that happened to people but there is a thread of blessing that runs through it all. Gal 3:13-14 *that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* NKJV
- B. To release the power of generational blessing
 - 1. Jacob and Moses gave prophetic blessing prophetic of the character and history of the tribes, Gen 49 & Dt. 33:1
 - 2. Jer. 1:12 God watches over his word to perform it.
- C. Release seeds and strength of character
- D. Release future direction Gen. 49:28 *All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing .* NKJV
- E. Blessing is the one way I can remain with my children when I am gone.
 - 1. Words spoken in love with an anointed prophetic edge (God communicating His thoughts and intents to His people) reach the spirit of man and not just the soul. The spirit man contends for and wrestles with these words to reach them and see them fulfilled for they are life.
 - 2. Words of hope from heaven will rise often in the hearts of your lineage long after you are dead and gone. Ie. David to Solomon—build the temple. Elijah to Elisha - a double portion. Jesus to disciples - Upon this rock I will build my church. Jesus to all of us - behold I am with you even to the end of the earth.

III. How Do I Bless?

- A. We bless by overcoming strongholds in our own lives.
 - 1. Solomon enjoyed the peace that his father David had won.
 - 2. Solomon lost in the weakness of his father. David did not close the generational gap of his sin with Bathsheba.
- B. Life and death is in the power of the tongue.
 - 1. Power of the spoken word.
 - a) Prov 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.* NKJV

- b) You must choose to bless and not curse. Deut 30:18-19 *I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death , blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life** , that both you and your descendants may live;* NKJV
- 2. Our words will outlive us.
- 3. We have the potential of generations in our words. When we are dead and gone our word can still be giving life.
- C. Gifts given through the laying on of hands
 - 1. Doctrine of laying on of hands
 - 2. Transfer of spirit through the laying on of hands
- D. Pray blessing over your family regularly. Ie. I know of man who blesses his children each night. They call him to be blessed by him. They are in their late 30s and early 40s.
- E. Use holidays to impart to your children and grandchildren - these are reasons to gather that we can use to bless.
- F. Before you depart from this earth bless your kids.
 - 1. Melchizedek blessed Abraham (Gen 14:19; Heb 7:1,6,7)
 - 2. Thus Jacob blessed his sons (Gen 49:1-28; Heb 11:21)
 - 3. Moses the children of Israel (Deut 23:1-29)
 - 4. David blessed Solomon

Conclusion:

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- *Good blessing: "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 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. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.""* (Numbers 6:22-27, ESV)