



## *The Incredible Power of Blessing*

Teach Me Words of Life

### *Key Scripture:*

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ...”*

**Ephesians 1:3** (KJV)

### *Portion for the Journey:*

One of the earliest prayers I remember learning as a child was the prayer of blessing. “God bless Mommy and Daddy and baby brother, Todd. God bless Grandma and Grandpa...” I blessed everyone I could think of in my little world. When I wanted to stay up late, my list of those I could bless grew longer! Looking back, my understanding of blessing was simplistic but in my child heart, I knew God was listening and I was asking Him to let His love and goodness touch each person I asked Him to bless. I wonder, now, at the power of those prayers! Jesus said the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these little children. **Psalms 8:2** tells us, “Out of the mouths of babes and unweaned infants You have established strength (Praise) because of Your foes, that You might silence the enemy and the avenger.”

*Even when we do not know how  
to pray for a person,  
we can always bless them!*

Christian’s frequently use the word “blessing” in an automatic manner or as a salutation. We refer to good things that happen as “blessings” and ask God to “bless” our food. If someone sneezes, we say “bless you.” **The scriptures reveal the believer’s blessings play a vital role in releasing God’s power to bring forth and accomplish His plans in the world.** A study of His Word demonstrates God takes words spoken in blessings or curses very seriously. God is the source of all true blessings and watches over them to bring them to pass.

A blessing in the name of Jesus carries the weight of the prophetic word of the LORD combined with His covenant promise to bring it to pass. Our words of blessing have the power to invoke God’s Spirit to bless. When we bless, we release the flow of His best intentions for this person’s life. Blessings release the creative power of God to bring forth His plan for them. We have been given the power to bless or to curse. If we bless others, they will be blessed, if we curse them, they will be cursed. Like curses, oaths and vows, blessings have a binding quality that carries real and lasting effects.

God is a God of abundance and the source from whom all blessings flow. His love knows no bounds. He is infinite in His generosity. God doesn’t give us just enough; His blessings are exceedingly abundant and our needs are more than adequately supplied. When our hearts are full of the Lord, our words will overflow with blessings, grace and truth. He desires to put His words in our mouths that will accomplish the purpose for which He sends them. When the words of our mouth are pure and we speak words of life and blessing to others, God will bless us. **Jer. 29:11; Ps. 45:1-2**



***“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge [who love intensely and delight] in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].” Prov. 18:21 AMP***

**To fully understand blessing, we need to have a clear understanding of what the Bible says about the power of our words.** Do we take our words seriously? Are we cognizant that our words literally have the power of life and death? Do we love to speak God’s Word, to speak words of life or negative words that carry death? Our mouth will speak out of the abundance of what we have in our heart. If we are filled with the life of Christ, our words will be full of His life. **Matt. 12:34-37**

The word for “power” used in **Proverbs 18:21** is taken from the Hebrew word “yad” (H3027) which means literally, ‘the open hand.’ It represents power, dominion, service, strength, assistance.’ It is used in a variety of contexts, such as, “to deliver into one’s own hand, to delegate authority, responsibility, or to stretch one’s hand in attack, toward another or in yearning for the LORD. We must never underestimate the power of our words, even those spoken casually or without intent.

Job prayed, “Teach me; and I will hold my tongue and cause me to understand wherein I have erred. **How forcible are right words.” Job. 6:24-25**

The word “forcible” in the Hebrew is ‘maras’ (Strong’s #4834) defined as ‘having the power to be strong, fierce, vehement, violent, to press, embolden, make grievous or sore.’ In **1 King 2:8** it is translated a heavy or vehement curse and in **Micah 2:10** as painful or violent destruction.

**Warnings about the power of the tongue:** When we speak, our words can literally be life-giving, or we can speak words that bring forth death. Our words can speak faith and healing or our negative words can bring forth death! This definition of power carries with it the idea that our words carry authority or the ability to delegate that authority to another. God does not work through formulas but He does give us “absolutes” in His Word and the power of the tongue is one of these absolutes. **Matt. 15:11; James 3:5-11;**

***“The lips of the [uncompromisingly] righteous \*those harmonious with God) bring forth skillful and godly Wisdom... the lips of the [uncompromisingly] righteous know and therefore utter what is acceptable...” Prov. 10:31-32*** The word ‘acceptable’ used in this verse carries the idea of being accepted by God, having His favor and blessing. This word carries the idea of being delightful, pleasing and full of good will.

**In her book, “Breakthrough,” Joyce Smith wrote the miraculous true story** of her son’s resurrection from death after drowning and being submerged for over 20 minutes in a lake. His lifeless body had not responded to any of the medical professional’s attempts to resuscitate him. After an hour of CPR and every medical technique known, the doctor was urged to “call” his time of death. He wanted the boy’s mother to be present to say good bye before they pronounced him dead. When she entered the room, she began praying and she declared, “I believe in a God who can do miracles! Holy Spirit, I need You now to come and breathe life back into my son!” She sobbed an exhale and closed her eyes. And in that instant, she heard the sound of a miracle. “Beep beep...beep!” John’s heart monitor—and John’s heart—sprang back to life!”

This was the first miracle they witnessed but for this young man to live and survive this trauma without lasting brain damage and physical impairment, she, along with her church family, prayed for and



received many, many more miracles. Joyce was adamant that no one was allowed to speak negative words or discuss the impossibility of his situation. She did not tolerate negative words from the doctors, friends or family. She declared, “We are only going to speak life!” The doctor’s turned to her with every life-threatening new development and told her to pray. They knew their medical skills could not save him, but clearly recognized God was at work. John walked out of the hospital two weeks later with no residual effects of his death and decomposition! All of his medical providers recognized this was a miracle. No one had ever survived after this long without a heartbeat.

- **The Word of God is Quick and Powerful** *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”.* **Heb. 4:12**

The word ‘quick’ is not used in modern language in this way but is used Biblically in context of comparing the “the quick and the dead.” It is defined as “to stir, or move” in the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary. It means to be alive, active, full of living power, brisk, nimble, prompt and ready. This word is used with reference to “quicken” the moment when a mother feels her unborn child begin to move within her womb. Quickening means to give life, accelerating or inciting. It is translated from the Greek word “zao” (G2198) which means ‘alive, lively, to live or be alive. It describes the power of resurrection life and the manifestation of divine power in support of divine authority, full of power and divine strength. It speaks of the transforming power of His life infused in us to give us life. **Gen. 2:7**

The word ‘powerful’ used is “energes” from which we get our English word for “energy.” It means “active, effectual, powerful in its operation or action, full of power to achieve results.”

- **There is incredible power when we speak His Word:** The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is the only offensive weapon provided in our spiritual armor. The Greek word for “Word” used in this passage is ‘rhema.’ Rhema comes from the Greek root which means to speak. It is the word spoken or uttered. It is a word or command, denoting the all-powerful Word or command of God. **Ephesians 6:17**

Jesus said, *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words (rhema) that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* **John 6:63**

- **Words have the capacity to carry the creative force and power of God!** When God’s Word comes from His mouth as rhema, it literally means, “God-breathed.” Remember, when God created Adam, He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gen. 2:7) His Word, as breathed from His mouth, carries tremendous power that is beyond our comprehension. The word of the LORD spoken can heal and raise from the dead! He breathed the Word and all of the stars were born! **Ps. 33:6; Isa. 55:8-11; Jer. 23:18,22,28-32; Heb. 1:3 AMP**

**Ezekiel 37** demonstrates the powerful way God brought life into dead bones and raised up an army when Ezekiel spoke to the bones under the direction of His Spirit. **See “All Powerful Word of God” handout.**

**Ye Shall Say...** *“And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly]. Truly I tell you, whoever **says** to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he **says** will take place, it will be done for him. For this reason, I am*

telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].” **Mark 11:22-24 (AMP)**

Many times, the Lord instructs us that His power is released through the speaking forth of His Word. We cannot comprehend the devastation that is wreaked against Satan's strongholds when we proclaim or speak forth the Word God reveals to us. Jesus has granted that we, as His disciples, might also take up this Sword of the Spirit, by which we can wage spiritual warfare. We must speak in His authority with faith. “And Jesus said unto them, ...for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, **ye shall say** unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” **Matt 17:20**

**DEFINITIONS OF BLESSING:** A number of different words are translated “blessing” in the Old and New Testament. All of these words express different aspects of the concept of “blessing” in the Bible. We will look at the definitions of each one of these words but to truly understand blessing the word must be studied in the context of how it is used in the Word of God. The Greek words for blessing come from the Hebrew concept of blessing. There is little reference or understanding of blessing as the Bible records it in the ancient world apart from God.

1) **Makarios** (G3107) means literally “blessed one.” Makarios” is the word translated “blessed” in the Beatitudes in **Matthew 5**. This is one who is acknowledged or pronounced as blessed. This is called a “grace word” because it expresses the special joys and satisfaction granted the person who experiences salvation. It describes one who possesses the favor of God, that state that is marked by the fullness of God. One who is blessed in this way is to become a partaker of God’s nature through faith in Christ. The happiness described in the concept of blessing is based on being fully satisfied no matter what the person’s circumstances are like because God’s kingdom is in one’s heart. This is one who is in the world yet independent of the world. His satisfaction comes from God and not favorable circumstances. Makarios, comes from the root word, “mak” meaning of large and long duration, indicating these blessings are of eternal significance and magnitude.“

The Amplified Bible (2015 version) provides many of the nuances to the meaning of the word we translate as ‘blessed’ in the Beatitudes on Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5:**

- v.3** Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired]
- v. 4** Blessed [forgiven refreshed by God’s grace]
- v. 5** Blessed [inwardly peaceful, spiritually secure, worthy of respect]
- v. 6** Blessed [joyful, nourished by God’s goodness]
- v. 7** Blessed [content sheltered by God’s promises]
- v. 8** Blessed [anticipating God’s presence]
- v. 9** Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God’s favor]
- v. 10** Blessed [comforted by inner peace and God’s love]
- v. 11** Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God’s goodness]



2) **Eulogeo** (G2127) This is the word from which we get the English words for eulogy or eulogize. (Used in **Luke 6:28**) This word means “To bless, to speak well of, to praise, extol, bless abundantly, invoke a benediction, give thanks, to speak the intention or favor of God on someone.” Blessings, like eulogies are tailor-made for that person. This word comes from two parts, “eu” good, well and “logos” speech or word. There are three different variations of this Greek word used in the New Testament related directly to the English word "blessing" that all come from the family root words:

- **Eulogeitos** (G2128) is an adjective meaning “well-spoken of; praised”
- **Eulogew** (G2127) is a verb: “to speak well of; to praise; to call down God’s gracious power”
- **Eulogia** (G2129) is the noun form, meaning “praise; fine speaking”

3) **Asher** (H833) This word means “to be happy and the receiver of good fortune.” It also means “to be straight and is related to righteousness. To be straightened out before Him who has no crookedness. To guide right, to guide in the paths of righteousness.” The original meaning of the word was “be straight.” **Ps. 72:17; Prov. 31:28; Ps. 33:12**

4) **Barak** (H1288) This root and its derivatives occur 415 times and most times the word is translated "to bless." To bless in the OT means "to endue with power for success, prosperity, fecundity, longevity, etc." It also means to invoke God, to ask for a blessing, to give a benediction, to praise, celebrate, adore, bless God on bended knee. To consecrate. To speak the intention of God.

This word is used in two ways:

- **To bend the knee.** The knee is used in relation to submission and obedience. **Isaiah 45:23**, fear and weakness **Nahum 2:10**; prayer **1 Kings 8:54**, motherly care (the lap) **2 Kings 4:20**, etc. There may be a relation in the idea that one would kneel down or bend the knee when giving or receiving a blessing. A picture of this is when one kneels before the king to receive his blessing.
- **To bless.** The root word’s primary idea was of breaking or breaking down. **Dan. 6:11; 2 Chr. 6:13; Ps. 95:6**

#### Notes regarding Blessings:

- **It is God’s desire to bless mankind.** The abundant life we are promised in Jesus rests directly upon the loving and faithful nature of God. His name El Shaddai (God Almighty) actually means “many breasted one”, and especially describes Him as the pourer forth of blessings. Blessing is not just something God does; it is an attribute His very personality and character. His desire is to bless. Nor does God have to be cajoled to give his blessing. He wishes to give it to all who will trust him. **Genesis 12:3; 49:25-26**
- **God has given us full authority to bless.** As God’s children, we are called to bless others. **1 Peter 3:8-9 AMP** ‘Finally, all [of you] should be of one *and* the same mind (united in spirit), sympathizing [with one another], loving [each other] as brethren [of one household], compassionate *and* courteous (tenderhearted and humble). Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For *know that* to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection].’ The word “called” used in is “kaleo.” This is a strong word that carries the same significance as choosing a person’s name.





This “call” comes from authoritative power, to call forth or summon. This word is used specifically as the call of God to salvation and receive blessings. **1 Peter 3:8-18 AMP**

- **The major function of a blessing is to confer abundant and effective life upon something or someone.** Blessing turns a situation or person to righteousness and brings life and goodness, while cursing causes brings death and causes darkness to flourish. **Gen. 2:3; 27:27; Gen. 49: 1 Sam. 9:13; Isa. 66:3**
- **Every blessing flows out of the goodness of God as from a fountain.** God desires to be lavish in His blessing. His generosity knows no limits. **Prov. 28:20** tells us, “a faithful man will abound with blessings.” The Hebrew sentence structure used here indicates “full of blessings to give away.” **Rom. 5:5; Eph. 3:14-21; Ezek. 34:26; Isa 45:8 AMPC**
- **Blessing goes hand in hand with faith** when we speak and call forth, not the things that are seen, but the things that are unseen. A blessing appropriates God’s covenant promises given us through the Word. It is God’s will that we receive all that He has given us through Jesus Christ. A blessing opens the door to receive all of our possessions in Christ Jesus. **Heb. 11:20**
- **Blessings are futuristic and release the creative power of God to bring forth His plans and purposes for the person’s life.** He brings forth His blessing through His grace, sanctification and restorative power. Blessings declare what God intends to do. In blessing, God is setting His plan into operation to fulfill His purpose.
- **Blessings call forth the potential of what can be through God, not what the person is at the present time.** Example: Gideon was living in a cave, hiding from the Midianites. He came out after dark to do his farming, yet when the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, he called him a “fearless warrior,” This hardly described Gideon at that time, but God knew he would come forth as a fearless warrior if he obeyed God. **Gen. 14:19; Jud. 6:12; 1 Sam. 26:25**
- **Blessing speaks truth regarding the person as God sees them and intends them to be because it is in alignment with the truth of God’s Word.** Blessing carries prophetic insight that pronounces God’s plans and purposes for this person, not as they appear to be now. When we bless, we ask that God’s full expectation and intention will be fulfilled in the person’s life.
- **We are instructed not only to bless those who appear “good” or “deserving” of the blessing. We are never called to curse.** God’s desire to bless is not contingent on one’s good standing with Him. His blessing transforms us. For this reason, we are commanded to bless even those who are evil. When we bless those who curse us, we move in the opposite spirit and take a powerful stance in spiritual warfare on that person’s behalf. When we bless those who curse us, we are blessed, not cursed!! A blessing will pour burning coals upon the wicked which sends God’s purifying power to work in their lives. **Luke 6:27-28; Rom. 13:14; Matt. 5:38-48; Prov. 25:21; Rom: 12:20-21; Isa. 6:6**
- **Blessings are fulfilled when the person responds to God’s intervention in their life by honoring Him.** He blesses us and His grace saves us which brings forth a response in our heart to His love. **Prov. 11:24-25**
- **We must be careful not to allow our “blessing” to become merely a form.** The blessing should be a means of expressing thanks and praise to this person because he has given out of the abundance of his life. Very commonly, the Lord is addressed in this way. It is significant that *hesed* "kindness" and *’emet* "faithfulness" are very frequently those attributes for which God is praised. **Ps. 31:21; 106:48; 118:26**



### Examples of blessings in the Word:

1. Father to son **Genesis 49; Mark 10:16**
2. Brothers to sister **Genesis 24:60**
3. King to subjects **1 Kings 8:14**
4. The blessing might be conveyed at departures on special occasions **2 Chron. 6:3**
5. Frequently given upon introduction **Genesis 47:7, 10**
6. Michal, despising her husband's blessing, was afflicted with barrenness **2 Samuel 6:20-23**

**God to Man:** God is the source of all blessing which originate from His love for mankind. God's name, the manifestation of his personal, redemptive, covenant-keeping nature, is at the heart of all blessing. In the Old Testament, blessings were often felt to be equated with material success and prosperity. The New Testament takes blessing to a higher level of spiritual and eternal blessing. God opposes any who seek to curse those whom He has blessed. Blessing and cursing come alongside promises related to life and death.

- **Deut. 30:19** contains the heart of the OT concept of blessing in which God sets before Israel blessings of life or the curse of death if they reject Him. God's desire is to give life. From this base the understanding of God as the life giver is expanded to its ultimate expression in **John 3:16; John 10:10**.
- **God controls blessing and cursing:** God would not allow Balam to curse Israel and turned the intended curse into a blessing. **Num. 22-23; esp. 23:8, 20; Prov. 26:2**
- **His presence confers blessing:** God blessed the house of Obed-Edom while the ark of the covenant remained in his home. **2 Samuel 6:11-20**
- **It is only in His name that others can confer blessing:** God appointed the Levites to bless the people. **Deut. 10:8; Ps. 45:1-2**

**Man to God:** We bless God by speaking well of the LORD, verbalizing how much He means to us, we bless God as a heartfelt response to His blessing us. **Ps. 103:1-2; Ps. 145; Deut. 16:16-17**

**Man to Man:** As His children, we are commissioned to bless. When God blesses us, He expects us to bless others. As His children, we are to be a blessing to all people. God instructed the High Priest to bless the people, and in the New Covenant we are members of the royal priesthood called to bless others. The Word gives specific instructions regarding those we are to bless: Fathers are called to bless their children and grandchildren. We are to bless those who persecute, revile and curse us. **Heb. 11:21**

### *Digging Deeper in the Word:*

1. Genesis is called the book of beginnings or the "seed plot" of the Bible. Genesis contains in seed form all of the great doctrines of the Bible. The concept of blessing is introduced in Genesis and shows a wide scope of application. Study the following blessings and meditate on how these blessings apply to His children today.

- **Genesis 1:22** when God first blessed His creation to multiply and be fruitful
- **Genesis 1:26-28** God blessed Adam and Eve.



- **Genesis. 2:3** God blessed the Sabbath Day and sanctified it set it apart

2. **Through Abraham and his seed God will bless the families of the earth:** *“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others]. And I will bless those who bless you [who confer prosperity or happiness upon you] and curse him who curses or uses insolent language toward you; in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed [and by you they will bless themselves].”* **Genesis 12:2-3 (AMPC)**

God establishes Abraham as the one through whom He would bring Jesus, the source of all true blessing. This blessing was not only prophetic, but it set in motion all that would take place through the generations and was realized in the birth of Jesus. **Gal. 3:8; Ps. 72**

**John 8:39** They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus \*said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham."

**Romans 4:3, 13** "For what does the Scripture say? 'ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.' For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith."

**Galatians 3:7-9,14** "Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." So, then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. ...in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

**Acts 3:25** "It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.'

### 3. **Melchizedek's blessing of Abraham:** **Gen. 14:18-20; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:3-15**

There is little information provided about Melchizedek and what is provided is shrouded in mystery. Melchizedek represents God's revelation and salvation to all mankind. It is said that he was without father or mother, meaning he had no lineage or genealogy. He existed beyond all national and familial relationships. We know he was a Canaanite and the rightful holder of the title rights to all the land that God had blessed Abraham to possess. There are some who believe he may have been pre-incarnate Christ but the Word says he was not. **Gen. 14:18** describes him as a priest and worshipper of the Most High God. El Elyon is the only name of God that describes His supreme place over all creation. Christ's priesthood was said to be of the same type as Melchizedek. He holds both the offices of priest and king. Heb. 7:21 Jesus is said to have a never-ending ministry of blessing as a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek means "King of Righteousness." He is the King of Salem. Salem means "peace" and his territory covered the future Jerusalem, which means, "pointing the way of peace." He had the power of an endless life. Note the order first righteousness and then peace. Only upon the foundation of righteousness can peace be established. Along with the blessing, he offers Abraham bread and wine, symbolic of the covenant of Jesus Christ, Savior, not only of the Jews but for all mankind. **Ps. 85:10-11, Isa 32:17; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:17, 20; Rom. 5:1; Rom. 14:17; Jer. 23:5-6; Zech. 6:13; Isa. 9:6,7; Ps. 85**



*Peace does not mean the absence of conflict, it is ours in the presence of the Lord.*

4. **God's blessing of Isaac:** *"The LORD appeared to him the same night and said, 'I am the God of your father Abraham; Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you, and multiply your descendants, For the sake of My servant Abraham.'"* **Genesis 26:24 (NASB)**

In this blessing, we see God's hand working through the generations. He blessed Abraham and his offspring, but now He renews this blessing in Isaac. We see the LORD drawing Isaac into relationship with Himself, so that He was not just the God of his father, Abraham, but his God as well. This pattern is continued as Isaac blesses his sons, Jacob and Esau and then Jacob blesses his sons.

**Inherent in the heart of every child is the desire to receive a blessing from their parent. Parents blessing of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren continues to be a powerful weapon against the enemy seeking to steal the next generation. Jesus blessed the little children by laying His hands on them and used this as a teaching moment with His disciples. Mark 10:16**

5. **Isaac's blessing of Jacob and Esau:** **Genesis 27** is a chapter about Isaac's blessing of Jacob. It offers incredible insight into the power and significance of the father's blessing.

- ♥ Note that this blessing, once given, could not be rescinded and could not be duplicated. Jacob was changed and his name changed after receiving the blessing.
- ♥ Jacob, whose name means "deceiver" actually cheated and stole this blessing. He demonstrates the concept that we do not receive God's blessing because we are worthy.
- ♥ Jacob found acceptance with his father and received his blessing because he hid behind the name of the father's first-born son, whom he loved dearly. Jacob clothed himself with his older brother's garments which were diffused to Isaac his excellent aroma. In like manner, we, as sinners find acceptance with God and receive His blessing as we shelter ourselves behind the name of Jesus, His first-born Son and cloth ourselves in His robes of righteousness which we received from Him. We come before the Father on the merits of His Son, who has given Himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God, referred to as a sweet-smelling savor to the Father. **Eph. 5:2**
- ♥ "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Jacob was not content with his father's blessing but he sought God's blessing with his whole heart. While God could not approve of Jacob's deception, He does love the heart that desperately seeks His blessing. When Jacob wrestled with God, he refused to let go of God unless God blessed him. This tenacity is a lesson to us all. **Gen. 32:24-32**
- ♥ **Heb. 11:20** tells us that "by faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come."

6. **Jacob blesses Pharaoh:** *"Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. ...And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from his presence. Genesis 47:7,10*

A.W. Pink, in his book, "Gleanings in Genesis," beautifully described this encounter: "Arrived in Egypt, restored to Joseph the aged patriarch is brought before Pharaoh ... 'and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.' The aged and feeble patriarch stands before the monarch of the mightiest empire of the world. And what dignity now marks Jacob. What a contrast from the day when he bowed seven times before Esau! There is no cringing and fawning here. Jacob carries himself as a child of God. He was a son of the King

of Kings, and ambassador of the Most High God. Brief is the record, yet how much the words suggest when we remember that the “less is blessed by the greater.” **Heb. 7:7**

**7. Jacob’s blesses his offspring: Genesis 49:28** “All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them. He blessed them, everyone with the blessing appropriate to him.”

**Hebrews 11:21** “By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. “Jacob has been transformed. He is true worshipper of the Most High God. He looks no longer to the land and possessions of this earth, but sees himself as a pilgrim and sojourner whose true home is in heaven. He has been renamed “Israel.” He now blesses his grandsons in the name of God Almighty (El Shaddai). God intends that His blessing would flow from generation to generation. Note the characteristics of this blessing and what he spoke over his grandsons and his sons. He blessed each one with a blessing that was appropriate to him. **Gen. 48, 49**

#### **8. Aaron’s High Priestly Blessing:**

“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: **Numbers 6:22-27 (AMPC and AMP2015)**

*The LORD bless you, and watch, guard and keep you; [protect you and sustain you]  
The LORD make His face shine on you, [enlighten you and grant you His favor]  
And be gracious to you; [kind, merciful and giving favor, surrounding you with lovingkindness]  
The LORD lift up His countenance on you, [with divine approval]  
And give you peace.’ [total well-being. a tranquil heart and life continually]*

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

God instructed Aaron, the first high priest, to bless the people by using this model. As a part of God’s royal priesthood, we are given his blessing as a model by which to bless others with God’s divine favor. The Aaronic benediction was primarily a prayer for the Lord's presence, grace, and keeping power. Note the LORD instructs that this blessing is to be spoken. This is an eternal blessing. Jesus is our High Priest. **John 17** is often called the High Priestly prayer of the Lord. It is the last prayer that He prayed prior to going to Gethsemane.

#### **8. Moses’ blessing upon the 12 tribes of Israel:**

**Deuteronomy 33:26-29** “There is none like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to your help, And through the skies in His majesty. The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!' So, Israel dwells in security, The fountain of Jacob secluded, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens also drop down dew. Blessed are you, O Israel; Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, Who is the shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! So, your enemies will cringe before you, And you will tread upon their high places." **Deut. 33** (entire chapter)

The last thing Moses is recorded to have done before his death was to speak a blessing over each of the twelve tribes. These blessings contain an element of the prophetic and a prayer. These are called “prophetic blessings.”

**We are living in the age of blessing and favor of God:** This is the age of God's grace on mankind. In the Old Testament, God used His people to pronounce a curse on His enemies as an expression of Sovereign judgment. It was not to be administered as a result of human vindictiveness or anger. Under the New Testament, we have a better covenant in which we are given to bless and curse not. Jesus came to save the world! He wants the lost to know His love.

**Isaiah 61:1-3** (KJV) The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

**Luke 4:17-20** (KJV) And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. Jesus closed the book and did not read "and the day of vengeance" because this day has not yet come, it will come when He returns to the earth a second time. We are living in the age of grace and blessing!!

#### **Considerations for Blessings:**

1. Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you to the Scriptures or blessing that He wants you to speak over the person.
2. Meditate on the blessings the LORD has given you as a child of God, as you have been blessed, bless others out of the abundance of your heart.
3. Meditate on the passage so that you have a deeper revelation of the words you are speaking.
4. Have faith in the power of the spoken word, especially as it is put into your mouth by the Holy Spirit.
5. In addition to blessing a person with the Word of God, you may also want to bless them with the Covenant Names of God. i.e., Jehovah Shalom, the LORD is peace.

**A BLESSING IS NOT A PRAYER.** Most of us are comfortable praying to God but He has instructed us to use his authority to speak the words He puts in our mouths. We are to speak blessings and words of life vocally. We are to 'say to the mountain', 'shout grace to the mountain', 'speak to the waves...' The Lord directed Ezekiel to speak to the dry bones in Ezekiel 37, not to pray to Him about the dry bones.

**Numbers 6:23-27** "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; ...So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and **I then will bless them.**'"

**Matt. 17:20** And He \*said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, **you will say to this mountain,** 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

**Matt. 21:21** And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you **SAY** to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. [Remember, Jesus spoke to the fig tree.]

**Mark 11:23** "Truly I say to you, whoever **SAYS to this mountain**, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, **but believes that what HE SAYS is going to happen**, it will be granted him.

**Matthew 10:13-14** "If the house is worthy, **give it your blessing** of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your *blessing* of peace. Whoever does not receive you, **nor heed your words**, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

**Conclusion:** Blessings open the way for God's full intentions to be released in a person's life. As we bless others, we are also blessed. We are given the scriptural authority and privilege to ask for blessings for ourselves, for our children and families. We are also called to pray for and bless the Church, our cities and nation **Jer. 29:7,11; Prov. 11:11**, as well as those who are evil and who persecute us. As we bless those who would curse us, we not only take a powerful stance in warfare, God also releases His love and forgiveness in our hearts for that person who we are blessing!

**Scriptural Blessings:** The Bible is full of blessings we can speak over others. Look for benedictions! Examples of blessings that you can speak over your loved ones and those around you:

**1 Thes. 5:23-24**

**Ps.20:4**

**2 Cor. 9:8**

**Col. 1:9**

**Rom. 1:7; 15:33; 16:24**

**2 Peter 1:2**

**Rev. 1:4-5**

**1 Tim. 1:2**

**2 Thes. 3:16**

**Phil. 4:7,19-20**

**Col. 2:1-4**

**Eph. 1:17; 6:23-24**

**1 Peter 5:10-14**

**Heb. 13:20-21**

**Ps. 100**

**2 Tim. 4:2**

*What is God speaking to your heart?*

*How do you want to respond to God?*

