

## BLESSEDNESS

### STUDY 1: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BLESSED

#### Examples of Blessed People in Scripture:

1. Adam & Eve – Gen.1: 27-28
2. Noah – Gen.9: 1-3
3. Job – Job 42: 12-17
4. Abraham – Gen.12: 1-3
5. Isaac – Gen.1-3, 24
6. Jacob – Gen.28: 1-3; 32: 24: 30
7. Joseph – Gen.39: 1-6
8. The Aaronic Blessing – Num.6: 22-27
9. Virgin Mary – Lk.1: 41-48
10. Jesus and the Beatitudes – Matt.5: 2-12

We use the words – **Bless**, **Blessed** and **blessing** a lot. Although, it is a Christian, Biblical and spiritual word but what does it mean to bless or to be blessed?

“Blessed”, as used by Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount means to be happy (from the Greek word – ‘makarios’. This happiness comes from within and not externally stimulated – **Jn.4: 37-39**. This type of happiness ideally is called **joy**. It is the gift of God and part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit – **Jn.4: 37-39; Gal.5: 22-23**.

Other words that are usually confused with blessed are – **Lucky** or **Fortunate** but these words have different meaning from being blessed especially because of their idolatrous background **Luck** is seen as the **force, circumstances or events** operating by chance in favour of a person or against him. However, as Christians, more than any force (on earth or in the sky), more than a chain of circumstances or events, we believe God created the heaven and the earth and He is behind every activity of man on earth – **Gen.1: 1; Ps.24: 1**.

The Bible teaches clearly that our help or blessing comes from God; not any force or star or chain of events – **Ps.121: 1-2**.

**Fortune** in Greek mythology is believed to be the deity or god who distributes arbitrarily human fate, lot or destiny in life. He is believed to control good luck, success and prosperous. It is clear again that this word has an idolatrous background and should be avoided as much as possible as God has commanded us His children not to have any other god besides Him – **Exod.20: 2-6**. Fortune is also used for affluence, favour, physical and material wealth such as money, property, etc but we know that it God who gives these things – **Deut.8: 18; Ps.75: 6-7**.

Many modern Christians have confused luck or fortune with God’s blessing. This ought not to be so. So, what does it mean to be blessed?

**Blessing:** Unlike, luck of fortune, the word bless can be used for both man and God. To bless someone is to consecrate, sanctify or pronounce him holy. To bless God is to glorify Him and extol Him as holy. To bless also is to request God's favour on a person.

To be blessed then is more than to enjoy human favour or have financial and material possession. It goes far beyond physical things or the physical realm – **Ps.1: 1-6; 32: 1-2; Prov.10: 22; Mk.8: 36**. Consider and compare the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus – **Lk.16: 19-31**.

To be blessed may sometimes include enjoying favour before men but primarily, to be blessed is to enjoy God's favour – **Lk.2: 52; Prov.31: 30; Lk.6: 26**.

Unlike the erroneous concepts of luck and fortune, a Christian a person blessed by God may sometimes suffer certain pains, problems and setbacks but these problems and setbacks are usually tests from God and temporary in nature. Eventually, God always sees His children through them all as could be seen in the lives of Job, Joseph and David – **Ps.34: 19; 37: 25; Prov.24: 16; Mic.7: 8; Rom.8: 28**.

Any deliberate attempt as Christians to seek for men's favour will lead to compromise and sin e.g. Joseph – **Gen.39: 7-9**; Moses – **Exod.10: 8-26**; Peter and John – **Acts 4: 18-21**; Apostle Paul **Gal.1: 10; Eph.6: 5-7; Col.3: 22**.

#### **Conclusion:**

We can see clearly that to be blessed is not the same with being lucky or fortunate. We can't even find those two words – LUCKY and FORTUNATE in the Bible. Satan is so subtle! He has weaved so many idolatrous words into our vocabulary that it takes a lot of discernment and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit for us to detect them.

Discuss other similar idolatrous/ungodly words that have found their way into the church now – Ori, curses, etc.

Apart from the fact that luck and fortune connotes idolatry, being blessed unlike fortune and luck is far beyond favour with men and material wealth. We therefore renew our minds by the word of God (Rom.21: 1-2). We should also let the word of God reflect in our speech as Christians. A Christian therefore is blessed – not lucky or fortunate!

## STUDY 2: THE SOURCE OF OUR BLESSING

Children of God are **blessed**, not **lucky** or **fortunate**.

Blessing comes from God and not from any other source - **Deut.8: 18; Ps.75: 6**.

God is the primary source of our blessing. Although God can use someone to bless us, that blessing is coming from God and not from that person. Human beings can only be CHANNELS but NEVER the SOURCE of our blessings - **Ps.121: 1-2**.

The blessing of God has terms and conditions and the primary terms and conditions of God's blessings lie in obeying His word - **Deut.28: 1-2, 15; 8: 3 (Matt.4: 4)**.

Typical examples of God's blessing attached to reading, studying, meditating on and hearing the word of God – **Josh.1: 8; Ps.1: 1-6; Rom.10: 17; Rev.1: 3**.

Satan knows the word of God in the life and blessing of a believer and so attacks it - first by trying all possible means to prevent us from reading, studying, meditating on it or hearing it and secondly, now by subtly tampering with and alter the content and message of the Bible itself. We should not be surprised, this has been his method from the beginning - **Gen.3: 1-7**

### Typical Example of Bible Alteration - THE NIV BIBLE:

1. NIV Bible was published by **Zondervan** but is now owned by **Harper Collins**, who also published the **Satanic Bible** and **The Joy of Gay Sex**.
2. The NIV Bible has now removed **64,575 words** from the Bible including **Jehovah, Calvary, Holy Ghost and Omnipotent** to mention but a few.
3. The NIV Bible has also now removed **45 complete verses**.
4. Bible Apps on computers and phones. Most of us have the Bible on our devices and phones. Try and find these Scriptures in NIV Bible on your computers, phones or any other device right now if you in doubt. **Matthew 17:21, 18:11, 23:14; Mark 7:16, 9:44, 9:46; Luke 17:36, 23:17; John 5:4; Acts 8:37.....**
5. Jesus said in John 10: 10 (King James Version). The SOLUTION: If you must use the NIV Bible, BUY AND KEEP AN EARLIER VERSION of the Bible published by Zondervan. A hard copy cannot be updated. All these changes occur when they ask you to update the App on your phone or laptop, etc. BUY, KEEP EARLIER VERSION AND STORE THEM.

### STUDY 3: TYPES OF BLESSINGS

1. Blessing through obedience - **Gen.12: 1-4; Deut.28.**
2. Blessing through sacrifice - **Gen.22: 1-18.**
3. Generational blessing - **Gen.26: 1-5, 12-14; Exod.20: 5-6.**
4. Parental blessing - **Gen.27: 1-30; 32: 24-30; 48 & 49.**
5. Blessing by oath – Jacob’s (stolen) blessing - **Gen.27: 1-30; The Gibeonites - Josh.9: 1-21 & 1Sam.21: 1-7.**
6. Priestly blessing - **Lev.9: 22-23; Num.6: 22-27; 1Sam.2: 20.**  
Note that there is a difference between Old and New Testament priesthood:
  - I. Old Testament Priesthood: The priesthood of all believers has always been God's intention - **Exod.19: 3-6.** But later, the Levites were chosen to represent the 1st born of every Jewish family - **Num.3: 9-13, 45; 8: 13-19; Exod.28: 1.**
  - II. New Testament Priesthood: **1Pet.2: 9-12; Eph.4: 7-15; Matt.22: 14; Matt.7: 6-11; 1Tim.3: 1-7; 2Tim.2: 19-24.**
  - III. The General Principle of Priestly Blessing - **Heb.7: 1-7.** This can either be qualitative (by one person) - **Acts 8: 18; 1Tim.4: 14** or quantitative (by many people) - **Acts 13: 1-3.**
7. Leadership blessing - Moses, Joshua & the Israelites - **Num.27: 22-23; Deut.34: 9; Deut.33: 1;** King Saul & David - **1Sam.26: 25;** Elijah & Elisha - **2Kg.2: 9-13;** Jesus & His disciples - **Lk.24: 36-52.**
8. Blessing for spiritual service and giving to God's work - **Gen.22: 15-18; Gen.2Sam.6: 11-12; Prov.3: 9-10; Prov.11: 25; Lk.6: 38; 2Cor.9: 6; Heb.6: 10.**
9. Blessing for giving to the poor - **Ps.41: 1-3; Prov.11: 24-25; 21: 13; 22: 9, 22-23; 28: 8, 27; Matt.19: 21; Lk.14: 12-14** (Need for balance - **Matt.26: 6-11; 1Cor.13: 3); Jam.2: 1-24.**
10. Blessing for being hospitable e.g. The Widow of Zarephthah - **1Kg.17: 8-16;** The Shunamite Woman - **2Kg.4: 8-17; Matt.10: 42; Heb.13: 1-2.**