

## Doctrine of Blessing

1. The Hebrew word for blessing is *baraakah* and refers to doing good to others or having good bestowed.
2. God promised to bless or do good to Abram so that he in turn could do good to others and be a source of blessing to them.
  - *Genesis 12:2 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:*
  - *Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*
3. Specific blessings were promised to Abram. First, he was to have many descendants. Second, his descendants would possess the land of their enemies.
  - *Genesis 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;*
4. It is possible to forgo a parental blessing in lieu of a parental curse. Like a blessing, a curse can be binding far beyond the immediate moment.
  - *Genesis 27:12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.*
5. Parents can bestow a blessing on their children.
  - *Genesis 27:30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.*
6. It is possible for a blessing belonging to someone else to be stolen by deceit.
  - *Genesis 27:35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.*
  - *Genesis 27:36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?*
7. A parental blessing can be and should be pleaded for.
  - *Genesis 27:38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.*

8. When a parental blessing is stolen it becomes the focus point of hatred and hostility. In this way the Enemy comes to stir up dark emotions and destroy families.
  - *Genesis 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.*
9. The blessing of one person may be invoked to be given to another. Isaac sought God to give the blessing of Abraham to his son Jacob.
  - *Genesis 28:4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.*
10. When a blessing of God is manifested in material abundance the purpose is for the sharing of that abundance with others. In this manner the blessing of one person is brought to another.
  - *Genesis 33:11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.*
11. The unconverted may unknowingly enjoy blessings by the presence of a blessed person. This is a positive example of the principle of spiritual association.
  - *Genesis 39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*
12. A good and righteous father (or parent) will seek to bestow a blessing on all of the children without exception.
  - *Genesis 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.*
13. Spiritual preparation is required to receive a blessing from God. In particular there must be a measure of submission to divine sovereignty and movement towards sanctification. Ritual cleansing is to give way to real cleansing.
  - *Exodus 32:29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.*
14. There is a time element associated with the blessings of God being bestowed.
  - *Leviticus 25:21 Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.*

15. A blessing and a curse can be set before individuals at the same time and on the same day.

- *Deuteronomy 11:26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;*

16. The blessing of God has a spiritual requirement in order to obtain it. That requirement is evangelical obedience.

- *Deuteronomy 11:27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:*

17. A geographical location might memorialize in a symbolic way the blessing and cursing of the Lord. When the Israelites came into the Land of Promise two hills were used in this manner according to commandment.

- *Deuteronomy 11:29 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.*

18. One of the blessings of God is food.

- *Deuteronomy 12:15 Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart.*

19. Special offerings of worship were based upon the principle of grace giving with the understanding that whatever resources a person had, be they little or great, were according to the blessing of the Lord. There is no such thing as a self made man or woman.

- *Deuteronomy 16:17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.*
- *Deuteronomy 28:8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

20. God can take the curse of a person and turn it into a blessing. One way He does this is by controlling the tongue of the person so that the force of their utterance is not what they intended.

- *Deuteronomy 23:5 Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.*

21. The people of God are never to forget the ultimate Source of blessing or cursing, which is the LORD thy God.
- *Deuteronomy 30:1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,*
- Special Note.* In the KJV the word “LORD” is placed in capital letters, not for emphasis but to identify the special and sacred Hebrew word for God known as the Tetragrammaton or literally *four letters*. The reference is to YHWH which is often pronounced YAHWEH. The name has a disputed meaning from “I AM” to “I CAUSE” to “HE FALLS” or “HE FELL”.
22. The blessing of God and His curse can be known by a study of *Scripture*.
- *Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*
23. The blessing of Moses upon the tribes of the nation of Israel is recorded in Deuteronomy 33:1ff.
- *Deuteronomy 33:1 And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.*
24. Individuals can plead for a blessing from another as Acsah asked of Caleb.
- *Joshua 15:19 Who answered, Give me a blessing; for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And he gave her the upper springs, and the nether springs.*
25. The giving of a blessing to someone can appease anger as Abigail turned back the rage of David against Nabal.
- *1 Samuel 25:27 And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.*
26. It is not wrong to seek the blessing of God to be present upon one’s household – for ever.
- *2 Samuel 7:29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.*
27. Those who have been led to know the one true God are sometimes grateful enough to bestow a blessing on the person who introduced them to Him.

- *2 Kings 5:15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.*
28. Those who have been blessed by someone will sometimes want to return the blessing in gratitude so that a cycle of blessing takes place.
- *Job 29:13 The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.*
29. Wise spiritual leaders will lead others to stand up and bless the name of the LORD which is above any temporal blessings received.
- *Nehemiah 9:5 Then the Levites ... said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.*
  - *Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*
  - *Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*
  - *Revelation 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*
30. The greatest blessing of the LORD is the gift of salvation.
- *Psalms 3:8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.*
  - *Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:*
31. The Bible reveals who shall receive the blessing from the LORD.
- *Psalms 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*
32. The corruption of the human heart is so perverse and pervasion that it can love a curse and delight not in blessing.
- *Psalms 109:17 As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him.*

33. It is possible to refuse to bless others and wish them ill instead of good.

- *Psalms 129:8 Neither do they which go by say, The blessing of the LORD be upon you: we bless you in the name of the LORD.*

34. The Psalmist remembered the place of blessing.

- *Psalms 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

*Special Note.* The hills of Hermon were higher than the hills on which Mt. Zion rested. The concept is that unity originates in heaven and moves to earth. Individuals must first have peace with God before they can have peace with each other. All of the conflict in the life of the Christian is the result of the ethics of the kingdom of heaven coming into conflict with the ethics of the kingdoms of this world.

35. There are good reasons to want the blessing of the LORD upon one's life.

- A blessing brings riches and happiness. *Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.*
- A blessing brings prosperity to others. *Proverbs 11:11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.*
- A blessing generates gratitude in others. *Proverbs 11:26 He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.*

36. There is a special blessing for those who rebuke sin.

- *Proverbs 24:25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.*

37. There are periods in history when a righteous nation becomes a blessing to other nations.

- *Isaiah 19:24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:*

38. God's providential protection of His people from physical destruction by sickness, pestilence or war is a blessing.

- *Isaiah 65:8 Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.*

39. God's providential provisions for His people are at times numerous.

- *Ezekiel 34:26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.*

“There shall be showers of blessing;  
This is the promise of love;  
There shall be seasons refreshing,  
Sent from the Savior above.

*Showers of blessing,  
Showers of blessing we need:  
Mercy drops round us are falling,  
But for the showers we plead.*

There shall be showers of blessing,  
Precious reviving again;  
Over the hills and the valleys,  
Sound of abundance of rain.

There shall be showers of blessing;  
Send them upon us, O Lord;  
Grant to us now a refreshing,  
Come, and now honor Thy Word.

There shall be showers of blessing:  
Oh, that today they might fall,  
Now as to God we're confessing,  
Now as on Jesus we call!

There shall be showers of blessing,  
If we but trust and obey;  
There shall be seasons refreshing,  
If we let God have His way.”

Daniel W. Whittle, 1883

40. Returning a portion of God's blessing to His cause and kingdom will bring a blessing. God has given His ministers to His people to be a source of comfort and a cause of blessing.

- *Ezekiel 44:30 And the first of all the firstfruits of all things, and every oblation of all, of every sort of your oblations, shall be the priest's: ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thine house.*

- *Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*
41. It is possible, based upon gospel repentance, for the wrath of God to be turned away so that cursing turns to blessing.
- *Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. 14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?*
43. To bless God is to speak good of Him.
- *Luke 24:53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.*
44. The good news of the gospel of Christ is a blessing.
- *Romans 15:29 And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.*
45. The cup of communion which speaks of the blood of Christ is a source of blessing and in turn is to be blessed.
- *1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*
46. As God does good to His creatures so He does good to His creation.
- *Hebrews 6:7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:*
47. As Esau forfeited his blessing so a person can spurn the blessing of God and receive unto themselves a just compensation.
- *Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*
48. The Christian is not to be inconsistent by pronouncing a blessing in one moment and a cursing in another. The words we say affect not only others but ourselves. The believer is to be known, not for rendering evil for evil but contrariwise, blessing.

- *James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*
- *1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*