

## **The Blessings of God (Part II)**

**June 21, 2006**

### **Psalm 1:1-6 (NKJV)**

Blessed is the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
[2] But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
[3] He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.

[4] The ungodly are not so,  
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.  
[5] Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,  
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.  
[6] For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

### **Psalm 1:1-6 (NLT)**

Oh, the joys of those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners,  
or join in with scoffers.  
[2] But they delight in doing everything the Lord wants;  
day and night they think about his law.  
[3] They are like trees planted along the riverbank,  
bearing fruit each season without fail.  
Their leaves never wither,  
and in all they do, they prosper.  
  
[4] But this is not true of the wicked.  
They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.  
[5] They will be condemned at the time of judgment.  
Sinners will have no place among the godly.

[6] For the Lord watches over the path of the godly,  
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

Last week I started a series of lessons that I am calling “The Blessing Of God”. I took my text from Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verse 14, where God said to Abraham....

**Hebrews 6:14 (NKJV)**

....."Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

**Genesis 12:2 (NKJV)**

I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.

Last week I talked about how blessed Abraham was of God. I talked about how his son Isaac also had the blessing of God upon his life. And that same blessing was upon Jacob. Jacob wrestled with God all night and said, “I will not let you go until you bless me.

The blessing of God was very significant and very important to those men. I talked about Jacob’s son Joseph and how the blessing of God was upon his life and how he in turn became a blessing to others.

**Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV)**

The blessing of the Lord makes one rich,  
And He adds no sorrow with it.

The blessings of God are real and He wants His children to be blessed.

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

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us ...[14] that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus....”

**How do you receive the blessings of God?**

**First of all, you must be born-again. You must receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and make Him Lord of your life!**

**Then, you need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.**

The disciples needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and so do we.

**Jesus told His followers....**

**Luke 24:49 (NKJV)**

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Paul asked the disciples at Ephesus, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" It is important that you have that dynamic, life-changing experience with Christ.

Then, I mentioned a few things that the Bible says will rob you of the blessings of God.

1. Pride

**James 4:6 (NKJV)**

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

If God is resisting you, you can be sure that you will not have His blessings in your life.

2. Then I talked about the list of things that is found in Proverbs, Chapter 19, that will rob you of God's blessings.

**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.

Tonight, I want to talk about the way to blessedness as revealed in the First Psalm.

**Verse one says... “Blessed is the man”.**

The word “Blessed” used in this verse in the original means, “O the blessedness of”.

In the original language it reads... “O the blessedness of the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.” It actually even goes further than that. It is the plural form of the word. It actually means “blessednesses”. And, it’s in the present and continual sense.

It’s not a foggy promise of something that might happen sometime in the future. It is a congratulation for what is now, present tense, and what will continue to be.

It is not something into which you might be able to enter into in the future. It is something that is already yours.

The total fulfillment of the blessing will be received when Christ returns and we are changed into His likeness but it is also a present reality to be enjoyed here and now.

“O the “blessednesses” of the man”.

In other words....

“O the bliss of being a Christian”.

“O the joy of following Christ”.

“O the sheer happiness and fulfillment of knowing Jesus Christ as Master and Savior and Lord.”

That’s the meaning of the word “blessed”.

The person who is described here is a person who is filled with the radiant gladness and joy of the Lord.

Notice, it says, “Blessed is the man...” (or the person)

It does not say, “Blessed is the king”, or ”Blessed are the rich”, or “Blessed are the well educated”, or “Blessed is the preacher”.

It says, “Blessed is the person”.

The question is, “How can you and I become that person?”

This blessing is attainable by anyone and everyone that will meet the conditions.

### **What are the conditions?**

Here they are: The first three are negative.

1. You must not walk in the counsel of the ungodly.
2. You must not stand in the path of sinners.
3. You must not sit in the seat of the scornful.

Notice the two progressions in those verses.

It goes (1) walking (2) standing (3) sitting and (1) ungodly (2) sinners (3) scornful.

### **The road to ruin begins by walking with the ungodly.**

An “ungodly” person is one who tries to get through life without God. An “ungodly” person is not necessarily a person who is openly rebellious against God. It is someone who just doesn’t have time for God; Someone who is too busy with other things to fit God into his schedule.

If you start “walking” with people like that, soon you will be “standing” in the path of “sinners”. Neglecting the things of God and hanging around with people that have no time for God will lead to open rebellion against God.

At first, a person may not openly do the things that God's word says plainly not to do. But if you walk in the counsel of the ungodly long enough, you will find yourself doing the same things that they are doing.

Stay on the path and you will soon be "sitting" with the scornful.

**The posture of sitting denotes decision and resolution.** You didn't just happen to get caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, you made a decision to be there. When you are "sitting" with the scornful it means that you have cast your lot with those who openly reject God and who are scornful of those who are serving Him.

**David said, blessed is the person who.....**

1. Does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly; Does not listen to their ungodly advice.
2. Does not stand in the path of sinners. He avoids doing what they do. He doesn't leave himself open to the possibility of being drawn into their sinful activities. Example: Going to TCDA.
3. Does not sit in the seat of the scornful. He doesn't associate or socialize with people who are openly hostile toward the things of God.

There is nothing vague about God's instructions. God has made it very plain.

He says:

1. Don't walk in the counsel of the ungodly.
2. Don't stand in the path of sinners.
3. Don't sit in the seat of the scornful. Period!

But God doesn't stop there with those negative commands. He not only tells us what we must not do if we want to enjoy His blessings, He also tells us what we must do if we want to enjoy His blessings.

You cannot live your life doing nothing. You must occupy your time doing something and God tells you what that something is. He has told you what the blessed man does not do. Now, He tells you what the blessed man does.

**He delights in the law of the Lord and he meditates in it day and night.**

Rather than getting his advice from the ungodly and from sinners and from those who are scornful of the things of God, the blessed person gets his advice from the Word of God.

**And the only way you can know what the Word of God teaches is to read it;** To meditate in it. If you want God's blessing you must find out what He says in His word and become a doer of the word.

**James 1:22-25 (NKJV)**

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; [24] for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. [25] But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

**Luke 6:46-49 (NKJV)**

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? [47] Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: [48] He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. [49] But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

If you are going to have God's blessings in your life, you are going to have to become a doer of His word. In order to do that, you must know what His word teaches. In order to do that, you are going to have to develop an appetite for the word of God.

**The Bible says,**

**Psalm 37:4 (NKJV)**

Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

**How do you develop an appetite for something?**

**Answer: By eating it.** I used to hate squash and broccoli and things like that but my wife kept cooking it and finally I tried it and found out that it wasn't so bad after all. Now, I actually like it.

By the way, you need to help your children develop an appetite for healthy food. Just because they don't want to eat something at first, if it is good for them, keep giving it to them. They will develop an appetite for it if they keep eating it.

It's the same way with the word of God. You must start reading it whether you want to or not; whether you feel like it or not; whether you understand it or not. You must create an appetite for the word of God or you will starve spiritually. If you want God's blessings you must develop a hunger for the word of God. You must delight in it; meditate in it; think about it day and night; make it the guide book for your life.

**The person who does that is promised these things:**

1. He shall be like a fruit tree that has been planted by a river.

That's a wonderful promise. There's is a lot of difference between a tree that just comes up at random and one that has been purposefully planted in the right soil and watered.

God says that when you obey His instructions, He will plant you in the right place at the right time and cause you to grow and become fruitful.

2. His leaf shall not wither.

Trees that are planted in the right soil and given the proper amount of water will not wither and die.

3. And whatever he does will prosper.

Praise God! What a promise! God is a God of absolutes. He did not say this may happen. He said it will happen. If you live according to the first three verses of this Psalm, God says you will be blessed and what ever you do will prosper! That's good news! That's terrific! That's wonderful!

**But I must warn you that in God's word there is always the positive and the negative. There is always the blessing and the curse.**

The last three verses of this Psalm gives a solemn warning to those who refuse to obey the first three verses. It says:

1. The ungodly are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Chaff is the useless husks that are left over from the grain. It blows in whatever direction the wind happens to be blowing. It has no value or purpose.

2. And that person who rejects God, will not be able to stand in the judgment. He will have no defense. When God pronounces him guilty he will know that he is.
3. Finally, it says that he shall perish!

**The Bible says,**

**Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)**

There is a way that seems right to a man,  
But its end is the way of death.

**God has set before each of us two roads.** He gives us a choice. One road is the road of life and it leads to blessing. The other road is the road of death. It leads to hopelessness, ruin and judgment.

Listen to me very closely right now. It says that the ungodly are like the chaff blown by the wind. One of these days all of your excuses for not serving God are going to be blown away by the mighty wind of God.

But it doesn't have to be that way. God wants to bless you. He wants you to enjoy all of the blessedness that He has promised. But He can only bless you if you surrender your life to Him. If you have done that, start claiming what He has promised to give you. If you have not surrendered your life to Him, do it now!

Give invitation!