

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Effects of the blessing.

Objective

In today's bible study we will be looking at the effects of the blessing. We aim to realign our minds with God's Word as it pertains to what we ought to expect in life, now that we are blessed. Today's study is about using the Word of God to influence our expectations as we live life, make plans and walk with God.

Introduction

Part of the strategy of the enemy in recent times has been to truly devalue the word "blessed" to the place where we no longer desire to live with the level of expectation which God expects us to live with as a blessed people.

But our God has gone through a really great effort to bless us. He literally laid down His life for us. To bless someone is to kneel, our God went one step further, He died. He gave His life for us so that we will be blessed!

Our world is in need of people who are empowered by God! We literally cannot afford to live any other life but the blessed life. We must not be shamed out of the blessing. We must embrace the blessing. The accomplishment of the will of God on earth depends on it.

The source of the blessing

The Hebrew word for bless is the word, BARAK. And it means to kneel. The act of kneeling is an ancient ritual in which one pledges their allegiance to another by kneeling to them. That's where the word Barak, which we translate as bless comes from.

The most common definition of the blessing is an empowerment to succeed. But we need to understand that the action of Barak, the "kneeling" is the source of the empowerment to prosper or the blessing.

In **Genesis 1**, God created mankind in His image & likeness, out of dirt...and then he does something phenomenal in **verse 28**

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28: Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

That word “blessed” there is to kneel. It seems strange to think that God will knee to this lump of clay He just created, but in truth this is what is unique about the Christianity, nearly every religion in the history of mankind is about a deity, placing a demand on mankind to kneel to them in exchange for empowerment. But God creates mankind and he doesn't just kneel, He literally laid down His life for us on the cross!

So now when we bless the Lord, when we kneel in worship and surrender to Him, we are only doing what He has already done for us. This is what real leadership looks like. This is why you are blessed. You are blessed because God gave Himself to you. This is the source of the empowerment to succeed that we must not shy away from walking in!

Further reading: Genesis 15, Galatians 3:9, 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

When he gave his life for you, he gave you access to the kingdom of God. So now you are blessed with all that He is and all that he has! We are empowered to prosper because in Laying down his life, Jesus commended all that he is & all that he has to us.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NKJV)

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

You might not have enough righteousness of your own to keep your head up, you might have messed up so badly that you don't think you deserve a second chance, but the reality is that you can plan like the righteous man, you can keep your head up like perfect people do. You

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can what the saint expects, because Christ has become for you righteousness! He has become for you wisdom He is your sanctification! You are blessed!

The effects of the blessing

When God blessed Adam, our progenitor, God described certain effects that the blessing should have on Adam, who was at this point, just a breathing lump of clay! Let's look at these because this ought to be your expectation.

Genesis 1:28 (KJV)

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

God blessed them and said to them; Notice that the kneeling ("baraking") preceded the speaking. If you don't understand God's posture when He speaks to you, you could miss how serious he is about what he said!

Every time you hear the Word of God, you need to know that God has already moved toward you. Before he puts any ball in your court, please know that He has already made the first move. It is His posture that empowers you to live out the Word.

5 effects of the blessing

Fruitfulness— To be fruitful is to be able to produce on the outside, what you have on the inside. It is to manifest on the outside, what you have the potential for on the inside. Many people go through life with latent potential. Potential that is never seen.

Myles Munroe famously said that the grave is the richest place on earth because many people are buried with their potential. The blessing of God, His posture of favor towards you is designed to cause you to be fruitful! If you embrace the Word of God, with an understanding of God's favorable posture towards us, we will be empowered to bear fruit.

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Expect to bear fruit in every area of your life! You are blessed!

Further reading: John 15:16, Psalm 1:1-3, Luke 6:43 – 45, Romans 7:4

Multiplication – To multiply is to become great, numerous, many. It is to grow, to make large, increase. It is to bring into abundance, to heap, to make more in number.

God's blessing empowers you to multiply. There are so many invitations to stay where you are, with what you have. There is so much in society that wants us as the church to stay in our little corner with our "little light". There is so much about life that seeks to keep us in little boxes, in worlds that revolve around us. But God blessed you so that you can multiply! The proximity of God to you is your cue that you ought to multiply!

Set your expectations on multiplication. In Matthew 25:14-30, we have the parable of the talents. One of the main things that Jesus was looking to communicate to us is that His expectation is that we multiply what He has given us. Thank God for what you have, thank God what you have experienced up until now, but understand this, multiplication is the will of God for you! You are blessed, it is illegal to do anything but multiply!

Further reading: Isaiah 51:2, Genesis 22:17, 2 Timothy 2:2, Matthew 25:14-30, Jeremiah 30:19

Replenish – to replenish is to fill, to satisfy, to complete, to accomplish. The blessing enables you to be a finisher. The blessing enables you to fill up, to replenish places of long devastation. You are so empowered that places of devastations in your life and in the lives of others don't have to stay unsatisfied, God has empowered you to replenish!

In the scripture there are many examples of seasons where the land of Israel was devastated by war. Walls were broken down, the temples were desecrated and emptied out of all its treasures. The streets were scanty and unsafe. But because God had blessed the people,

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He will always raise up an Ezra, a Nehemiah, a Joshua, a Zerubbabel to rebuild or replenish the city!

The places of loss and devastation in our lives don't have to stay devasted. The blessing Empowers us to replenish!

Further reading: Jeremiah 31:25, Deuteronomy 30:3-13, Amos 9:14, Isaiah 61:7

Subdue – To subdue is to quieten, or bring under control. How many times do we just put up with thoughts that subdue us? Words that change our mood and influence our behavior? So often we accept that we are under the circumstances or feel that we are completely at the mercy of what others think or say. At the mercy of the elements. At the mercy of the attacks of the enemy.

But the blessing means we can subdue the earth! We can bring things under control. We can capture thoughts and make them obedient to Jesus. The blessing means that we are empowered to come out from underneath the control of that fear. The blessing means that sickness and disease, poverty and lack does not have to control us. There is power in God's proximity to you, to empower you to subdue.

Further reading: 2 Sam 22:40, Psalm 47:3, Isaiah 45:1

Dominion – To have dominion is to rule, to reign over. As blessed people we were never meant to be on the sidelines. God never intended that we live life dominated by everything and everyone. His intention is that you dominate in any territory you find yourself, you are dominating.

We don't dominate people, but the blessing empowers us to rule territories which include people. But when the righteous rule the people rejoice.

What territory do you find yourself in? Which city are you in? which industry do you work in? God's blessing in your life is looking to elevate you to the place where you can participate in ruling! Dominion is the nature of God. It should be on your agenda too.

Further reading: Hebrews 2:8

Conclusion

God is no tease. The Word of God is true. When God blessed Adam, He blessed you. When Jesus died on the cross, that was God in the flesh fulfilling His promise to bless mankind. You are not going to be blessed. You are blessed. The effects of the blessing are waiting on your agreement to be activated. Let's choose to believe God. Let's choose to govern our lives and set our expectation on the basis of the fact that we are thoroughly blessed! Don't settle for anything less.

Discuss

- In what ways does life try to force us to reduce our expectations as blessed people?
- Which effect of the blessing have you not been actively expecting in your life?
- What do you think our world, our communities, our churches, our lives will look like if the effects of the blessing are fully manifested in our lives?
- In what ways do you think that we can actively set ourselves up to expect the effects of the blessing?