

The God of All Blessings

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

A lie has invaded the hearts of many Christians today. The lie is that it is possible to limit the grace of God and thereby limit our chances for a blessing. Many believe that God can withhold a blessing because they do not deserve it. In fact, it is their lack of belief in the love of God that keeps these people from forgiving themselves and others. It is a lack of confidence in His character that keeps people in a cycle of sin.

This booklet reveals the true meaning of "blessing." It will show that when we submit to God's order, seeing it as His design for maximum blessing to every believer, we can stop striving for perfection. Instead, we can just rest and receive what He desires for us. Then we can take the blessing and become a blessing wherever we go, manifesting the intimacy of God's love to people who will receive His free gift.

Chapter One
CONCERNING THE
NEW CREATION

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

According to this passage, the man who is in Christ is not *becoming* new; he is new. But what about the “old things”? The old things are not passing away—they are *passed* away. And all things are become new.

The Greek word for new—*kainos*—means that every single thing about the new creature is brand-new. Still, we need to realize that while God has a plan for individuals, Satan has a plan too. Satan’s plan is to get people to withdraw or to react in their emotions and submit to his pressures. Then he tries to make us think obsessively over whatever details we are concerned with, and to always compare ourselves with others,

which is not wise (2 Corinthians 10:12).

In short, Satan's plan is to intimidate, to accuse, and to leave us without a good self-image. He wants to be in charge of our "skeletons"—the old things—because he thinks that he has access to our past. But in fact, as born-again believers, we were sealed by the Holy Spirit at the moment of our redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14). We are new creatures. We are a new creation. And I thank God that the old things have passed away and that all things have become new.

What's Gone Is Gone

In Zechariah 3:1-4, when Satan came to God to point out the sins of the high priest, the Lord rebuked him. He was not allowed to say a word, because Satan does not have access to the skeletons in our closet. That is because we do not *have* any skeletons hidden away.

If old things are really passed away, that would include any skeleton—the bones of a smelly old corpse that was left to rot in the grave. The problem is that when a burial just covers up the remains, there is a possibility for them to be uncovered. The Finished Work of Calvary, however, makes sure that there is nothing left to hide.

The Definition of a Blessing

What God is after is to bless us. “Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee” (Hebrews 6:14).

Do you know what the word “bless” means? It speaks of the manifestation of a deep, intimate love life, which brings much happiness. So God says, “I want to bless you.”

And we can say back to Him, “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Psalm 103:1-2).

Here we are, sinners saved by grace, and God is *blessing* us! God is the great Blessor, and we do not deserve it. Of course, if you want to go your own way, you do not have to receive His blessing. But He is the great Blessor, and that is what He longs to do for us.

The Responder's Dilemma

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God” (1 Corinthians 11:3).

When Satan wants to control an individual, he does it by attacking the volition. Do you know why he got through to Eve so quickly?

She chose to step outside of her covering, and Adam failed to cover her when she went out on her own.

Satan would love for the woman to be the head of the house. He wants the woman to usurp her husband's authority because she is a responder. In fact, Satan was able to deceive Eve first because she responded to him. As soon as she did that, he had her.

Women are most vulnerable to deception because, by God's design, they are responders. Many Christians have wonderful homes where the husband submits to God's order and takes authority without "lording over" his wife and family. When God's order is honored in the home, it is a place of rest and continual edification. Individually, family members may go through tests and even fail. Yet with God's love ruling, people are quick to rebound and receive the blessing that God commands (Psalm 133).

But the devil goes after responders and tries to get them to be depressed and negative, to talk a lot and mean little. He does everything in his power to usurp God's authority in the home, and when we do not guard our hearts, it can happen in a moment.

Blessings from Honoring God's Order

The Lord wants to bless the husband as the head of the home and let him be the head of the home in love. That doesn't mean the wife should be a doormat. She has a vital role in the family as a helpmate. A godly husband who is not insecure will delegate authority to her where her gifts complement his. Perhaps, as an example, she is stronger in handling the budget. They still make decisions together, and she submits to his headship for the final say. But he recognizes and honors her strengths as much as he covers her weaknesses. That household will be greatly blessed, because God is honored above all.

According to 1 Corinthians 11:3, the husband is the head of the house. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25). But where a strong woman is the head of her house and she calls all the shots, that family is divided, spiritually and mentally.

Because of our relationship to God as the Bride of Christ, I often think of Ephesians 5:25, as I did again this morning. I wake up and I say, "Good morning, Jesus. Thank You for a good night's sleep." I never want to take that relationship for granted or become familiar with His

presence.

And before I go to sleep tonight, I will get on my knees and say, "Good night, Jesus. You are still in my heart, and I thank You for blessing me even while I rest."

Chapter Two

RECOGNIZING THE BLESSER

The manifestation of intimacy is such a beautiful thing.

When that intimacy is manifested between a husband and his wife, he loves her, he shows kindness to her, and he covers her with a great covering. He prays with her and they read the Scriptures together as they live according to knowledge (1 Peter 3:7). Because he honors her as the weaker vessel, and because he recognizes that they are heirs together of the grace of life, their prayers are not hindered.

It is wonderful to know that God is going to bless. He will bless your marriage, He will bless your children, He will bless your job, and He will bless your health. God is in the blessing business. His great joy is to manifest His intimacy to a believer who loves His appearing (2 Timothy 1:10; 4:8).

There was a seven-year-old boy who had a

brother and a sister. Their dad—an alcoholic who always screamed and hollered at them—left home and stayed away from his family for a number of years. They all hated him. Years later he had a heart attack and became very weak, and nobody would go to see him.

That wounded young man eventually heard the Gospel and received Christ as his Savior. He began to learn about God's heart. He learned that as our heavenly Father, He just wants to bless all of His children. He also learned how the Father's heart breaks when people reject Him. And then, God said to that young man, "Now go and see your daddy."

He said, "No!"

"Go see your daddy."

"No."

Then he had a dream of his dad dying—and, in fact, he was dying. So the son got up in the middle of the night, put on his clothes, and drove a long way to be with his dad.

When he went into the bedroom where his dad was dying, that rebellious old alcoholic wept as his son ministered to him, gave him the Gospel, and told his dad how much he loved him. His father said, "Son, I have no friends. I am dying. I have nobody. Thank you for com-

ing. And thank you for forgiving me.”

They shared the most intimate time, and everything—just like that—came together. That young man recognized God as the Blessor, and he was able to pass on the blessing.

Confidence That Defeats the Deceiver

“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him” (Ephesians 3:12).

Dale Evans and her husband Roy Rogers had a daughter (Robin) who died. Then when their adopted son grew up, he went away to law school. But while he was there, he went to a party where he drank so much whiskey that he died of alcohol poisoning. Neither of his parents knew that he had ever touched a drink.

Afterwards, Dale Evans said, “Our hearts were broken.”

But then she said this: “Today I am going to look for a blessing. Christ is the Blessor, and I *know* He will bless me.”

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us” (1 John 5:14).

Why can a believer have such confidence? The power of Satan is defeated when we let God bless us. Satan does not want us to be intimate

with God. He does not want a woman to respond to and appreciate her husband. In fact, Satan's plan is to have a wife talk against her husband behind his back. He wants us to be occupied with everything from A to Z—everything, that is, except for Christ. That is what Satan wants.

But thanks be to God, when a husband loves his wife properly, he manifests God's holiness, God's grace, and God's love to her. There is nothing more beautiful than to have a husband love his wife as Christ loved the Church. And when a wife honors her husband (Ephesians 5:33), she blesses him, they bless one another, and God can bless their relationship.

The woman is a helpmate, and she is designed to respond to godly authority. As she submits to proper spiritual authority, she honors her husband, she blesses her husband, and she blesses her family. It is a beautiful combination.

*The Pleasant Ointment Flows
Down from the Head*

Husbands, love your wives. No matter what she does, love her. You will not always have her. That goes for all of us. Whether it is our family members or dear friends, it is an amazing thing

to be a part of God's blessing.

It is also an amazing thing when the wife manifests intimacy in her response to her husband's initiations, and she just loves him back as she was taught (Titus 2:4). As she becomes a real helpmate and responds to his love, the children are blessed, and they become a wonderful family. Christ is the head of that home, because He is the head of the man.

We never want to think of God's order of delegated authority in terms of ruling harshly and demanding obedience. God is not after dictatorship but leadership. God is looking for leadership where He can lead us in His nature. People want to obey and support those who lead and guide in meekness (Psalm 25:9).

It is so important to be a good leader. Whoever you have under you, be a great leader. In your words, in your thoughts, and in your actions, be a leader whom God has anointed.

Chapter Three

IRREVERSIBLE BLESSINGS

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

“Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them” (Numbers 23:19-21).

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for the Brethren to dwell together in unity!...for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore” (Psalm 133:1-3).

God has commanded us to be blessed, and He cannot reverse it. He has commanded that we would receive the manifestation of the intimacy of His love and to have communion with

Him in our hearts.

Let me repeat that: God has *commanded* that we would be blessed. What's more, He cannot reverse it. He has not seen the perverseness of Israel, nor has He seen any of Jacob's iniquities. He will only look upon us through the viewpoint of the Finished Work—through the Blood of Christ. It is on the basis of Redemption that we are blessed.

The Difference Is Revealed in the Blessing

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2).

“Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be” (James 3:10).

What a difference it makes when we live according to the blessing of God—that whenever others are talking about how bad somebody is, we can talk about how good they are. This separates us from the ways of the world, while it manifests to the world the possibility of an intimate relationship with God.

It is so overwhelming to know that blessing, He will bless you. He is *waiting* to bless you. He *has* blessed you. He *will* bless you. When we stay

on the right channel with God, we will have the greatest blessings of our lives. We can expect to be blessed all the time.

We are all members of a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). As an overseeing pastor, I am responsible to preach the Word to hundreds of men and women who are also believer-priests. But the moment I have finished preaching and the service ends, everyone who heard the message must stand or fall before God alone. We must honor that position of royalty in one another.

Your life, and what you do with the message, is between you and God, because you are walking with God as a member in particular of His royal family. Furthermore, you are seated above (Ephesians 2:6). Your affections are from above (Colossians 3:2). Your conversation is from above (Philippians 3:20). You bless people because of your position in Christ. You are living in a new dispensation of grace (Ephesians 3:2).

New Possibilities with a New Attitude

We can have the right attitude, the right mind, the right volition, the right life, the right love, the right life, and we can go forward with Jesus Christ our Lord, being blessed—being

blessed in heavenly places and down here below.

The Lord Jesus Christ teaches us how to be blessed by grace. "I will give you all these things you don't deserve, because I am the grace Giver. I am the Blessor. I am the Lover of your soul."

A little boy lost his father in a car accident. His mother was an alcoholic, and somebody asked me if I would counsel him. I got on my knees, and when he came in we prayed and I wept with him.

Many of us would get together and we would bless him and edify him. We would do things with him, take him places. I would send him notes often, just to bless him. As a result of the investment in his life by many people in our church, that young man is a missionary today.

In blessing, He will bless us. And that is what God wants to do for us. He just wants to bless us continually. As we submit to His order as the design for maximum blessings and we recognize Him as the Blessor, we will receive the manifestation of an intimate love life that He desires to impart to His Bride.

CONCLUSION

A couple I know and love deeply went through a terrible trial. He gave up his wife and family for something that he knew could never last. The shame he felt and the fact that he had broken fellowship with God kept him from coming back sooner. But all during that time—and it was a few years—she never lost hope. She never talked about him with her friends, other than to let her pastor counsel her.

From time to time I would see her, and I would ask, “Is everything okay?” And she would say, “I’m praying, and everything is going to turn out all right.”

I never heard her say one negative thing, but I did hear her say, “Everything is going to turn out all right.”

Today, their marriage is an example to us all, and that couple will be reigning above certain people in heaven that you thought were so spiritual. They simply agreed with the God of all

blessings and began to receive from Him all that He desires to give His children.

God is good! We have every reason to feel like a multi-billionaire every morning when we wake up. When we say, "Good morning, Jesus!" we are greeting the God of all blessings. We are greeting the Lover of our soul, who desires to manifest His love to us continuously. All we need to do is recognize Him, receive Him, and respond to His blessings.