

## BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

Pastor L Bester, 13 January 2019

### Deuteronomy 28:1-14

#### *Blessings for Obedience*

*If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.*

- There are two things that stands out in this passage
  1. **God wants to bless us and how great the blessing is that He wants to pour out over us**
  2. **Our obedience to Him releases the blessings**
- God wants to bless us in many areas
- When you obey the blessing comes
- God wants to enrich your life
- The blessing is also for your children and generations to come
- Everything that you put your hand to will be blessed. Everywhere you go, you will be blessed
- God wants to open His good storehouse over your life – the bounty of the heavens will be released over your life
- Those that wants to attack you will flee from you in seven ways
- We are privileged to serve a God that is interested in us and wants to bless us
- We are dependent on the blessing of God for our lives, the church and our workplace
- The blessings of God keeps the doors of this church open and brings in people
- If you went away on holiday, that was the blessing of God
- We need the blessing to go forward and to achieve something great for God

### Luke 24:50-51

*When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*

- The Greek word for blessed is “eulogeo”
- This word blessed has four meanings
  1. There is a divine gift on our work that everything you are working on should succeed

2. God's presence with us

**Genesis 26:3**

*Stay in this land for a while and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.*

- His presence is everywhere you go. When you wake up, go to school or work, in trouble, tempted, etc... His blessings are there with you
- We need the blessing of God
- God wants to release that blessing upon you

3. God is giving us strength, power and help

**Ephesians 3:16**

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*

**Colossians 1:11**

*being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,*

**Deuteronomy 8:18**

*But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.*

4. God working in you and through you to produce good

- God wants to bless us this year and He wants to do a work in you and through you to produce something good

**Philippians 2:13**

*for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

- In the Old testament there is more than 400 verses that speaks of how God wants to bless His people
- In Genesis 1:28 we see that the one of the very first things that God did to humanity was to bless them – He said: “Be fruitful and have dominion”

**Genesis 1:28**

*God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. ”*

- God wants us to shape up and shake of everything that is holding us back
- God wants you to step into the very best that He has in store for you

**Acts 3:26**

*When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”*

- Jesus came to bless us by turning us away from our wicked ways

### **Mark 10:13-16**

*People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.*

- Here we see how Jesus blessed the little children
- Then we see how Jesus just before He was taken up to heaven, that He blessed His disciples

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- God wants us to look forward to Him in this year
- Don't allow people's opinions to break you down. Don't allow circumstances to keep you back. You will have trials and tribulations
- Do not listen and see with your natural eyes and ears but open your spiritual eyes and ears to see and hear what God is doing and saying
- God is going to do something powerful in your life but it is going to cost you something
- The principle is to listen what God is telling you
- Lots of people got to the top by stepping on other people
- Finances is only one of the many areas where God wants you to be successful in
- God wants you to be rich in every area of your life
- Blessings don't just happen automatically, there is a principle that you need to abide by, be obedient to God's Word and Spirit. The blessing will increase if you obey
- Many can testify of the blessings of God on your life but there is much more that God want to release over you
- You need to make a decision to give your life to the Lord and live for Him, serving Him wholeheartedly
- It's important how you start this year, your correct approach to God, to one another, the right mind-set and attitude. Negativity now is indication that you will not start well
- Work with your mind-set and wrong approach
- Your focus must be on the right things
- If you fail to plan, you plan to fail
- Focus your mind and heart on the right things
- Your focus must be: "Lord what do you want to do in me and through me this year?"
- It's in all areas you need to OBEY
- Don't alter the word of God to suit your lifestyle. All scriptures are for you not for certain people only. Change your behaviour and lifestyle to suite God not yours

### **Jeremiah 17:5-8**

*This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands, they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. Its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

### **Deuteronomy 30:15-18**

*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him and to keep his commands, decrees and laws, then you will live and increase and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed.*

- **Walk in Obedience before God**
- Each person need to choose what he/she is going to do
- How do you start and approach this year?
- It's insanity if you are doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome
- We need to come before the Lord with a renewed heart and mind
- **You need to be OPEN for the Lord this year**
- There is race before each person this year
- There is something that God wants you to achieve or to grow in
- Line-up in the race and run this race
- The worst thing to do is to wait and be a spectator
- Become involved in cell and become obedient
- Ask God what you need to do for Him
- **Stop competing with other people**
- Just "show up" even if you don't feel like it
- Step into it and become obedient to the voice of God like never before
- Our obedience is to God not man, He sees all, hears all and knows all

### **Three steps to help you to receive God's blessings**

1. Always look to Jesus for His blessings on us

#### **Hebrews 12:2**

*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

2. Believe in Him, love Him and obey Him

#### **Revelations 1:3**

*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.*

#### **Revelations 22:7**

*"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."*

- Your obedience should be because of your love for Him

3. Remove the things in your life that is not right that hinders His blessings from your life

#### **Romans 13:12**

*The night is nearly over, the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.*