

The Blessing Challenge: It's Your Choice to Bless

January 6-7, 2018

INTRODUCTION: The Path to Life Calling

5 Elements of a Blessing

1. Give appropriate meaningful touch.
2. Speak words of blessing.
3. Express high value.
4. Picture a special future.
5. Make an active commitment.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (All Verses from the New International Version 1984)

19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Life = To move toward someone

Death = To step away, back into isolation

It's Your Choice to Bless

1. Every day you meet someone who needs the blessing.

2. God created you to bless others.

- Genesis 1:27-28 ²⁷ **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."**
- Ephesians 1:3 **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.**
- Numbers 23:8 **How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced?**

3. Blessing others is a choice you make each day.

- 2 Kings 22:2 **He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.**
- Mark 1:10-11 ¹⁰ **As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."**

CONCLUSION: Choose life. Choose the blessing.

Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get the weekly GPS on your computer/phone/etc. by going to the site: www.clcm-gps.com. You can also get automatic notifications by sending a text to 81010 with the text @clcm-gps, or by subscribing through Feedly.com (or any other RSS reader).

Day 1: Read *Deuteronomy 30:19-20*. In the Old Testament, life has the idea to move toward someone, and death conveys the idea to step away—to back into isolation. When it comes to blessing others, every day you meet someone who needs the blessing. Who did you meet yesterday that you blessed? That blessed you? Pray today that with everyone you meet, God provides a way for you to bless.

Day 2: Read *Genesis 1:27-28*. God is the ultimate source of blessing. In this verse, what kind of blessing does He give to the people He created? As you look back on 2017, what are at least five ways God blessed you in 2017? What are 5 ways God used others to bless you?

Day 3: Read *Ephesians 1:3*. In the original Greek language of the New Testament, Paul writes one long run-on sentence from Ephesians 1:3-14. The theme of the sentence is to praise God for all the blessings He gives us in Christ. What blessing has your faith in Jesus been to you in the past week? As you look forward to 2018, how do you hope (and pursue) God's blessing to grow in your faith life?

Day 4: Read *Numbers 23:8*. When God blesses, nothing can intervene. As Israel moves toward the Promised Land, Balak brings Balaam to curse Israel. Instead, Balaam keeps blessing Israel, that leads to today's verse. Knowing that God's blessing on your life is that strong, how does that put any new year worries into the right perspective? Consider also how God can use you as His blessing in the lives of others. As you pray today, pray for God to bless specific people you love. Be specific in how you pray for them. For example, God bless ... is a good start. God bless ... "to sense your presence as they learn in school today" is even better.

Day 5: Read *2 Kings 22:2*. After a series of evil kings in Judah, God brings Josiah to the throne. He lived under the curse of forefathers, and became a great blessing to his people. Josiah leapfrogs his forebears to David, "**a man after God's own heart**". As you consider the family legacy you have, what "*blessings*" do you work to continue? And what "*blessings*" do you hope to bring?

Day 6: Read *Mark 1:10-11*. At His baptism, Jesus receives the blessing of His Heavenly Father who quotes the Bible to bless His Son. (Good example to follow). As you think of God's Word and blessing others, what verses lead you to pray for others? (See *Colossians 1:9-14* as an example – replace the word **you** with the name of the person you are praying for today.)

Going Deeper:

Book: *The Blessing: Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance (Revised & Updated)* by John Trent and Gary Smalley

Life Group Study: The Blessing Conversation Kit

Next Week: Matthew 19:13-15 **The Blessing Challenge: The Power of Touch**