

The Blessings of God (Part I)

June 14, 2006

Hebrews 6:10-15 (NLT)

For God is not unfair. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other Christians, as you still do. [11] Our great desire is that you will keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. [12] Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and patience.

[13] For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

[14] **"I will certainly bless you richly,**
and I will multiply your descendants into countless millions."

[15] Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.

I want to talk to you tonight about being blessed of God.

I just read to you from the Book of Hebrews where God said..."I will certainly bless you richly".

How many of you know that Abraham was a man who was blessed by God?

He certainly was! All you have to do is read about him in the Book of Genesis and you will quickly discover that he was blessed by God.

God made a promise to Abraham...

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

Then the Lord told Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. [2] I will cause you to become the father of a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and I will make you a blessing to others.

[3] I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you."

Abraham was 75 years old when God spoke those words to him. Five times the words bless, blessing and blessed are found in those two verses.

Don't asked me why God chose Abraham and not someone else to bless. God is God and He can do whatever He wants to do.

He said to Abraham, "I'm going to bless you!" Abraham had the blessing of God on his life! He had a special touch of God upon him. He had a special anointing of God upon him. How many of you would agree that Abraham had a special anointing from God upon his life? Of course he did.

It was not something that Abraham earned or deserved but it was real. It could be seen. God's blessing was upon his life!

Abraham lived to be 175 years old. After he died, the Bible says....

Genesis 25:11 (NLT)

After Abraham's death, God poured out rich blessings on Isaac, who settled near Beer-lahairoi in the Negev.

The same blessing that was on Abraham was also upon his son Isaac.

Genesis 26:12-14 (NLT)

That year Isaac's crops were tremendous! He harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the Lord blessed him. [13] He became a rich man, and his wealth only continued to grow. [14] He acquired large flocks of sheep and goats, great herds of cattle, and many servants. Soon the Philistines became jealous of him,

The blessing of God was upon Isaac and the Philistines got jealous and stopped up the wells that Abraham had dug and things got rough for Isaac. The king of the Philistines told Isaac to leave and Isaac had no choice but to leave.

Genesis 26:23-24 (NLT)

From there Isaac moved to Beersheba, [24] where the Lord appeared to him on the night of his arrival. "I am the God of your father, Abraham," he said. "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will do this because of my promise to Abraham, my servant."

Isaac received the same promises that God had made to his father.

Then we come to the 25th chapter of Genesis.

Isaac knew that the time of his death is near and so he called his oldest son Esau.

Genesis 27:2-4 (NLT)

"I am an old man now," Isaac said, "and I expect every day to be my last. [3] Take your bow and a quiver full of arrows out into the open country, and hunt some wild game for me. [4] Prepare it just the way I like it so it's savory and good, and bring it here for me to eat. **Then I will pronounce the blessing that belongs to you,** my firstborn son, before I die."

Isaac wife, Rebecca, was partial to Jacob and she wanted Isaac to bless him instead of Esau so she devised a plan to fool old Isaac.

Genesis 27:5-10 (NLT)

But Rebekah overheard the conversation. So when Esau left to hunt for the wild game, [6] she said to her son Jacob, "I overheard your father asking Esau [7] to prepare him a delicious meal of wild game. He wants to bless Esau in the Lord's presence before he dies. [8] Now, my son, do exactly as I tell you. [9] Go out to the flocks and bring me two fine young goats. I'll prepare your father's favorite dish from them. [10] Take the food to your father; then he can eat it and **bless you instead of Esau** before he dies."

Let me read the rest of this story to you....

Genesis 27:11-38 (NLT)

"But Mother!" Jacob replied. "He won't be fooled that easily. Think how hairy Esau is and how smooth my skin is! [12] What if my father touches me? He'll see that I'm trying to trick him, and then he'll curse me instead of blessing me."

[13] "Let the curse fall on me, dear son," said Rebekah. "Just do what I tell you. Go out and get the goats."

[14] So Jacob followed his mother's instructions, bringing her the two goats. She took them and cooked a delicious meat dish, just the way Isaac liked it. [15] Then she took Esau's best clothes, which were there in the house, and dressed Jacob with them. [16] She made him a pair of gloves from the hairy skin of the young goats, and she fastened a strip of the goat's skin around his neck. [17] Then she gave him the meat dish, with its rich aroma, and some freshly baked bread. [18] Jacob carried the platter of food to his father and said, "My father?"

"Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it—Esau or Jacob?"

[19] Jacob replied, "It's Esau, your older son. I've done as you told me. Here is the wild game, cooked the way you like it. Sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing."

[20] Isaac asked, "How were you able to find it so quickly, my son?"

"Because the Lord your God put it in my path!" Jacob replied.

[21] Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come over here. I want to touch you to make sure you really are Esau." [22] So Jacob went over to his father, and Isaac touched him. "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's," Isaac said to himself. [23] But he did not recognize Jacob because Jacob's hands felt hairy just like Esau's. So Isaac pronounced his blessing on Jacob. [24] "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked.

"Yes, of course," Jacob replied.

[25] Then Isaac said, "Now, my son, bring me the meat. I will eat it, and then I will give you my blessing." So Jacob took the food over to his father, and Isaac ate it. He also drank the wine that Jacob served him. Then Isaac said, [26] "Come here and kiss me, my son."

[27] So Jacob went over and kissed him. And when Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he was finally convinced, and he blessed his son. He said, "The smell of my son is the good smell of the open fields that the Lord has blessed. [28] May God always give you plenty of dew for healthy crops and good harvests of grain and wine. [29] May many nations become your servants. May you be the master of your brothers. May all your mother's sons bow low before you. All who curse you are cursed, and all who bless you are blessed."

[30] As soon as Isaac had blessed Jacob, and almost before Jacob had left his father, Esau returned from his hunting trip. [31] Esau prepared his father's favorite meat dish and brought it to him. Then he said, "I'm back, Father, and I have the wild game. Sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing."

[32] But Isaac asked him, "Who are you?"

"Why, it's me, of course!" he replied. "It's Esau, your older son."

[33] Isaac began to tremble uncontrollably and said, "Then who was it that just served me wild game? I have already eaten it, and I blessed him with an irrevocable blessing before you came."

[34] When Esau understood, he let out a loud and bitter cry. "O my father, bless me, too!" he begged.

[35] But Isaac said, "Your brother was here, and he tricked me. He has carried away your blessing."

[36] Esau said bitterly, "No wonder his name is Jacob, for he has deceived me twice, first taking my birthright and now stealing my blessing. Oh, haven't you saved even one blessing for me?"

[37] Isaac said to Esau, "I have made Jacob your master and have declared that all his brothers will be his servants. I have guaranteed him an abundance of grain and wine—what is there left to give?"

[38] Esau pleaded, "Not one blessing left for me? O my father, bless me, too!" Then Esau broke down and wept.

I read all of that to show you how important the blessing of God is.

- Abraham knew how important it was.
- Isaac knew how important it was.
- Jacob knew how important it was.
- Rebecca knew how important it was.

The blessing of God is more important than a college education

It's more important than a big bank account.

It's more important than a good job.

You can have all of those things and still **not** have the blessing of God on your life. Of course, you can have all those things and **have** the blessing of God on your life.

Jacob was very successful. He tricked his brother out of his father's blessing and he hoodwinked him out of the birthright. But something was still missing.

In Chapter 32 of Genesis we read that Jacob was about to face his brother Esau and an angel of the Lord appeared to him. Jacob grabbed the angel and refused to let him go. They wrestled all night.

The angel used a little of his supernatural power and touched Jacob's hip and his hip came out of its socket but still Jacob would not let the angel go.

Finally, the angel said,

Genesis 32:26 (NLT)

... "Let me go, for it is dawn."

But Jacob panted, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

Genesis 32:30 (NLT)

Jacob named the place Peniel—"face of God"—for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared."

Jacob had tricked his father into blessing him but he knew he needed something more than that. He needed the blessing of God! And he said, "I'm going to get it if it takes all night. If I end up with a limp for the rest of my life it doesn't matter, I must have the blessing of God on my life!"

Jacob had a lot of material things. He was wealthy, he had plenty of money, but he knew that something was missing. He was determined that he was going to get it. He wanted God's blessing, God's anointing on his life!

As you continue to read the Book of Genesis you discover that Jacob had twelve sons but one of them was blessed more than the others. God's blessing was upon Joseph.

It didn't look like it at first, because Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. But that didn't matter because God's blessing was upon him. His brother meant what they did for evil but God turned it into a blessing.

When God's blessing is upon a person's life, that person is a blessing wherever he or she goes.

God said to Abraham, "I will bless you and you shall be a blessing!"

- Joseph was in Potifer's house and Potifer's house was blessed because Joseph was there.
- Joseph was in Egypt and Egypt was blessed because Joseph was there.

In 2 Samuel, Chapter 6, we read about how David took the Ark to the house of a man named Obed-Edom. The Ark remained there for three months and the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. Why? Because the Ark was there. The Ark represented God's presence. It represented God's blessing!

We need God's blessing!

- **Proverbs 10:22 (NLT)**

The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

I want God's blessing on my life and here's the good news, He wants me to have it.

Listen to this.

- **Galatians 3:13-14 (NLT)**

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." [14] Through the work of Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, and we Christians receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

Just like God's blessing was upon Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and Joseph, we can have it too. Jesus died that we might have that same blessing, that same anointing!

Listen to the word of God recorded in Dueteronomy 28.

Deut. 28:1-8 (NLT)

"If you fully obey the Lord your God by keeping all the commands I am giving you today, the Lord your God will exalt you above all the nations of the world. [2] You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God:

[3] You will be blessed in your towns and in the country.

[4] You will be blessed with many children and productive fields.

You will be blessed with fertile herds and flocks.

[5] You will be blessed with baskets overflowing with fruit, and with kneading bowls filled with bread.

[6] You will be blessed wherever you go, both in coming and in going.

[7] "The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven!

[8] "The Lord will bless everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

It just goes on and on, blessing after blessing that God promises to give His people. I want God blessing upon my life. Anybody with any sense wants God's blessing upon their lives. How do we get it?

Jusus said.....

Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.

First, we must realize that we need it and that we can have it and that God wants me to have it.

That means that we must develop a desire for it and get hungry for it and make up our minds that we will do whatever it takes to get it.

The first step in the process. Of course, is the new birth.

John 3:3 (NKJV)

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Unless you receive Christ as your personal Savior, you will never have the blessing of God. That is step number one!

Then you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We've been talking about that a lot for the past few weeks.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is important.

Then there are some things that the Bible says will rob you of the God's blessing.

1. Pride.

James 4:6 (NKJV)

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

Let me tell you, if God is resisting you, you will not enjoy His blessings. You must get rid of the pride in your life.

Proud people don't come to God and say, "Lord, I need your blessing." They say, "I can do it myself. I don't need God's help. But humble people say, "I need you Lord. I need your blessing in my life. I can't do it by myself."

Here are some other things that will rob you of God's blessing.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)

These six things the Lord hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
[17] A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
[18] A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
[19] A false witness who speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.

You will not enjoy the blessing of God on your life if you are doing any of those things.

Let me talk about one of them. Number seven, One who sows discord among brethren.

If you are sowing discord in the church you are not only hurting the church but you are hurting yourself because God cannot bless you when you do that.

Let me give you one more scripture.

1 Cor. 10:1-12 (NKJV)

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, [2] all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, [3] all ate the same spiritual food, [4] and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. [5] But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. [6] Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. [7] And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." [8] Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; [9] nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; [10] nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. [11] Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. [12] Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Those were God's people but there were five things that kept them out of the Promised Land.

1. The lusted after evil things.
2. They were idolaters.
3. They committed sexual immorality.
4. They tempted Christ.
5. They were murmurers.

We all have things that we can murmur and complain about but if we want the blessing of God on our lives we must stop our complaining and start praising Him in all things.

God's blessing is worth more than anything the world has to offer.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

.....let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Repeat after me.....

I am going to run with endurance. I am going to have God's blessing. I am not going to let anything rob me of what God has provided for me!

Give invitation!