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Message preached on Sunday Morning, April 27, 2025

Galatians 3:13,14,29

- 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.
- And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

So many Christians want to argue or disagree with what we have been teaching regarding the BLESSING.

The reason?

- ~ It seems too good to be true.
- ~ They know GOOD CHRISTIANS who lived in far less than the goodness of God on this earth.
- ~ They don't know many, if any, who really were BLESSED.

THEREFORE: They decide to change what the Word says to match the natural, instead of changing the natural by believing the Word.

I WILL IMPUTE: Changing your believing by the Word isn't easy, because it does take effort, but it is worth it.

That is why many quit in the process.

Psalm 3:1-8

(written while David was running from Absalom)

- A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son. LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me.
- 2 Many there be which say of my soul, *There is no help for him in God.* Selah.
 - LOTS of problems. LOTS of people saying the BLESSING doesn't work!
- 3 **But thou, O LORD,** art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.
- 4 I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.
- 5 I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.
- I will **not be afraid of ten thousands of people**, that have **set themselves against** me round about.

BELOVED: The world will hate you...it doesn't mean the BLESSING isn't working! John 15:18 – "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

ILLUSTRATION: Kenneth Copeland is hated by the world and by religion, because he is enjoying the BLESSING.

NOTICE: David's actions when these things happen? Went to the HOLY HILL. That represents the place of worship to God.

- Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.
- 8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: *thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.*

NOTICE: Stop and think about that!

David knew God.

He knew that though people would hate him...though battles came...the BLESSING of the Lord was upon His people.

SPECIFICALLY the lineage of Abraham (which David was).

He knew things would work out for Him...when they didn't work out for others.

BELOVED: So often, we think the BLESSING sounds good, until we are faced with struggles or battles... then we decide it must not be legit...so we quit. (too legit to quit)

As I was meditating on the message this week, I began thinking about people who quit or never get on board...because of the struggles...the battles.

They hear that they are suppose to be living in the BLESSING, but all they are facing are struggles...and more struggles.

They are living struggle to struggle instead of glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

QUESTION BECOMES: What do I do if I am just seeing struggles and no victories? Why doesn't it seem to be working?

1.) Are you born again?

BELOVED: This point is not to get you to question your salvation...it is a checklist for you. Galatians 3:29 tells us that the BLESSING is for those who are IN CHRIST.

- ~ Those who have accepted Him as their personal Lord and Savior.
- ~ Those who are in fellowship with Him.
- ~ Those who are a part of His family.

There are many who believe in God...who have never accepted Jesus as their Lord.

UNDERSTAND: The demons believe in God, and tremble (James 2:19).

NOW, again...this isn't to get you to doubt your salvation. Just to make sure you are born-again.

2.) Battles come!

- <u>1 Peter 4:12</u> "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"
- 1 Peter 5:9 "Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

Over the course of this series we have looked at many who faced trials, battles and struggles...but carried the BLESSING.

NOTE: It isn't like God was trying to hide it.

Joseph! Abraham!

David (everyone was after his throne)! Yet, his focus was on the BLESSING is on God's people!

UNDERSTAND: When you are in the middle of a battle (struggle) you can forget what God has done in the past.

IN OTHER WORDS: The fact that you saw the victory in the past battle. *It is easy to forget.* Psalm 103:2 – FORGET NOT!

Revelation 12:11 – "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

BELOVED: Stop thinking it doesn't work because you are facing a struggle...it is working...just stick with it.

<u>1 Peter 5:8</u> – "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

ILLUSTRATION: When I was meditating on these things, the Lord gave me a sports metaphor (go figure). When a basketball team is in the middle of a big and hard fought game...maybe tougher than they thought it would be...perhaps they are down, maybe by a lot...they go into halftime tired, frustrated, perhaps confused...

- ~ Do they quit?
- ~ Do they clean out their lockers and walk away from the game?
- ~ Do they decide this game doesn't work for everyone?

NO! They make adjustments. They've been doing one thing...but they need to do another! Not change their beliefs...but change their actions.

That is what the next couple points reflect...don't quit, make adjustments.

3.) Check your obedience!

We have seen this time and time again in our study on the BLESSING.

Your BLESSING is intimately entwined in your obedience!

Deuteronomy 28:1,2,14

Joshua 1:8

Malachi 3:10

Psalm 128:1 - "Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways."

<u>Deuteronomy 5:33</u> – "Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess."

Even looking at the last plague in Egypt...the children of Israel had to obey.

THINK OF DAVID: The only defeat he had, not only struggle or battle, but only defeat...was when he decided to do things his own way (Bathsheba and Uriah).

Again, I am not wanting you to BREW something up, where you've missed obedience. God is faithful to reveal it to you.

HOWEVER: I know that I know...if you are not obeying God...YOU KNOW THAT YOU KNOW!

Things the Bible clearly says to do:

Tithing?
Sexual immorality?
Words of your mouth?
Relationship...body of Christ?
Don't lie?

Things the Spirit tells you to do:

Sow a seed?
Witnessing?
Paying for a meal?
Being where you need to be?

Psalm24:3-5

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

NOTE: This is describing our place of worship. True worship.

What is required for true worship?

(John 4 – Jesus talks about this mountain.)

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

CLEAN HANDS - a person not living in the practice of iniquity, but striving always to do that which is right.

PURE HEART – intentions, motives, thoughts.

(NLT) - "...who do not worship idols and never tell lies."

5 **He shall receive the blessing from the LORD**, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

QUESTION: Who receives the BLESSING? **ANSWER:** Obeys in heart and action!

4.) Build Your Faith!

<u>Galatians 3:14</u> – "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

AGAIN: Something we have seen in this series time and time again!

Abraham's FAITH was directly responsible for receiving HIS BLESSING! Genesis 22:15-18

- And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,
- And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, *for because thou hast done this thing*, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:
- 17 **That in blessing I will bless thee**, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;
- And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

We know, because of Romans 4, that Abraham struggled with his faith.

He believed God wouldn't lie...but maybe God needed his help.

When Abraham got to the point where he was guided by his faith, instead of trying to live by faith (no thought), it released the BLESSING in it's fullness.

Romans 10:8-10

- But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even in thy mouth, and in thy heart:* that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
- 9 That if thou shalt *confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart* that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- For with *the heart man believeth* unto righteousness; and with *the mouth confession* is made unto salvation.

Your faith needs building!

a.) Get in the Word...more!

Romans 10:17 – "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:2,3

b.) Watch your mouth!

What you read...speak!

Speak what you are believing for!

UNDERSTAND: There will be a while that you are training your spirit...but when your spirit is trained, it will direct your life.

James 3:2-5

c.) Spend time with faith filled believers.

UNDERSTAND: The hardest thing to do is to walk by faith around a lot of unbelievers... even if they call themselves Christians.

REMEMBER: Psalm 3? Many were telling him there was no help in God...and many of them were Israelites.

Mid-week service? You need to be there!

Women's Bible Study or Men's Prayer Breakfast? You need to be there!

Church work days? You need to be there!

JUST TO BE around those who will build your faith.

A lot of your faith issues are simply "who-you-hang-around-issues".

d.) Act on what you believe!

Don't just say you believe it...do it!

James 2:17,18

- 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
- Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Conclusion

We've been talking about the BLESSING...we have started many messages with, "Why would I need that?"

BELOVED: If you want a life of victory...you need the BLESSING.

BELOVED: If you want to live above and not beneath...you need the BLESSING.

BELOVED: If you want your life to be a delightsome land...you need the BLESSING.

<u>Proverbs 11:11</u> – "By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked."

NOTICE: It isn't just the upright that exalt a city...but the BLESSING of the upright.

If we want MOREHEAD exalted...we need the BLESSING, not religion.

If we want ROWAN COUNTY exalted...we need the BLESSING, not religion.

If we want KENTUCKY exalted...we need the BLESSING, not religion.

NOTE: I could go on and on.

The problems we are facing in America, isn't because there is NO BLESSING, it is because no one will believe for it.