



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

the ENEMY'S effort to STEAL the BLESSING

Message preached on Sunday Morning, February 9, 2025

We have been taking a look at living in the BLESSING of God.

"The BLESSING" is the empowerment to prosper...increase! Not just to GET RICH, but to increase...to walk in ALL of His benefits (Psalm 103).

The Lord revealed to me that Christians are always looking for a "WORD" for the New Year...a "WORD" for their lives.

(**UNDERSTAND:** Nothing wrong with a prophetic word.)

HOWEVER: We have been given a MORE SURE WORD (2 Peter 1:19)... which is the Word of God. If the Word of God has spoken it...then we can believe it for every year.

THIS was all stirred up by reading about the FOURTH plague on Egypt.

The flies drove Egypt crazy...but could NOT cross the threshold of Goshen.

Exodus 8:22-24

22 **And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen**, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

23 **And I will put a division between my people and thy people:** to morrow shall this sign be.

24 And the LORD did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies.

There is a wall of separation between the world and God's people.

There is a wall of separation between the curse and the BLESSING.

There is a wall of BLESSING that is ours.

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:

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.

We have taken a look (Scripturally) at three areas that are essential in us enjoying the BLESSING.

REMEMBER: You can be a Christian and not necessarily live in the BLESSING...yes, still go to heaven, but not ENJOY His blessings on earth.

1.) **Obedience!**

We took several weeks looking at how important obedience is in living in the BLESSING.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

- 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
- 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

2.) **Relationship in the Body of Christ/Covenant!**

1 Corinthians 11:29 – "...not discerning the Lord's body."

OR separating yourself from the Body of Christ.

Psalm 133:3 – "...for [in the body] I have commanded blessing..."

Your connection to the Body of Christ...covenant connection, not just passive connection...is essential in enjoying His BLESSING.

3.) **Faith! Taking risks.**

BELOVED: The Holy Spirit said this to me, *"It is time that my people take the training wheels off their faith."*

If He said it...that settles it. It is time to simply take some risks regarding my promises...it is time to get rid of the "but what if's" of life.

REMEMBER: The woman with the issue of blood didn't read a bunch of faith books...she just BELIEVED what she heard and took a risk to press through the crowd.

Obey WILDLY.

Love PASSIONATELY.

Trust without BORDERS.

UNDERSTAND: The blessing isn't just a cool thing to have and/or know about. It is absolutely necessary to live life. To enjoy God's promises.

EXAMPLE: Proverbs 10:22 – The blessing of the Lord makes one rich and adds no sorrow to it.

The Enemy Hates the Blessing

LISTEN: What I think is important for us to understand is that the enemy doesn't really care if you are born again if you don't live it. Go contrary to the Word, etc.

BEYOND THAT: He doesn't care if you are born again if you don't live in the BLESSING. Living in the BLESSING is a drawing card to the world.

Psalm 31:19 (NLT) - "How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world."

THINK ABOUT the devil going to God over Job. He was annoyed that Job was SO BLESSED.

QUICK HIT: No, God didn't give him permission. The enemy doesn't need permission where you have left openings (fear vs. fear).

That is why the enemy works SO HARD to remove us from the things that bring the blessing into our lives.

1.) He attacks FAITH.

Much of the church world mocks “faith preachers”. Why? Because the enemy wants us to think lightly of FAITH.

YET: Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

UNDERSTAND: The counter-point to faith is not necessarily doubt, but fear.

Fear is faith in the negative.

THIS is where Job messed up.

The enemy will convince you that your FEAR is WISDOM...therefore, keeping you from taking risks.

2.) He attacks OBEDIENCE.

It is astonishing how much of the church world is okay with things that the Bible CLEARLY says is wrong.

- * You don't need to go to church.
- * You don't need to tithe.
- * You don't need to walk holy.
- * You don't need to operate in the fruit of the spirit.
- * Even that sin is cool.

Quit Googling what is okay...quit letting ungodly influencers influence you. Stay with the WORD.

3.) He loves to attack COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS.

This is one of his favorite attacks...because it seems to be one of the easiest to carry out...attacking covenant.

I LOVE THE PHRASE: (Ephesians 2:12 – strangers from the covenants of promise)

IN OTHER WORDS: There are many covenants that have promises attached to them: Covenant with God; marriage; body of Christ.

OBVIOUSLY: Selfishness is the key to thwarting covenant relationships.

So all he has to do is get us ME-CENTRIC.

There are many ways that the enemy tries to move you out of your place in covenant relationships...to move you out of “THAT PLACE” where your blessing lies.

Covenant Attack of Criticizing/Critiquing

Numbers 12 tells about Miriam (a leader amongst Israel) who rose up against Moses and God struck her with leprosy.

Numbers 16 tells the account of Korah and him stirring up A LOT of men of Israel against Moses and Aaron (questioning their authority).

LONG STORY SHORT: The earth opened up and swallowed Korah and all that stood with him.

Nit-picking is NOT a spiritual gift and never will be.

Revelation 12:10 – satan is the accuser of the brethren.

So if you are busy critiquing and criticizing those in the Body of Christ...you are doing his work for him.

In Numbers 23, when Balaam was being hired to CURSE God's people...God made a donkey talk to him to get his attention! ***Whatever you say...do not curse His people!***

Covenant Attack of Offense

BELOVED: It is soooooo easy to get your feelings hurt...we cannot afford to be offended.

The enemy loves to have us see things that were never done...hear things that were never said...feel things that were never intended to hurt.

Matthew 11:2-6

- 2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,
 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?
 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:
 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

John the Baptist was an amazing man (vs. 11 – greatest prophet ever)...and he allowed offense in...it ended his life.

Offense will destroy your destiny.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (AMP) – “It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; ***it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].***”

KEITH MOORE uses the phrase, many will call you naïve...but it is better to be called naïve than you allow offense.

THINK OF Jairus...where he NEEDED Jesus to come and pray for his daughter...time mattered...but Jesus stopped to deal with the lady with the issue of blood. While Jesus is taking care of the lady...Jairus' daughter died. It could have been easy for him to annoyed at Jesus...but he didn't! It mattered!

Covenant Attack of Isolation

This is another one of the enemies favorite.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.
 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.
 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?
 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Genesis 2:18 – “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

DIVIDE and CONQUER: A military strategy that aims to gain and maintain power by breaking up larger concentrations of power into chunks that individually have less power than as a whole.

The enemy will use anything to ISOLATE you: Sickness, hurt feelings, confusion, fear, embarrassment, confrontation, loneliness, shame, anger, control, disrespect, inferiority, criticism, even boredom.

THINK ABOUT DAVID: After Jonathan went to the palace and David went to the cave of Adullam...by himself...God sent him his family and 400 men who were in debt, distress and discontent.

THINK ABOUT ELIJAH: While being hunted by Jezebel...God sent him to Elisha!

You can't enjoy what God has for you on your own.

Covenant Attack of Competitive Jealousy

BELOVED: Stop competing against the Body of Christ. Stop comparing yourself...does it bother you when other's succeed? That is from the pit of hell.

Are you doing what you are supposed to do? Are you in your call? Then rejoice with others and know if it has happened for ONE it will happen for you.

James 3:16 – “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

When you understand where the origin of competitive jealous comes from, you will want no part of it.

Isaiah 14:12-15

- 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
- 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.
- 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Genesis 4:3-8 – Cain and Abel!

THINK OF DAVID when he went to the battle field in 1 Samuel 18 his brothers were jealous of him...but it didn't move him.

If they would have had their choice...he would have tucked his tail and went back home and said, “My brothers are awesome.” Israel would have been in bondage.

Covenant Attacks of Me First/Not Giving

Galatians 5:13 – “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, **but by love serve one another.**”

SEFICE TO SAY: Fill your time with helping others become all they can be.

ZIG ZIGLAR: You can have anything in life that you want, if you will just help enough other people get what they want.

ILLUSTRATION: There was a well in the middle of the dessert...the man showed up and found a jug of water hanging on the pump...he opened the bottle to drink the water and his friend stopped him. “To get the most water you could ever want...you have to pour that water out.”

The well was connected to all the water they would ever need...but the seals in the well had to be moist to seal the well...so they had to pour that jug of water into the well first.

BELOVED: When you pour yourself out on others...you will be shocked at what is poured into your life (THE BLESSING) every day of your life.

THINK ON IT: On the night Jesus was going to die...guess what, He was expecting a harvest...so what did He do? He poured Himself out and washed their feet.

Conclusion

BELOVED: The BLESSING is YOURS! Absolutely! When you walk by faith, walk in obedience and walk in covenant relationships...the enemy has NO SAY in anything in your life.

But his effort will be to get you to...

- * Move out of faith
- * Move out of obedience
- * Move out of relationships

Don't let him!

2 Corinthians 2:11 – “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

(AMP) – “To keep Satan from getting the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his wiles and intentions.”