

The Blessed Mindset

57 - Ephesians: Rise Up & Walk
Church on the Park Live | Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2020

Text: Genesis 12:1-4

Theme:

Intro: *What does it mean to be blessed?* People use ‘blessed’ often and if a word is used too much it loses its potency. Overuse causes the word and its meaning to become vague and weak. Today, I want us to return back to the roots of this word and let God restore the glory of the word ‘blessed’ back to us. And there’s no better place to start than with Abraham. His whole journey with God began with Yahweh telling him how blessed he would be. The blessing of the Lord needs to be the very roots of our being. Know your roots.

1) Believe you’re blessed (Genesis 12:1-4).

- In this **end-time battle**, **believe** you are **blessed**.
- **Our church** is not for the **consumer** looking for a nice church experience. Our church is for **pioneers and revolutionaries—people like Abraham**, willing to step out of their comfort zone to walk with God.
- ‘Believe that you’re blessed’ is a point I have made **several times** before. But it’s important to repeat it again. And I believe it’s God’s message to us.
 - Our **mental, emotion and spiritual health** is rooted in a ‘**blessed mindset**’—an ‘**I am blessed**’ and ‘**we are blessed**’ mentality.
 - And it’s critical that you believe you are blessed because **life is tough—extremely tough** at times.
 - Also, it’s critical that **we as a church** believe we are blessed because people will **attack** us and even some of our own members may be **disgruntled**.
 - **Tough times** do not mean that **God has forsaken you**. Nor do they mean God has forsaken **us**.
 - A **pilot** does not stop **flying** when he experiences **turbulence**.
 - Believing you are blessed means **believing what God says about you**.
 - Satan continually bombards believers through **psychological warfare**.
 - He wants to **convince you** that you are **not blessed**. He wants you to think you are **weak and pathetic; unloved and unwanted**. He wants you to think that you are a **bother** to others and **rejected** by God; that you are **ugly** and your **life is not worth living**.
 - If the devil can **lodge himself** into your **mind** than he can **paralyse your walk** and your stand against him.
 - As Paul tells us in Ephesians, “And take **the helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17; cf. Isa. 59:17).
 - וְכֹבֵעַ יְשׁוּעָה בְּרִאשׁוֹ
(Is 59:17).
 - **Putting on** the helmet of salvation means you must **cover your mind** with the fact that **God is covering you**.
 - Know that you **are saved, you are being saved and that you will be saved**.
 - Know that **Jesus himself is with you right now** and that your salvation is for **today**—not just **tomorrow**.
 - But also know that your salvation **will be with you tomorrow**.
 - So instead of tomorrow being **filled with dread and fear**, be **fully persuaded** that **tomorrow will be all about** God working for your salvation—**helping and rescuing you**.
 - **Say to yourself** when you look in the mirror, “**I am saved, I am being saved and I will be saved. I will not perish, either in this life or the next. Only my body will fade but I will be given a new one when Christ returns.**”

- **What does it mean to be blessed?**

- The Lord said to me, “I want my people to know what it means to be blessed.”

2) Loved (Ephesians 1:3-8).

- To be blessed means you are **loved by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit**.
 - You are not **rejected**; you are **accepted**.
- You are **favoured by God** and the **recipient of his grace** (Ephesians 1:3-8).
- And **since you are loved**, he **showers** you with **gifts**.
- But most importantly, since you are loved, **God wants to be with you**.
 - Your God **desires to be in you and with you**—to **immerse you** in himself.
 - There is no greater blessing than the **Holy Spirit being with you and filling you**.
 - **Pentecost Sunday**
- Here I want to give you a **warning**.
- John 19:23 - “**...took his outer garments.**”
 - The soldiers 'took his outer garments.' Today, people do the same when they want **Christ's provision and protection without his person**. They steal Jesus' outer garments. They want his fashion and clothes – they want his outward religion – but they do not want him. They desire what he can give them but not for the Giver himself. It's religion without relationship. It's the outward – the form – without the inward – the life and power (2 Tim. 3:5).
 - So remember, God's **blessing** is about He **HIMSELF** being with you because he longs for **intimacy and communion** with you.
- **Since you're loved**, God wants you to be **successful** in carrying out his will.
- He who began a good work in you will be **faithful to complete it**.
- “Nevertheless, the Lord your God was not willing to listen to Balaam, **but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because the Lord your God loves you**” (Deu. 23:5; cf. Deu. 7:13).
- Ephesians 1:4; 2:4 - I have been chosen and specially selected by God for this time in history.
- **We love because he first loved us. Perfect love casts out all fear** (1 John 4:16-19).

3) Empowered

- A **blessing** is **God's word and gift of empowerment, grace and favour** that **enables** you to **fulfil his will**.
- **Genesis 1:28 & Genesis 12:1:4**
 - **Abraham's sevenfold blessing** which is ours in Christ (Gal 3:13-14).
 - 1) I will make you a great nation, 2) I will bless you, 3) And make your name/character great, 4) And so you shall be a blessing, 5) I will bless those who bless you, 6) And the one who treats you lightly, I will curse, 7) And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.
 - In this sevenfold blessing, we see **the calling of both Israel and the church**.
- **Deuteronomy's list of blessings** (Deu. 6:13-15; 21-22; *28:1-14).
- “For you first God raised up His servant and sent Him to **bless you by turning every one of you** from your wicked ways” (Acts 3:26).

4) Secure

- Listen to **the priestly blessing** (Numbers 6:24-26).

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ: 24
 יְאֵר יְהוָה וּפָנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְדֶּךָ: 25
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(Nu 6:24–26)

- “Those who treat you lightly I will curse...” - **God fights on our behalf**.
- Inscribed on the **palms of his hand** (Isa. 49:16).
 - “Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of *My hands*...”

- “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **no one can snatch them out of my hand**. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can **snatch** them out of **my Father’s hand**. I and the Father are one” (John 10:28-30)
- It’s through faith that you are credited righteousness, not through works.

5) Surrounded

- God’s got you **surrounded**.
- Even in the supermarket. **Testimony of God in aisle 2**.
- “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and **enabled you to walk with heads held high** (*qomemiyyut*)” (Lev. 26:13, NIV)
- God is your shield. “**Do not fear**, Abram, **I am your shield** and your exceedingly great reward” (Gen. 15:1).

6) Exalted

- “Blessed be the the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ**” (Eph. 1:3; *2:4-6).
- “The Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth...” (Deu. 28:1)

7) Desirable

- People will be **drawn to your light** and this will enable you to share with them the good news.
- “I am my beloved’s, and **his desire is for me**” (SOS 7:10).
- No longer forsaken but **desired**.
- You are not **under the curse of forsakenness** any more.

Conclusion: To sum up, all these points spell ‘BLESSED.’ 1) Believe you are blessed, 2) Loved, 3) Empowered, 4) Secure, 5) Surrounded, 6) Exalted and 7) Desirable.

Now, let’s celebrate through communion.