

BLESSINGS  
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I. Definition of “blessing.”—“*God’s favor and protection.*”

II. God’s nature is to give us blessings. Many of these blessings are “**unconditional.**”

A. God gives us the sun and the rain without conditions.

Mark 5:44—Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you that you may be sons of your father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

B. God is incredibly generous. He extends his grace to all.

He gave us his only unique son. John 3:16

He gives us eternal life and eternal joy.

These gifts are given through Jesus Christ.

These gifts are undeserved.

They are free and only need to be accepted.

They are offered to both the good and the evil, just as like sunshine and rain falls upon the good and evil alike.

C. As children of God we are to be generous like God. We are called to bless and not to curse. We are to offer forgiveness like God gives the rain.

As children of God we are called to inherit and to give blessings.

1 Pet. 3:8—Finally all of you, be of one mind... (returning) blessing knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

III. Other blessings from God are **condiitonal** blessings and they require obedient to what God says to do.

A. Through obedience to God’s commands we open up the door to receive God’s blessings. In Deut 28:1-14 we are given the blessings of God through obedience.

Deut. 28:1-14—Now it shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you to today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

2. And all these blessings shall come upon you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

3. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

4. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

5. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

6. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
7. The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
8. The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouse and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.
9. The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways.
10. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you.
11. And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give to you.
12. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.
13. And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day, and are careful to observe them.
14. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

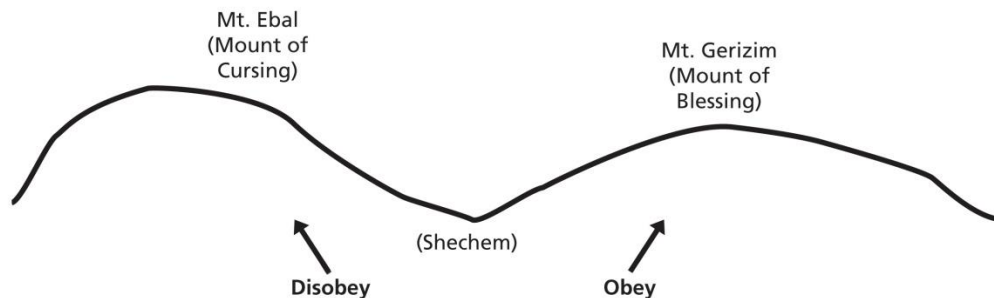
B. Another example of a conditional blessing. Tithing.

Malachi 3:10—Bring all of the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.’ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field.

C. We have the choice to choose blessings by our obedience to God’s word. Disobedience to God’s word however may lead to cursings instead of blessings. We have a free will to choose to receive God’s blessings or to reject God’s word and inherit the cursings of disobedience.

Deut. 11:26-28—Behold I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God....

D. An illustration of the choice between obedience to God’s commands or rejection of God’s commands were given as an object lesson to the Israelites where half of the Tribes of Israel shouted the blessings of God on Mt. Gerizim and the other half of the tribes shouted the cursings on Mt. Ebal. Israel had a choice to obey or reject just as we have a choice to receive Christ or reject Christ. See Deut. 11:28-29 and Josh. 8:30-35.



IV. When we accept Jesus as our savior, we become an heir of the blessings which God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We become, through faith in Christ, the children and heirs of Abraham.

Gal. 3:7-9—Therefore know only that those who, through faith, are the sons of Abraham...and the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel of Abraham beforehand saying "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then all those who having faith, are blessed with believing Abraham."

Gal. 3:29—And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

V. What is our inheritance that we receive when we participate in the blessings given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The blessings center around land (Israel/ Kingdom of God)  
 Protection  
 Being Part of the Family of God  
 Being prosperous through God's Blessings  
 Blessings through the Messiah/Jesus Christ

VI. Promises given to Abraham.

Gen. 12:2-3 I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you. And I will curse him who curses you. And in you all of the families of the earth will be blessed.

Gen. 12:4 "You will be a father to many nations.

Gen. 12:6—I will make you exceedingly fruitful. Kings shall come from you.

Gen. 12:7—To your descendents I will give this land. There will be an everlasting covenant.

Gen. 12:8—I will give you the lands where you are a stranger.

Gen. 13:16—And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth.

Gen. 15:4—An heir will come from your own body; like the stars so shall your descendants be.

## VII. Blessings to Jacob

### A. Blessing of Isaac to Jacob. Gen. 27: 28-29:

28. Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.

29. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's son bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you. And blessed be those who bless you.

### Gen. 28:2

May God almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples and give the blessings of Abraham to you and your descendants with you, that you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger which God gave to Abraham.

B. Jacob would later seek a blessing from God Himself.—Gen. 32:26. He received a new name "Israel". And Scripture said ..."and He (God) blessed him."

### C. God gave blessing to Jacob at Luz (Bethel).

Gen 28:11--...the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants will be as the dust of the earth....

14. ... and in you and in your seed all of the earth shall be blessed (this is a reference to the coming Messiah).

15. Behold I am with you and keep you wherever you shall go and I will bring you back to this land.

## VIII. Blessings given by Jacob

### A. To Judah: Gen. 48:8-10

8. Judah, you are he who your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies. Your father's children shall bow down to you.

9. Judah is a lion's whelp...

10. The scepter shall not depart from Judah...until Shiloh (the King of Peace) comes.

### B. To Ephriam and Manasseh (the two sons of Joseph)

Gen 48:16—Bless the lads. Let my name be named upon them And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac. And let them grow

Into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

19. Manasseh: He will be great but his younger brother (Ephraim) shall be greater than he. (Ephraim was the younger brother. Joseph had placed Jacobs right hand on the eldest Manasseh but the last minute Jacob crosses his arms so that his right hand is on the head of Ephraim rather than on the head of Manasseh).

IX. We need to esteem or want the blessings of God.

A. Rebekah and Jacob esteemed the blessings of Isaac and got the blessing even though it was by trickery. Gen. 28:1 “And Isaac loved Esau because of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Read Gen. 27:1-29.

B. The Prayer of Jabez. Jabez prayed to God that God would bless him.

1 Chron. 4:9-10—Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers...  
10. And Jabez called upon the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory, that your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.” So God granted him what he requested.

X. All blessings are rooted in Jesus Christ and there are no blessings which are not rooted in Jesus Christ.—

A. When you receive Christ you are blessed and in Jesus is **every** blessing.

B. You are blessed in the following manner:

1. You are part of the family of God.
2. You have the blessings of Abraham.
3. You are loved.
4. You can bless others.
5. You have God’s protection.
- 6 You have an eternal home.
7. You are written in God’s book of life.
8. You inherit all of the promises of God in Rev. 2:1-3:22.
9. You participate in God’s prosperity
10. You are covered by the blood of the Lamb.
11. You will have a new body
12. You tears will be wiped away and you will be healed.

C. You inherit EVERY spiritual blessing. Eph. 1:3—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

D. There are no real blessings except through Christ.

1. Good looks is not a blessing except through Jesus. Helen of Troy caused wars and death.
2. Power is not a blessing except through Jesus. Hitler and Stalin had power but they were not blessed.
3. Health is not a blessing except through Jesus. Health is temporary, but in Christ you will have an eternally healthy body. A healthy body without a healthy mind and spirit is useless.
4. Wisdom is not a blessing except through Jesus. Solomon had power, looks, health, wealth, and wisdom. He said Vanity of vanities. All of these are emptiness.
5. Eternal life is not a blessing except thorough Jesus. You could experience an eternity in misery.

#### XI. We are eligible to give the Blessing of Aaron.

A. The Blessing of Aaron is the Priestly blessing. It is given only by priest and by those who are descended from the High Priest, Aaron. It was given at the end of the synagogue service.

1. Like Jesus you participate in the priestly calling of Melchizedek which is higher than Aaron. Melchizedek blessed Abraham. Levi the tribe which was to become the priestly tribe had not been born. The priesthood of Melchizedek is a spiritual priesthood and Christ was considered to be a priest like Melchizedek. To learn more about the priesthood of Melchizedek read Chapter 7 of the Book of Hebrews.

Here is the Blessing which Melchizedek gave to Abraham (Gen. 14:18-20):

Blessed be Abram of God Most High  
 Possessor of Heaven and earth;  
 And blessed be God Most High  
 Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.

2. When we become Christian we become a nation of kings and priests. ( 1 Pet. 2:9)

B. The Aaronic Blessing. Nu. 6:24-26.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
 The Lord make his face shine upon you,  
 And be gracious to you;  
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
 And give you peace.

#### XII. The Aaronic Blessing is given with exteded hands.

A. The priests hands were to be clean and not diseased.

B. A sign with the hand is given (The Spock sign)



C. As part of this tradition we lay hands on people and pray for them. The laying on of hands in the Bible can be used for blessing such as Jacob blessing Ephraim and Mannasseh. When Jesus blessed the children he laid hands on them. It can also be used for healing and for investiture and passing on authority and for passing on the Holy Spirit. Here are some Scriptures to study regarding the laying on of hands. Num. 27:15-23; Mk. 10:16' Mi./ 8:10, Deut. 34:9; Lk. 4:40; Acts 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:22; Acts 8:17,; Acts 28:8; 1 Tim. 4:14; Gen. 48:14; Acts 13:3; 2 Tim. 1:6; Matt. 19:15,; Mark 6:5; Mark 16:18; Lk. 13:3.

XIII. Jesus blesses us even when we don't feel blessed and even when we don't see the blessing.

A. The Beatitudes—Matt. 5:3-12

B. I am blessed when I am

1. poor in spirit
2. when I mourn
3. when I am meek
4. when I hunger and thirst to see righteousness on the earth
5. when I am merciful and others are not
6. when I am pure in heart and others trick me and are duplicitous
7. when I seek peace and everyone else wants to see conflict and war.
8. when I am persecuted and others are not
9. when I am reviled but others say good things about the wicked and unjust.

XIV. How do we bless people. We bless people with our words. We also bless people when we lay hands upon them in faith.

A. We speak the words of God over people. One good way to do this is to confess Scripture over them. We can also confess over them the prophetic word of God.

B. We need to bless situations and people by speaking over them words of faith rather than words of doubt. James 3:10—Out of the same mouths proceed blessings and cursings, my brethren, these things ought not to be.

C. When God's words are spoken over you, they may convict you of your sin. They may also bless you. In many cases the prophetic word should encourage you, lift you up and bless you. The words of God and blessing should remind you of your covenant relationship with God.

XV. Write a blessing which you can give to the group or to another person. You are called to bless.



ADDENDUM I  
BLESSINGS FROM THE PSALMS

Psm 20:4,5—May God grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill your purpose...May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

Psm. 67:1—God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us.

Psm. 121:7-8—

7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

ADDENDUM II  
SOME BLESSINGS FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL

Rom 15:5-6—Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 15:33—May the God of peace be with you all.

Eph. 3:16—May God grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through love, that you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ ....

Col. 1:11-12—May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

1 Thes. 3:11-13—Now may our God and Father himself... make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thes. 5:23—Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thes. 2:16-17—Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father...comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

2 Thes. 3:5—May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

2 Thes. 3:16—Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.

ADDENDUM III  
BLESSINGS WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF OUR SMALL GROUP

May the Lord bless you on your Life's journey.

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The Lord bless you with long life, good health,  
vehicular stability and home repair warranties which  
actually pay.

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May you feel what God's heart feels  
for people around you.

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May your hearts be filled with the eternal  
love of Jesus Christ, overflowing  
Into the lives of all you meet.

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May you see and recognize God's constant  
and unending love for you.  
May you be awed by His creation gifts.  
May you be full to overflowing with hope for tomorrow.

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May God keep you and watch over you.  
May God send his Holy Spirit to bless you  
and to reveal the mind of God to you.  
May the Holy Spirit anoint you  
and heal you of your wounds and hurts.  
May the Spirit of the Living God  
go before you and stand behind you  
and protect you now and forevermore.

