

This message was preached on Wednesday, January 8, 2025

The Measure of Faith

We have been talking a lot recently about living in the blessing of God. *The Wall of BLESSING*. **NOTE:** The blessing of God is intimately tied to FAVOR.

Genesis 12:2 (AMP) – "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others]."

God has really laid it on my heart to get t his message across to OUR BODY and to ANYONE who is listening...God wants His kids living in HIS BLESSING.

HERE IS THE THING: With every piece of GOOD NEWS there is bad news...think about it...

- * Good news of the blessing and the blessings that come with it...ves
- * Bad news? If you are not living under the blessing, there is only one other option...the curse.

Deuteronomy 28

UNDERSTAND: With every covenant blessing comes the covenant curse of NOT living in covenant.

Because of Adam and Eve's action in Genesis 3...we were BORN into the curse.

UNDERSTAND: There is NOTHING you have to do in life to operate in the curse...it is already built in because of Genesis 3.

ILLUSTRATION: I always like the picture that all you have to do is sit in your inner tube of LIFE and float and you will move towards destruction and the CURSE.

You have to go AGAINST the flow to enjoy the BLESSING. You have to do things God's ways and not the worlds says to enjoy the BLESSING.

Galatians 3:13,14

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

The curse is a declaration that dooms someone to failure. To destroy! To render idle and inactive. To deprive of influence and power.

SOMEONE SAID: Everything that can go wrong, goes wrong. (Murphy's Law)

HOWEVER: When Jesus went to the CROSS...He redeemed us from the curse. **UNDERSTAND:** There is NO reason for the curse to have its hold on us ANYMORE! Jesus paid the price so we could enjoy the BLESSING and live in the BLESSING.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NLT) – "for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

1 Peter 1:18-19

- Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
- But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

ILLUSTRATION: Ryne and Kallie getting a Costco membership for their wedding. It was a gift that was paid for by someone else. They now had access.

NOTE: It doesn't mean they HAVE TO SHOP there!

Galatians 3:13,14

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.

The BLESSING is an empowerment to succeed.

IMPORTANT: The blessing isn't necessarily the blessings...but it is something that is PLACED ON YOU that works like a magnet to all the blessings. It attracts the blessings.

<u>Proverbs 10:22</u> – "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." <u>Deuteronomy 8:18</u> – "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

YOU MAY SAY: Well, Pastor Thad, why isn't it working for me? Why am I not living in the BLESSING if it is suppose to be on me?

NOTICE: vs. 14 – "...we receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Galatians 3:9 - "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."

You don't accidentally live in the BLESSING...you must do it by faith.

QUESTION: Why do you think the Bible tells us so many times the JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH?

THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY: The Bible likes to divide things into two groups...the first Adam and the last Adam. Obviously, Adam was the first Adam and Jesus was the last Adam.

What was lost with the first Adam, was received back by the last Adam (Jesus).

- The FIRST ADAM was created into the BLESSING. That is all he ever knew.
 ONE DAY everything changed. They entered into the curse.
 - They were NOT made for the curse...what went through their mind?

"This isn't how things are suppose to be."

 The SECOND ADAM came and defeated the CURSE and brought us back into the BLESSING.

The day we made Jesus Lord of our lives...everything changed. We now have access to the BLESSING.

What goes through our mind? "This isn't how things have been."

BELOVED: That is why we fight it...we don't expect it.

That is why we need FAITH. Without it, it is impossible to please God (live in the BLESSING).

Romans12:3 - "THE Measure of Faith"

HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS: God didn't just leave it up to you to find where FAITH is and go get it. Galatians 5:22 – The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith..."

UNDERSTAND: God desires you, as a child of God, to live in the BLESSING.

- To enjoy Deuteronomy 28:1-14...
- * and then he knew you would have to go AGAINST the FLOW,
- * so HE gave you these things to help you out.

REMEMBER: You can't get the promises of the BLESSING without faith, so He gave to each of us THE MEASURE OF FAITH.

UNDERSTAND: This passage has a lot to do with laying ourselves down, building ourselves up and then stepping into our position in the Body of Christ.

It all takes faith.

AND it is NOT your faith...it is God's faith that you are responsible for...that is why he says to not think more highly than you ought.

- * You didn't create this faith.
- * You simply are a steward over it.
- * The question becomes will you take that beginning measure and do anything with it?

It is clear through Scripture that there are different levels of faith: Great, the greatest, little, none, etc.

GREATEST – speak the Word only

GREAT – persistence

LITTLE – short duration or presence of doubt, etc.

NONE - blaming others for your misfortune

YET: To each of these people...and us...God gives THE MEASURE of faith.

BELOVED: Whether it be...

- * a promise from God (healing, prosperity, sound mind, etc.)
- * a direction from God (giving, tithing, loving, etc.)
- * a gifting from God (five-fold or other)

...OFTEN our answers are I CAN'T!

We focus on what is possible under the curse, instead of what is possible with God.

IN ESSENCE we don't work or exercise our faith...therefore, it atrophies. It weakens.

THEREFORE: We leave the promises of God unfulfilled in our lives. We have the BLESSING, but we don't activate the blessing BECAUSE we don't work our faith.

Hebrews 11:32-35

- And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:
- Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
- Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
- Women received their dead raised to life again:

THESE were all done with that same measure of faith.

IT IS our job to exercise our faith.

Speak it

Do it

John 2:5 - "His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

QUESTION: What is the difference between you and others who see the promises of God?

ANSWER: They used their faith...stepped out on the promises, perhaps you didn't.

QUESTION: What is the difference between you and those who have bigger ministries or who have done more with their gifting?

ANSWER: Possibly they used their faith...stepped out on promises, perhaps you didn't to the same degree.