

Blessed TO BE a BLESSING

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Introduction:

- ❖ I grew up in **poverty**.
- ❖ My wife grew up in **poverty**.
- ❖ Many people in this church grew up in **poverty**.
- ❖ We have felt the nasty affects of **LACK** and we know how painful it could be.
- ❖ Even though we live in one of the richest countries in the world, **many Americans today still grapple with poverty**.
- ❖ Even among those that are above the poverty level, many live **paycheck-to-paycheck**; always just a couple of missed paychecks away from being homeless.
- ❖ It is because of the reality of poverty and lack that I believe the PROSPERITY MESSAGE has been so attractive.
- ❖ Some call it the **PROSPERITY GOSPEL**.
- ❖ **WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, I BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD.**
- ❖ If we look back at the Father of Faith, Abraham, we will see that God has always intended us to BE BLESSED; **but the purpose** of The Blessing has always been so that we COULD BE A BLESSING!
- ❖ **BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING – that was the message from God to Abraham!**
- ❖ The Blessing has always been about **more than JUST YOU!**

- ❖ I recently heard Jesse Duplantis talk about the difference between those that are seeking God for a **miracle** and those that are seeking God to **BE A Blessing**:

Those Seeking a Miracle	Those Seeking THE BLESSING
Have a need.	Have their needs met.
Looking for God to do something FOR THEM.	Looking for God to do something THROUGH THEM!
Focus in on themselves.	Focus is on others.
They want God to respond to a need.	They want God to respond to His Word.
Walking in lack.	Walking in OVERFLOW!

- ❖ When you come from a poverty background it is easy to understand why you **INITIALLY** focus so much on yourself.
- ❖ You just want to make sure you are going to have enough.
- ❖ But when you allow Your Mind to be **renewed** BY THE WORD of God, then you know that you will **ALWAYS HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH!**
- ❖ **As you mature in God and in His Blessing your focus shifts from you to others.**
- ❖ From "**Lord, give it TO ME,**" to "**Lord, send it THROUGH ME!**"
- ❖ And I'm not just talking about MONEY.
- ❖ This is how we must see:
 - Wisdom
 - Revelation
 - Insight
 - Healing
 - Encouragement
 - Money
 - Etc.

Our focus MUST be to BE BLESSED to BE A BLESSING!

Foundational Scripture: (Gen 12:1-3 KJV) Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

(v.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:

(v.3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

In this passage we see:

- ❖ **The Nature of God:** God is **by nature** a God that **WANTS** to bless us. Abram was living his life. He obviously did something to get God's attention, but humanly speaking, God did not HAVE to come to Abram to Bless him, but He wanted to.
 - BY NATURE GOD IS A GOOD GOD!
 - He WANTS to Bless us.
 - He WANTS to ENABLE us.
 - He WANTS to EMPOWER us.
 - He WANTS to EMPLOY us!
 - **BUT WHY?**
 - **Why does God want to bless us?**
- ❖ **The Purpose of God:** The purpose behind Him blessing Abram was SO THAT Abram COULD BE A Blessing.
 - The Blessing was bigger than just Him.
 - The Blessing was supposed to go TO HIM, but then THROUGH HIM!
 - **GOD's purpose is ALWAYS Bigger than JUST YOU!**
- ❖ **The Vision of God:** When God saw Abram, he also SAW Abram's seed.
 - God saw everyone that was to COME out of Abram.
 - God's VISION never ends with just you.
 - **When God sees you He sees your seed.**
 - **Your Seed is Your Future!**

Let's take a closer look at this passage:

(Gen 12:1) Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house...

- ❖ When God came to Abram he was already setup to receive an inheritance.
- ❖ He was already going to leave a legacy.
- ❖ He was going to PASS ON what was PASSED ON to him.
- ❖ And that was a legacy of the world.
- ❖ **It was common and it was limited.**
- ❖ God asked him to leave his country, therefore leaving His legacy for a new one.
- ❖ He was going to have to FORSAKE his old life if we wanted to have God's NEW LIFE FOR HIM!
- ❖ **Abram could NOT have it BOTH WAYS!**
- ❖ Too many people today want to keep worldly ways and still inherit a Spiritual Legacy.
- ❖ God still requires us to GET OUT to RECEIVE His best.
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #1: To the degree that you are able to RELEASE your old life, will be to the degree that you are able to RECEIVE you new one!**
 - Many people don't see God's best because they are not willing to let go of the world.
 - They want to live in the world and live in God at the same time.
 - Straddling the fence will never take you into God's Blessing Place!
 - **God often requires SEPARATION FOR ELEVATION!**
 - **Make a decision to LET GO so you can LAY HOLD!**

...unto a land that I will show thee

- ❖ Abram did not fully know where he was going, but he new WHO He was following.
- ❖ Four times the Bible says, “**The just shall live by faith**”
- ❖ **Living by faith is exciting!**
- ❖ You may not always know where God is leading you to, but you know it will be GOOD!
- ❖ We know that 2nd Cor 5:7 says, “**For we walk by faith, not by sight.**”
- ❖ The Message Bible translation of this verse says, “**It's what we trust in but don't yet see that keeps us going.**”
- ❖ What are you trusting God for?
- ❖ What are you believing God for?
- ❖ What is your vision?
- ❖ What do you SEE yourself doing WITH God?
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #2: Those with NO Expectation will see NO Manifestation!**
 - **Note:** If the vision is ONLY for you, then it probably did not come from God!

(v.2) And I will make of thee a great nation...

- ❖ Abraham died without SEEING the nation manifested.
- ❖ He had one son (of promise).
- ❖ His son Isaac had two sons.
- ❖ Jacob had 12 sons.
- ❖ Those 12 sons became a nation.
- ❖ It did not happen until THREE GENERATIONS LATER, but it still happened.
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #3: It may not happen when you expect it, but if God said it, IT WILL HAPPEN!**

- ❖ God looked at ONE MAN and saw A NATION.
- ❖ God looked at Abraham and SAW YOU!
- ❖ **When God sees you He sees your seed.**
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #4: Your Seed is Your Future!**
- ❖ God was so serious about establishing covenant with Abram AND HIS SEED, that he CUT COVENANT with Abram on his reproductive organ.
- ❖ Every time SEED pass through Abram to his wife the SEED was UNDER THE BLOOD!
- ❖ **The Covenant God has with you is to Bless you and Your Seed!**
 - **Your natural and spiritual legacy!**

...and I will bless thee...

- ❖ This word (bless) means to empower to prosper.
- ❖ God empowered Abram to succeed.
- ❖ God empowered Him to experience a better life.
- ❖ But God did not do everything for him.
- ❖ **You can empower someone with your:**
 - **Authority:** The ability to speak on your behalf.
 - **Resources:** The ability to tap into what you own.
 - **Connections:** The ability to access the people you know (not them), that they will require for their success.
 - *****But it will still require action on their part!**
 - God **DID NOT DO** everything for Abram, but He **set him up** for success.
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #5: The BLESSING is never maximized in the life of a LAZY person!**

- ❖ Paul said, “**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me**” (1st Cor 15:10 NASB).
- ❖ **God’s grace + My work = Success for me + Legacy for others!**

...and make thy name great...

- ❖ Those that say, “**I Don’t Care what people think about me,**” don’t understand God.
- ❖ Your reputation is important.
- ❖ Your name goes before you.
- ❖ (Prov 22:1 NASB) **A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, Favor is better than silver and gold.**
- ❖ (Prov 22:1 MSG) **A sterling reputation is better than striking it rich; a gracious spirit is better than money in the bank.**
- ❖ What kind of witness can you have if all you have is money?
- ❖ You have money, but no integrity!
- ❖ You have money, but no moral character!
- ❖ **People may want your money, but they won’t want YOU!**
- ❖ **Definition for Favor:** When God raises up people who use their power, their ability, and their influence to help you in ways you cannot help yourself.
- ❖ How can you expect favor when you have a terrible reputation?
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #6: A good name will open doors that money can’t!**
 - **Story of me as a kid.**

...and thou shalt be a blessing...

- ❖ And I will bless you
- ❖ And make your name great
- ❖ And you will BE a Blessing

These are **EQUAL** parts. Don’t just focus on **you**, and **your name**, and forget that God wants you to **BE a BLESSING!**

- ❖ God is not looking for you to BE selfish!
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #7: God will freely Bless You, but only to the Level that you are Determined TO BE a BLESSING!**
- ❖ (James 4:3 NASB) **You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**
- ❖ God does not mind blessing you, but not if you are Selfish.
- ❖ **God is a giver and He loves to give when His children are GIVING MINDED!**

(v.3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...

- ❖ We are IN the Kingdom and the Kingdom is IN US!
- ❖ The Kingdom is planted IN US and then we are planted IN THE WORLD.
- ❖ I have said before that, “**Everything in the Kingdom of God is a Seed!**”
- ❖ The Kingdom operates by the system of sowing and reaping.
- ❖ **God plants us in the world as GROUND in which people can SOW!**
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #8: Every interaction with a Child of God is an opportunity to MAKE AN EXCHANGE.**
- ❖ **If you are a blessing to me, then you are sowing blessed seed.**
- ❖ **If you are a curse to me, then you are sowing cursed seed.**
- ❖ God is so interested In Your Success that He will cause others to reap whatever they sow in your life.
- ❖ **Why?** So that once people realize you are Good Ground, **you can become the SOIL** that makes a **Difference** in Their lives!

...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

- ❖ God promised this to Abraham, but it did not all happen with JUST HIM!
- ❖ The promise was Bigger than just Him and it is bigger than just us.
- ❖ The promise could not be fulfilled without us, without you!
- ❖ You have a part in this promise.

- ❖ **When God said that all the families of the earth would be Blessed IN HIM, He was saying that He put something down INSIDE of Abraham that his sphere of influence needed.**
- ❖ God PLANTS us in the world.
- ❖ You don't have to worry about changing the world, just seek to change the places where you have been planted.
- ❖ **Golden Nugget #9: Everything you need to IMPACT your environment is already inside of you.**
 - **Ex: The fig tree planted in the Vineyard (Luke 13:6-9).**
 - His instruction is always equal to His injection.
 - He will never expect you to do, what He does not equip you to do.
 - But what He equips you to do, He expects you to do.

- ❖ So look around your Sphere of Influence and say:
 - **"In ME** Shall all my **Children** Be Blessed!"
 - **"In ME** Shall all my **Family** Be Blessed!"
 - **"In ME** Shall all my **Workplace** Be Blessed!"
 - **"In ME** Shall all my **Church** Be Blessed!"
 - **"In ME** Shall all **Augusta** Be Blessed!"
 - **"In ME** Shall all the **CSRA** Be Blessed!"

- ❖ You could have been born at any time in **history**, but you were born **NOW!**
- ❖ You could have been planted in any other **place**, but you were planted **HERE!**
- ❖ **You must BELIEVE that you:**
 - Are the right person.
 - In the right place.
 - With the right anointing.
 - To make a difference.

SO Stop being so caught up with yourself that you fail to make a difference in your environment.

Closing Confession: Father God, I thank You for this Word and I declare that it comes alive in my Spirit and in my Life. I separate myself from unrighteousness so that You can be free to elevate me. I remove all the Blessing Blockers in my life so that the Blessing of Abraham and the Blessing of Jesus can flow freely. It's what I trust You for, but have not yet seen, that keeps me going. I have expectation and I will see manifestation, by Your grace. No matter how long it takes, I declare that I have STAYING POWER. I will wait on you and while I wait I have Joy and Peace in Believing. I know that my seed is my future and I declare that I will make an investment in the lives of others and I will leave a legacy of righteousness everywhere I am planted. I am not lazy, I am diligent, I am and am faithful. I have a good name. My reputation and Your grace give birth to favor in my life. You continually raise up people who use their power, their ability, and their influence to help me. Lord, You can bless me freely, because I am determined to BE a Blessing. In ME shall every place that You send me BE BLESSED! I am BLESSED TO BE a BLESSING and I will never forget it! In Jesus' Name!