

## Outline

- I. During the time of Gideon, the Israelites were being oppressed by the Midianites, when an angel appeared to Gideon and declared, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”
  - A. Gideon responded, “If I am a mighty man of valor, where are all of God’s mighty works that our fathers told us about?”
  - B. Some people interpret this as Gideon criticizing the angel.
  - C. Gideon was sick and tired of living a substandard life.
  - D. One of the first steps to seeing the supernatural power of God operate in your life is getting to the place where you, from your heart, declare, “I refuse to live this way any longer!”
  
- II. Either you’ve advanced today and gotten closer to what the Lord has for you in life, or you’ve just spent another day wasting time.
  - A. If you don’t love what you’re doing, then why are you doing it?
  - B. It’s because you’ve accepted it.
  - C. You’re just marching in step and keeping time, not really doing anything significant.
  - D. God made you special, and your life should count.
  - E. You ought to be excited about your life and about knowing that you’re fulfilling God’s call and your destiny.
  - F. To a degree, this is preaching to the choir: You desire something more; you’re reading and considering all of this—what God is saying—through this study guide.
  
- III. According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, the Lord is looking for someone who is humble and submitted to Him.
  - A. Humility is submitting yourself to God; it’s yielding to Him and resisting the devil:

*But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. [7] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:6-7

- B. Sadly, many Christians are actually cooperating with the devil, and their cooperation isn't even intentional.
  - C. Humility is being God-dependent instead of self-dependent.
  - D. When you're trying to live life by your own human strength and effort, you aren't humble, and you aren't submitted to God.
- IV. Instead of trusting and following God by going out to fight Israel, King Asa took the treasures from the temple and sent them to the king of Syria to hire him to fight against Judah's enemies.
- A. According to 2 Chronicles 16:7-8, the Lord basically said to Asa, "I had planned on giving the Israelites into your hand, and you would have conquered the Syrians too. But now you've gone and made a treaty with the Syrians. Not only have the Israelites escaped out of your hand, but the Syrians have too."
  - B. God's plan for King Asa and Judah was thwarted.
  - C. What you have to understand is that it's not a matter of just obtaining the right result—have you trusted God?
  - D. Ask yourself, have you done all of this through the flesh, in the natural way?
  - E. In God's eyes, the journey is more important than the destination.
- V. Without knowing it, you have probably compromised.
- A. You've chosen the world's way of trying to deal with your life and problems.
  - B. By doing so, you've limited what God can do in and through you.
  - C. Notice King Asa's response after the prophet Hanani spoke God's message to him:

## Living in God's Best

---

*Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.*

2 Chronicles 16:10

- D. Asa became angry with the Lord's messenger and rejected both him and God's message.
  - E. You may not like some of what I'm about to share with you, but be open to let the Lord touch your heart.
  - F. God's eyes are searching for those whose hearts are totally His; He's looking for people who will humble themselves before Him.
  - G. He wants to bless you more than you want to be blessed.
  - H. You need the same attitude that Gideon had, where you are sick and tired of being sick and tired and won't settle for anything less than God's best.
  - I. There are reasons why the blessing of God isn't manifesting in your life more than it is, and it's never God's fault.
  - J. The reality is, you're to blame.
  - K. Don't make the same mistake King Asa did and get mad at the messenger.
  - L. Humble yourself before God's mighty hand and receive His message for you today.
- VI. If some of the things I'm about to address are in your life, God still loves you.
- A. Your ability to receive His best for your life is impacted by these things being present in your life.
  - B. There truly is a difference between God's way and the world's way of doing things.
  - C. King Asa obtained his goal, but he didn't do it God's way.
  - D. Because of that, 2 Chronicles 16:9 says that from then on, he was plagued by wars.

- E. Under the New Covenant, even though God may not be the one punishing us, what He can do in our lives will be hindered if we don't do things His way.
- F. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- G. Grace flows to those who submit themselves to and depend on Him.

## Discipleship Questions

1. Why did Gideon respond the way he did to the angel?  

---

---

---
2. What is one of the first steps to seeing the supernatural power of God operate in your life?  

---

---

---
3. Either you've \_\_\_\_\_ today and gotten \_\_\_\_\_ to what the Lord has for you in life, or you've just spent another day \_\_\_\_\_ time.
4. *Discussion question:* How much can you love what you're doing if you're not living in God's best?  

---

---

---
5. True or false: According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, the Lord is looking for someone who is proud and resistant to Him.
6. Humility is being what (James 4:6-7)?
  - A. Weak instead of strong
  - B. Sick instead of healed
  - C. Poor instead of rich
  - D. God-dependent instead of self-dependent
  - E. Self-dependent instead of God-dependent
7. When you're trying to live life by your own human strength and effort, you aren't \_\_\_\_\_, and you aren't \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

8. Why was God’s plan for King Asa and Judah thwarted?

---

---

---

9. True or false: What really matters is obtaining the right result.

10. In God’s eyes, the \_\_\_\_\_ is more important than the \_\_\_\_\_.

11. True or false: If you’ve compromised, you’ve limited what God can do in your life.

12. God’s eyes are searching for those whose \_\_\_\_\_ are totally His.

- A. Stomachs
- B. Hearts
- C. Riches
- D. Sundays
- E. Minds

13. *Discussion question:* What kinds of things in your life are impacting your ability to receive God’s best?

---

---

---

14. There truly is a difference between \_\_\_\_\_ way and the world’s way of doing things.

15. To whom does God’s grace flow?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

JUDGES 6:11-14

And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. [12] And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. [13] And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. [14] And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

JAMES 4:6-7

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. [7] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 CHRONICLES 16:1-10

In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. [2] Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, [3] There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. [4] And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. [5] And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. [6] Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah. [7] And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. [8] Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. [9] For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong

in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. [10] Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.

### 2 CHRONICLES 14:2-15

And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: [3] For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: [4] And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. [5] Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him. [6] And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest. [7] Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered. [8] And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour. [9] And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. [10] Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. [11] And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. [12] So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. [13] And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. [14] And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. [15] They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.



## Outline

### I. Did you know that lending and not borrowing is God's best?

*The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*

Deuteronomy 28:12

- A. If you pay for a house on credit, you're going to pay for that thing at least twice—perhaps three times.
- B. Instead of doing things God's way concerning lending and not borrowing, the average American just goes into debt.
- C. If that's you, there's no condemnation.
- D. As long as you can tolerate living in debt, you'll never get out of it.
- E. If you're in this position, don't feel bad about it or get discouraged over it.
- F. Instead, recognize the situation for what it is, humble yourself, and trust God to lead you forward toward His best.

### II. Most businesspeople will say it's not wrong to go into debt when obtaining appreciating items like a home, an investment, or some other income-producing item.

- A. However, Romans 13:8 says, "*Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*"
- B. This clearly expresses God's best, but it is hard to argue with someone who believes that it's okay to go into debt for something that will appreciate in value.
- C. The main point is that most of the things we spend our money on and go into debt for are depreciating items, and we wonder why we aren't experiencing God's best.
- E. We will never prosper with a debt mindset.
- F. God is looking at our hearts right now, asking, "How will you respond?"

## Living in God's Best

---

- G. Are we going to just keep running after the so-called “American dream” where we get all we can, can all we get, and then sit on our can?
  - H. There's something better—God's best—but that isn't even a goal for most people.
- III. What's happening on a national level here in America is people are digging themselves into a huge hole.
- A. Neither governments nor individuals can perpetually live this way; sooner or later, debt catches up with them.
  - B. Everyone who holds a debt mindset is part of the problem.
  - C. Many people think credit is a good thing.
  - D. What the lenders don't tell them is that they're going to pay two or three times what their purchase is worth once they pay all the interest.
  - E. They'll be upside down and in such a mess that they might have to work two or three jobs to pay their bills.
  - F. It used to be that women could stay home and raise their families.
  - G. Now both spouses have to work because they're living in houses, driving cars, and purchasing things on credit that are more than they can afford.
  - H. Parents farm their kids out to somebody else and wonder why they're having problems.
  - I. This is not to say that you're of the devil if this is where you are right now.
- IV. One reason people don't receive God's best is because they can live without it.
- A. They've adjusted to debt, and it's not a big deal to them anymore.
  - B. One reason you aren't receiving God's best is because you're not truly desiring it.
  - C. You want the results, but you aren't willing to trust God.
  - D. It's too much effort to depend on Him and much easier to just go get a loan.
  - E. This is not meant to hurt you but to elevate your thinking and set your sights on something better.

- F. As long as paying for everything you have two or three times over is “normal” to you, you aren’t going to see God’s best.
  - G. Think about it—what could you do with all of the interest you’ve paid out?
- V. It doesn’t take much money to live when you’re not making payments for everything.
- A. What kind of pressure would you be relieved from, how much stress would leave your life if you had no debt?
  - B. You’d be in an awesome position if you weren’t paying any interest.
  - C. You would be shocked how simply and freely you could live.
  - D. If you truly desire to receive God’s best, you’re going to have to submit yourself to the Lord and resist debt.
  - E. There are other applications of this truth, but this is an important one.
  - F. We must learn to resist the easy way of buying things.
- VI. You may live in a really nice house and drive a fancy car, but have you acquired all of this God’s way?
- A. Or do you live under the crush of constant financial pressure?
  - B. There’s a right and wrong way to prosper.
  - C. Asa won the battle, but he was rebuked because he didn’t do it God’s way.
  - D. If Asa had obeyed, he could have defeated not only the king of Israel but also the king of Syria.
  - E. He would have won—gaining a whole lot of spoil, instead of losing all of his assets and peace (2 Chr. 16:1-10).
  - F. Humble yourself and resist debt.
  - G. Depend on God and receive His best!

## Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: Deuteronomy 28:12 reads that borrowing and not lending is God's best.
2. If you've gone into debt, there's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. A price to pay
  - B. Refinancing available
  - C. No condemnation
  - D. A law against that
  - E. Judgment coming
3. True or false: If you tolerate debt, eventually you'll get out of it.
4. What should you do if you're in debt?  

---

---

---
5. According to Romans 13:8, what is God's best concerning debt?
  - A. To owe anyone something because of love
  - B. To owe someone anything except love
  - C. To love someone anywhere, as long as it's real
  - D. To find anyone you love and owe them something
  - E. To owe no one anything except love
6. True or false: You shouldn't go into debt for a depreciating item.
7. You will \_\_\_\_\_ prosper with a debt mindset.
8. *Discussion question:* How are you going to begin running after God's best?  

---

---

---

9. *Discussion question:* Why is debt appealing, and why is it dangerous?

---

---

---

10. One reason people don't receive God's best is because they can \_\_\_\_\_ without it.

11. Why is living in debt not a big deal to some people?

---

---

---

12. In order to receive God's best, what is one thing you have to do?

- A. Desire it
- B. Sample it
- C. Buy it
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

13. *Discussion question:* What's wrong with getting a loan so you can have what you want right now?

---

---

---

14. Paying for everything you have two or three times over should not be what?

- A. Discouraged
- B. Normal
- C. Foolish
- D. Pardoned
- E. Grievous

## Living in God's Best

---

15. *Discussion question:* What would your life be like without any debt?

---

---

---

16. If you truly desire to receive God's best, you're going to have to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ debt.

17. True or false: There is a right way and a wrong way to prosper.

18. If Asa had done things God's way, he would have what?

- A. Had victory in battle
- B. Gained a lot of spoil
- C. Kept his assets and peace
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

19. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself and resist debt.

20. \_\_\_\_\_ on God and receive His best!

## Scripture

DEUTERONOMY 28:12

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

GALATIANS 4:16

Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

ROMANS 13:8

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:14

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

2 CHRONICLES 16:1-10

In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. [2] Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, [3] There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. [4] And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. [5] And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. [6] Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah. [7] And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. [8] Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. [9] For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. [10]

Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.



## Outline

- I. For Asa, seeking the physicians was not the same as seeking the Lord (2 Chr. 16:11-12).
  - A. Many of us today do the same.
  - B. Culturally, we've developed this mindset that the very first thing we should do when facing sickness is go to the physicians, depend on medicine, and submit to surgery.
  - C. Seeking God is our last thought—if we even think of it at all.
  - D. Many people think that God and physicians are equal; they aren't.
  - E. We ought to rely on physicians only if we've prayed and the Lord has led us that way.
  - F. Many people's default is to go through all of man's ways and resources first and turn to God *only* when the situation gets beyond human ability.
  - G. Asa depended upon man's strength and ability.
  - H. It's another indication of how he kept doing things in his own might instead of depending on God.
  - I. Friends, we need to learn how to depend on God, even for our health.
  - J. Many people today just take whatever others shove at them: a pill to get up and a pill to go to bed; they have a pill for everything!
  - K. They rely on the flesh and then wonder why they aren't receiving God's best.
- II. Doctors are fighting sickness, but it's just through human ability.
  - A. Some of what doctors do is good, and some of it's bad.
  - B. There's a reason why they have the highest malpractice insurance in the world.
  - C. Doctors make mistakes, but people think doctors are infallible.
  - D. If the Lord tarries, people will look back on our day a hundred years from

## Living in God's Best

---

now and shake their heads at the way cancer is currently being treated.

- E. But right now, such treatment is cutting edge, and everyone is so excited about it.
- F. When you feel sick or when some kind of symptom tries to tell you that you're sick, stand on the Word of God and believe.
- G. If you aren't to that place yet, there's no condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
- H. Don't sit there and die trying to be like someone else.
- I. Do what you've got to do to get well, but you ought to turn to God first.

### III. God's Word says:

*And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.*

Deuteronomy 34:7

- A. What we have in Christ is better than what Moses had (Heb. 8:6)!
- B. Yet if somebody today goes to believing for good eyesight without glasses, many will label them a fanatic, weirdo, or freak.
- C. We've accepted second, third, or fourth best, and we're content to live there.
- D. As long as we're content to be less, we will be.

### IV. God's eyes are searching to and fro throughout the whole earth right now (2 Chr. 16:9).

- A. He's looking for someone who will trust Him for His best—divine health. Why not you?
- B. When you decide to start believing for God's best and set that as your standard, pray this prayer: "God, don't look any further. I want Your best. I don't want second best. I don't want to just cope and survive. Lord, I want to thrive!"
- C. If you set reaching the stars as your goal, even if you miss your goal and hit the moon, that's more than most people have ever done.
- D. Most folks are shooting at nothing and hitting it every single time!

## Discipleship Questions

1. For Asa, seeking the physicians was not the \_\_\_\_\_ as seeking the Lord (2 Chr. 16:11-12).
2. *Discussion question:* What can you say about a culture that has made it normal to go to physicians, depend on medicine, and submit to surgery rather than seek God first?  

---

---

---
3. You ought to rely on physicians \_\_\_\_\_ if you've prayed and the Lord has led you that way.
  - A. Perhaps
  - B. Even
  - C. Sometimes
  - D. Only
  - E. Especially
4. You need to \_\_\_\_\_ how to depend on God, even for your health.
5. True or false: If you are relying on the flesh, you aren't receiving God's best.
6. *Discussion question:* What steps can you take toward receiving God's best in your health?  

---

---

---
7. What you have in Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ than what Moses had (Deut. 34:7 and Heb. 8:6).
8. *Discussion question:* What will it take for you to be discontent with second, third, or fourth best in your health?  

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

9. God is \_\_\_\_\_ for someone who will trust Him for His best—divine health (2 Chr. 16:9).
  - A. Looking
  - B. Weeping
  - C. Thirsting
  - D. Clapping
  - E. Cooking
  
10. If you set reaching the stars as your goal, even if you miss your goal and hit the moon, that's more than \_\_\_\_\_ people have ever done.
  
11. True or false: You should be condemned if you aren't walking in divine health.
  
12. Let's take \_\_\_\_\_ of what the doctors can do but not be \_\_\_\_\_; let's \_\_\_\_\_ to God for His best!

## Scriptures

2 CHRONICLES 16:11-12

And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. [12] And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:11

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

ROMANS 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

DEUTERONOMY 34:7

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

HEBREWS 8:6

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

## Outline

- I. When it comes to love, we've been lied to by the world.
  - A. First Corinthians 13 reveals to us that God's kind of love "*suffereth long, and is kind*" (1 Cor. 13:4).
  - B. Many of us as Christians have a million excuses for why we don't suffer long and aren't kind.
  - C. Well, we can be delivered of that!
  - D. If we were to operate in God's kind of love, we would suffer long and be kind; we would not be critical, angry, or bitter.
  - E. "*Charity* [God's kind of love] *envieth not*" (1 Cor. 13:4, brackets mine), but are we jealous of other people?
  - F. Love "*vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up*" (1 Cor. 13:4), and love is not self-centered or self-promoting.
  - G. If we're around somebody who's bragging about everything they've done, do we feel compelled to boast so that we'll look good in comparison, so that they'll know we're somebody special too?
  - H. Many people toot their own horns.
  - I. But Proverbs 27:1-2 says:

*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. [2] Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.*
- II. God's kind of love is self-controlled and acts properly; it "*doth not behave itself unseemly*" (1 Cor. 13:5).
  - A. When a person says, "Oh, we're in love. We can't wait until we're married. Let's go ahead and have sex because we're just so in love," that's not God's kind of love.
  - B. If someone can't control themselves, they are not displaying God's kind of love (Gal. 5:22-23).

- C. Love was when Jesus hung on the cross (Rom. 5:8).
  - D. If you're going to abuse, hurt, and take advantage of another person, it's not love; it's lust.
- III. Love "*seeketh not her own*" (1 Cor. 13:5).
- A. Many people today are selfish and self-centered.
  - B. I heard someone say that America is no longer a society; we're all individuals.
  - C. There's no longer a society where we get along and cooperate with one another; now it's all about "my rights."
- IV. Most of what we're looking at right now in our study together may be totally new to you, or if you've heard this before, you might have rejected it and thought, *I've got to put myself first*.
- A. And then you wonder why you aren't receiving God's best.
  - B. You're resisting God and have submitted to the flesh.
  - C. It's supposed to be the other way around: submit to God, and resist the world, the flesh, and the devil (James 4:7).
- V. God's kind of love never fails:
- [Charity] is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [8] Charity never faileth.*
- 1 Corinthians 13:5b-8a, brackets mine
- A. Yet there are people today saying, "I've taken all I can take. I can't bear anymore. I can't believe that things are going to work out anymore. I've lost my hope. I can't endure anymore."
  - B. All they've done is admit that they aren't operating in God's kind of love.
  - C. His love flowing to and through us can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things.

## Living in God's Best

---

- VI. Most of us haven't even set walking in God's kind of love as a goal.
  - A. We excuse ourselves, thinking, *Well, I'm only human.*
  - B. We're not only human; one-third of us is wall-to-wall Holy Spirit.
  - C. We can start living by the power of God.



## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* How has the world lied to you about love?  

---

---

---
2. \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love “*suffereth long, and is kind.*” (1 Cor. 13:4).
3. If you are critical, angry, or bitter—instead of suffering long and being kind—you are not what?
  - A. Going to get any pie
  - B. Operating in God’s kind of love
  - C. Eligible for a promotion
  - D. Satisfied until you eat or sleep
  - E. Apologetic for your behavior
4. True or false: God’s kind of love envies sometimes.
5. According to Proverbs 27:1-2, you should “\_\_\_\_\_ *thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.* [2] *Let \_\_\_\_\_ man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.*”
6. *Discussion question:* What is an example of God’s kind of love having self-control and acting properly?  

---

---

---
7. According to 1 Corinthians 13:5, God’s kind of love “*doth \_\_\_\_\_ behave itself unseemly.*”
  - A. Commonly
  - B. Sometimes
  - C. Always
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

8. If someone can't control themselves, they are not displaying \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 5:22-23).

9. *Discussion question:* Why is it that Jesus hanging on the cross is true love (Rom. 5:8)?

---



---



---

10. To abuse, hurt, and take advantage of another person is not love; it's what?

---



---



---

11. True or false: According to 1 Corinthians 13:5, love is all about "my rights."

12. True or false: If you think, *I've got to put myself first*, you aren't receiving God's best.

13. According to James 4:7, you're supposed to submit to God and resist what?

- A. The past, the present, and the future
- B. Your spirit, your soul, and your body
- C. The world, the flesh, and the devil
- D. Your family, your friends, and your neighbors
- E. The good, the bad, and the ugly

14. God's love flowing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things.

15. *Discussion question:* How is walking in God's love going to become your goal?

---



---



---

## Living in God's Best

---

16. You're not only human; one-third of you is what?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

PROVERBS 27:1-2

Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. [2] Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

ROMANS 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

JAMES 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

## Outline

- I. Loving security keeps you from receiving God's best.
  - A. Second Kings 7:3-4 says,

*And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? [4] If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.*
  - B. These four lepers basically asked themselves, "How long are we going to sit here? Until we die?"
  - C. Maybe you're not content where you are, but you aren't doing anything about it because you're afraid that it might not work out.
  - D. You need to understand that you'll never see a change in your situation if you're not willing to take a risk.
  - E. You could play it safe, but God's given you a bigger vision.
  - F. You should start believing for more than you've ever believed for in your life!
  - G. Even if you fail, God will look at you and say, "At least you tried."
- II. Are you a person who has never failed because you've never done anything?
  - A. This is not to condemn you; this question is meant to try to stir you up.
  - B. You're going to have to get up and do something!
  - C. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results.
  - D. Are you on the edge of your promised land and looking in, but afraid to enter because it might mean having to fight a giant?
  - E. Get up and go take your land!

- 
- III. You should want to give everything you've got for God's kingdom—to have your life ALL used up.
- A. You don't want to stand before the Lord and hear Him say, "I asked you to do this and that, but you didn't do it because you were afraid that it wouldn't work out."
  - B. You should rather want to try and trust God and risk failing and falling flat on your face than do nothing at all and be a success at it.
  - C. Before you can receive God's best, you must understand that the eyes of the Lord are looking at your heart right now.
  - D. Are you fully committed to Him, or are you just embracing life the way everybody else does it?
  - E. Are various fears and small thinking limiting what He can do in your life?
  - F. Have you been shooting for God's best?
- IV. The first step toward receiving God's best for you is to quit accepting less than His best.
- A. You need to raise the standard, but not through guilt and condemnation, saying, "O God, I'm a terrible person because I've not stepped out in faith."
  - B. No, the Lord loves you just like you are, but He loves you so much that He doesn't want to leave you where you are.
  - C. He wants to raise you up to a higher level.
  - D. God wants you to believe for His best, but it's not going to come to pass for you accidentally.
  - E. You're going to have to set God's best as your goal and pursue it.
- V. Just like those lepers, you're going to have to stir yourself up.
- A. How long are you just going to keep wishing and hoping instead of taking a step of faith?
  - B. You need to stir yourself up, or you'll just settle back down to the bottom.

## Living in God's Best

---

- C. You probably weren't expecting this kind of a message; maybe you don't even like it.
  - D. But this lesson is meant to provoke you to do the right thing and to take the step of faith that God is showing you.
- VI. Before you can go any further in learning about how to receive God's best, you must change your expectation.
- A. You have to change your aim and begin looking for something more.
  - B. Don't get condemned, and don't do something stupid, but don't stay where you are either.
  - C. Say, "God, I want Your best. I want to accomplish everything You have for me!"
  - D. You serve a big God!
  - E. It doesn't matter how far you've gone, how much you've believed, or how much you've received—God has more!
- VII. If your life isn't supernatural, then it's superficial.
- A. If you can point to yourself and take pride in everything you've done, then you haven't come into God.
  - B. He will bring you beyond yourself.
  - C. He'll ask you to do something that's bigger than you so that you'll have to depend on Him.
  - D. Then the only answer you can give will be, "It's not me. It's the Lord. He did it. Only the blessing of God could make these things work out this way."
- VIII. Many of us as Christians haven't stretched ourselves very far.
- A. We ought to be living for something worth dying for.
  - B. We've got more to do than we can accomplish in a lifetime.
  - C. Every day should be exciting because we're busy stretching forward in faith to fulfill what God has led us to do.

IX. Have you been wondering why your life isn't exciting?

- A. It's because God can't give you a sense of satisfaction, joy, and peace over what you're doing because He made you for more than that.
- B. He wants to raise your vision and lift up your head.
- C. Are you ready to believe for something bigger?

#### ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The Lord spoke to me on January 31, 2002, and told me that I was limiting Him by my small thinking. I had started broadcasting on television two years before that and from January 2000 to January 2002, our ministry had doubled. I thought that was pretty good, but then the Lord spoke to me about how I was limiting Him. You can read more about this in my book *Don't Limit God*, but the point is that I decided I wasn't going to keep limiting Him that way. I started to think differently—to think bigger. That was just fourteen years ago, and our ministry has grown at least twenty times larger since then. Everything has been totally transformed. I've been living on the edge. Every time it looks like we have our feet under us and we're just about to make it, God increases my vision, and I lean in a little further. Amen!



## Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: Loving security keeps you from receiving God's best.
2. What did the four lepers basically ask themselves (2 Kin. 7:3-4)?  

---

---

---
3. You will never see a change in your situation if you're not willing to do what?
  - A. Take a stand
  - B. Take a hint
  - C. Take a break
  - D. Take a risk
  - E. Take a bow
4. *Discussion question:* What will you change in order to start living more by faith?  

---

---

---
5. True or false: You need to sit back and receive your land.
6. *Discussion question:* How much are you willing to trust God even though there is the risk of failure?  

---

---

---
7. Before you can receive God's best, you must understand what?  

---

---

---

8. What is God looking to see?

---

---

---

9. *Discussion question:* What are you going to do to deal with fear and small thinking?

---

---

---

10. What is the first step toward receiving God's best for you?

---

---

---

11. True or false: You need to raise the standard through guilt and condemnation.

12. True or false: God loves you so much that He wants to leave you where you are.

13. God's best is not going to come to pass for you \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Accidentally
- B. Purposefully
- C. Supernaturally
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

14. You have to set God's best as your goal and do what?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

15. True or false: You have to stir yourself up.

16. What is this lesson meant to do?

---

---

---

17. Before you can go any further in learning about how to receive God's best, what must you change?

---

---

---

18. What do you need to say?

---

---

---

19. It doesn't matter how far you've gone, how much you've believed, or how much you've received—God has \_\_\_\_\_!

20. If your life isn't \_\_\_\_\_, then it's \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Superabundant / superstitious
- B. Supernatural / superficial
- C. Superfluous / superlative
- D. Superior / supernal
- E. Superhuman / superb

21. True or false: If you can point to yourself and take pride in everything you've done, then you haven't come into God.

22. *Discussion question:* What has God asked you to do that's bigger than you?

---

---

---

23. You ought to be \_\_\_\_\_ for something worth \_\_\_\_\_ for.

24. You've got more to do than what you can accomplish in a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Church service
- B. Lifetime
- C. Trip overseas
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

25. Every day should be \_\_\_\_\_ because you're \_\_\_\_\_ stretching \_\_\_\_\_ in faith to fulfill what God has led you to do.

26. *Discussion question:* What would believing for something bigger look like for you?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

2 KINGS 7:3-11

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? [4] If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. [5] And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. [6] For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. [7] Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. [8] And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. [9] Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household. [10] So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were. [11] And he called the porters; and they told it to the king's house within.

2 KINGS 6:24-29

And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. [25] And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. [26] And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. [27] And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? [28] And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. [29] So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son.

## Outline

- I. If you need to be healed, you don't have to pray and ask God to heal you; what you need to do is learn how to receive the healing that has already been provided.
  - A. To think that you need to go and get God to do something that He hasn't yet done has an element of doubt in it, because you don't know whether He will act on your behalf or not.
  - B. If He's already provided it by grace (and in Christ, He has), then you just need to believe and receive it by faith.
  - C. Some people say, "Oh, I believe God's going to heal me," but actually, it's unbelief.
  - D. According to 1 Peter 2:24, it's not in the future that you're going to be healed; it's in the past that you *were* healed.
  
- II. It's much easier to release something that you've already got than it is to go get something that you don't yet have.
  - A. This is a major shift of mindset!
  - B. You're looking at how to *receive* God's best—not how to *convince* God to give you His best.
  - C. Consider how the Apostle Paul prayed:

*Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, [16] Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; [17] That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.*

Ephesians 1:15-17

- D. The Holy Spirit inspired him to pray, "God, open up their eyes to what You've already done."
- E. Most Christians believe God *can do* anything but that He *has done* nothing.
- F. They think that if they do everything just right, God might move.

- III. God anticipated every problem that we or anybody else in the entire human race would ever have.
- A. Through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, He dealt with every problem that could ever happen—past, present, and future.
  - B. Now it's up to us to receive what He's done by putting faith in what is already provided, not in what God "can" do.
  - C. Holy Spirit, please grant us revelation knowledge concerning the truths in this lesson.
- IV. Ephesians 1:18 says,
- The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling.*
- A. It's not about our calling; it's Jesus's calling.
  - B. Jesus has already been called, and He's already provided everything.
  - C. He paid the price for everything on the cross, and He has the favor of God now.
  - D. As born-again believers, we have favor with God because of what Jesus did, not because of what we do.
  - E. It's about His calling, His anointing, His power, and His blessing that's on our lives.
- V. Paul was praying that our eyes would be opened to understand and see "*what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints*" (Eph. 1:18).
- A. It would bankrupt heaven to have to replace what we already have on the inside of us right now.
  - B. The glory of God is in us!
  - C. Some people want to see a "glory cloud."
  - D. We need to look on the inside!

## Living in God's Best

---

- E. If we can't see it, it's because we're walking by sight and not by faith (2 Cor. 5:7).
  - F. We have been called "*to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (2 Thess. 2:14).
  - G. In heaven, we'll get bodies that will reflect His glory, but right now, we have the glory of God on the inside of us.
- VI. Paul prayed that we would see the exceeding greatness of His power "*to us-ward who believe*" (Eph. 1:19)—the same power God used when He raised Christ from the dead.
- A. Yet most of us as Christians think we have to beg God and somehow get Him to release His power.
  - B. We may believe that, somehow or another, all the glory and blessings of God are reserved for heaven, and in this life, we just have to hang on and struggle through.
  - C. Many of us believe that we have to be sick, poor, and up and down like a yo-yo.
  - D. John the Baptist, referring to Isaiah's prophecy, declared that "*every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth*" (Luke 3:5, see also Is. 40:4).
  - E. This means that there should be increasingly smooth sailing.
- VII. You ought to be consistent.
- A. The number one way that people describe me when they are introducing me is to say, "He's exactly the same as he is on television."
  - B. You shouldn't be one person in front of an audience and another when you're not.
  - C. If you're normally a really quiet person and then you just explode and become this other person when you get behind a pulpit, it could be because you're a hypocrite and religious.
  - D. You should be the same all the time, because if you're walking with Jesus, He's "*the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever*" (Heb. 13:8).



- E. If you're up sometimes and down other times, it's because sometimes you're trusting in Jesus, and other times you're walking in your own flesh.
- F. You ought to be supernaturally natural.
- G. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is in you at all times (Eph. 1:19-20); it never fluctuates.

VIII. We need to find out who we are and what we have in Christ.

- A. Many of us as Christians don't live as if we have on the inside of us the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, because we can't feel it.
- B. Looking in the mirror, it doesn't appear like we have the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.
- C. And since we can't feel anything, we don't believe that God has done anything.
- D. It's not up to God whether or not we walk in it; it's up to us.

IX. You could stand the average Christian up next to an unbeliever and find that they have the same fears, the same financial problems, and the same struggles.

- A. They act just like people who don't know God, who don't have a covenant that says, "*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 4:19).
- B. Do you have the same fears as someone who doesn't know God?
- C. If so, something is wrong with this picture.
- D. You're alive, and they're dead (spiritually).
- E. It's not because God hasn't given; it's because you don't know what you have.

X. If God could be confused, He would be.

- A. Imagine if He looked over at Jesus and said, "Didn't You tell them that by Your stripes they were healed (1 Pet. 2:24)? Why are they asking Me to heal them? Didn't You tell them they're blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3), that

## Living in God's Best

---

You became poor so that through Your poverty they could be made rich (2 Cor. 8:9)? Didn't You tell them that I would supply all of their needs according to My riches in glory—not according to the economy of their country (Phil. 4:19)? Didn't You tell them that? Why are they panicking because it's the 'Great Recession'? Why are they anxious, fearful, and worried?"

- B. It's because we don't believe that God has already done it.
- C. We're thinking that it's up to God to give and not up to us to receive.

### XI. It's our receivers that are messed up, not God's transmitter!

- A. If we were watching television and all of a sudden the set turned off, the first thing we'd probably do is look to see if someone unplugged it.
- B. Then we'd troubleshoot and see if something was wrong with the set.
- C. We wouldn't just get up and call the television station, asking, "Why did you quit broadcasting?"
- D. If we pray and don't receive something immediately, we think, *Lord, why didn't You give it?*
- E. It's never God who doesn't give; it's us who quit receiving.
- F. We just need to tune in our receivers and pray, "O Lord, help me to see and understand what You've already done!"

### XII. Believing that God has already done His part is 90 percent of the battle; then there are certain things that we must do.

- A. We need to quit doubting God and just believe, praying, "I know You've done it. If I'm not seeing the answer manifest, it's not Your fault. You've already supplied. Thank You, Lord!"
- B. Then we need to start praising God in faith, saying, "I don't know why I can't see it, but I know You're not the problem. I just want to praise You for being so faithful. Even though I'm sick and the doctor says I'm going to die, it's not Your fault. You didn't do this to me. Thank You for being a good God!"
- C. We need to praise and thank Him, and we'll get out of that fear, worry, griping, and complaining.

- D. Let's stop murmuring and doubting God and start praising Him.
- E. Many people receive healing through aggressively acknowledging, by their thanks and praise, what the Lord has already done, and we can too!

#### ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*

Ephesians 1:3

Notice the terminology used in this scripture: "*who hath* [past tense] *blessed us*" (brackets mine). It's already done. God has already blessed you. By grace, He has already provided everything that you will ever need. This life-changing truth is covered in depth in my teachings entitled *You've Already Got It!* and *Living in the Balance of Grace & Faith*.

## Discipleship Questions

1. If you need to be healed, you don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God to heal you; what you need to do is \_\_\_\_\_ how to \_\_\_\_\_ the healing that has already been provided.
2. To think that you need to go and get God to do something that He hasn't yet done has an element of \_\_\_\_\_ in it, because you don't know whether He will act on your behalf or not.
  - A. Expectation
  - B. Doubt
  - C. Comfort
  - D. Power
  - E. Pride
3. True or false: It's in the future that you will be healed, not in the past (1 Pet. 2:24).
4. *Discussion question:* Why do you think it is easier to release something that you've already got than it is to go get something that you don't yet have?

---

---

---

5. You're looking at how to \_\_\_\_\_ God's best—not how to \_\_\_\_\_ God to give you His best.
6. Essentially, what did the Holy Spirit inspire Paul to pray (Eph. 1:15-17)?

---

---

---

7. *Discussion question:* In what area of life do you feel like you are waiting on God to do something that He hasn't done?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

8. True or false: If you do everything just right, God might move.
9. God \_\_\_\_\_ every problem that you or anybody else in the entire human race would ever have.
- A. Planned
  - B. Caused
  - C. Anticipated
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

10. How did God deal with these problems?

---

---

---

11. By putting faith in what is already provided, what can you do?

---

---

---

12. Whose calling is it (Eph. 1:18)?

---

---

---

13. Since Jesus paid for everything on the cross, what does He have now?

---

---

---

14. As a born-again believer, what do you have now?

- A. The favor of God
- B. The toleration of God
- C. The ire of God
- D. The chagrin of God
- E. The rejection of God

15. It's about His \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, and His \_\_\_\_\_ that's on your life.

16. According Ephesians 1:18, what was Paul praying that your eyes would be opened to understand and see?

---

---

---

17. Whose glory is in you?

---

---

---

18. You can see the glory of God inside you if you're doing what (2 Cor. 5:7)?

- A. Working hard enough
- B. Looking for it
- C. Squinting hard
- D. Walking by faith
- E. Wearing glasses

19. To what have you been called (2 Thess. 2:14)?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

20. *Discussion question:* What do you think about receiving a body in heaven that will reflect God's glory?

---

---

---

21. According to Ephesians 1:19, what was Paul praying?

---

---

---

22. True or false: All of the glory and blessings of God are reserved for heaven.

23. True or false: You don't have to be sick, poor, and up and down like a yo-yo.

24. You should be experiencing increasingly smooth \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 3:5 and Is. 40:4).

25. According to Hebrews 13:8, why should you be the same all the time?

---

---

---

26. If you're up sometimes and down other times, why is that?

---

---

---

27. *Discussion question:* How do you plan to be supernaturally natural?

---

---

---

28. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is in you at all times; it \_\_\_\_\_ fluctuates (Eph. 1:19-20).
- A. Never
  - B. Sometimes
  - C. Always
  - D. Randomly
  - E. Seldom

29. What do you need to find out?

---

---

---

30. Why do many Christians not live as if they have the same power on the inside of them that raised Jesus from the dead?

---

---

---

31. If you're going to walk in what God has done, who is it up to?

- A. God
- B. Your spouse
- C. Your pastor
- D. Your mom
- E. You

32. *Discussion question:* Why do you think the average Christian has the same fears, the same financial problems, and the same struggles as an unbeliever?

---

---

---



## Living in God's Best

---

33. According to Philippians 4:19, you have a covenant that says what?

---

---

---

34. What is one major difference between you and someone who doesn't know God?

---

---

---

35. *Discussion question:* Since God has provided all spiritual blessings, what is left to pray for?

---

---

---

36. It's never God who doesn't \_\_\_\_\_; it's you who quit \_\_\_\_\_.

37. What do you need to tune in?

---

---

---

38. Believing that God has already done His part is \_\_\_\_\_ of the battle; then there are certain things that you must do.

- A. 10 percent
- B. 25 percent
- C. 50 percent
- D. 75 percent
- E. 90 percent

39. You need to quit doubting God and just believe, praying what?

---

---

---

40. By praising and thanking Him, you'll get out of what?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, [16] Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; [17] That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: [18] The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, [19] And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, [21] Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: [22] And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, [23] Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:14

Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LUKE 3:5

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth.

ISAIAH 40:4

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.

HEBREWS 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

## Outline

- I. John 4:24 says, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*
  - A. God moves in the spirit realm before something manifests in the physical realm; there's a process.
  - B. From the time God moves and commands, there are things that have to take place, and sometimes that takes time.
  - C. In Daniel 9, God spoke and it took about three minutes for the answer (Gabriel) to show up (Dan. 9:20-23).
  - D. Then in chapter 10, God spoke and it took three weeks for Daniel to receive the answer (Dan. 10:12-14).
  - E. God wasn't the variable in these two instances; a demonic power withstood God's power the second time.
  - F. When you pray, there may be a period of time in between your “amen” and when the answer shows up.
  - G. Demonic powers or your doubt could be delaying your answer, or sometimes even other people are involved in answers to prayers.
  - H. You can't microwave your ministry.
  - I. Mark 4:28 says, *“For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.”*
  - J. There's a growth process in the things of the Lord, but some people just ignore this.
  - K. They pray, and if they don't see immediate results, they think, *Well, God, You didn't answer my prayer*, and they move into unbelief.
- II. You have to get to a place where you're practicing Mark 11:24: *“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*
  - A. For instance, let's say that you have a pain in your body.

- B. You say, “God, I pray and believe that I am healed,” but you still feel pain.
- C. Many people will think, *Well, God didn’t do anything.*
- D. That’s because they don’t understand that there are things taking place in the spirit realm.
- E. Jesus spoke to a fig tree, cursing it and saying, “*No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever*” (Mark 11:14).
- F. If someone had gone up and looked at that fig tree immediately, it wouldn’t have reflected that a single thing happened.
- G. What would have happened if Jesus had thought, *Well, I cursed the fig tree and it still looks fine; the leaves are still good?*
- H. If He had gotten into unbelief, it would have stopped the power of God.
- I. But of course, Jesus spoke and knew His words would be accomplished, even though it didn’t look like it was true.
- J. It just took a brief period of time for what had happened below the surface, out of sight, to become manifest in those physical leaves.
- K. You have to believe that you receive at that exact moment and that God has touched your body.
- L. Whether you still have pain, whether you look better, whether you feel better—anything—you just believe, saying, “I’ve got it right now, and it’s manifesting because I’ve got it. It’s a done deal!”

III. Many people are what the Bible calls *carnal*.

- A. We often think of being carnal as being ungodly, demonic, and terrible, but it simply means to be of the flesh or dominated by the senses.
- B. So, carnal doesn’t always refer to some terrible, ungodly God hater.
- C. A person could love the Lord with their whole heart and still be carnal if they are controlled by their physical senses, if they just can’t believe that anything exists that they can’t see, taste, hear, smell, or feel.
- D. Carnal-mindedness equals death:

## Living in God's Best

---

*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Romans 8:6

- E. It doesn't tend toward death, it's not a leading cause of death, and it doesn't produce death in some people—carnal-mindedness *is* death.
- IV. People don't have to be present when you sow seed in your garden in order for them to know what you've planted.
- A. Just let them be there when something sprouts up.
  - B. They will be able to tell what you planted because it will be there growing and bearing fruit.
  - C. When people list all of the negative things they have growing in their lives, others can tell what they *haven't* been doing:
    - 1. They haven't been seeing who they are in Christ.
    - 2. They haven't taken their authority.
    - 3. They don't believe that it's already been done.
    - 4. They beg God out of desperation to "please move," but they don't believe that He's already given them power.
    - 5. They aren't standing their ground and resisting the devil!
- V. If you're being dominated and controlled by the devil, you haven't resisted him:

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7

- A. The word *resist* means to actively fight against.
- B. You may have begged for help; you may be pitiful and desire help, but you haven't taken your authority in Christ and fought against Satan in the power and name of the Lord.
- C. You haven't taken Ephesians 1:19-20 and said, "I've got the same power

living on the inside of me that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.”

- VI. God's eyes are going to and fro throughout the whole earth just looking for somebody to bless (2 Chr. 16:9).
- A. He wants to bless us more than we want to be blessed, but we're carnally minded, dominated by sense knowledge.
  - B. What's normal for a born-again believer, according to the Word, is to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).
  - C. We need to get to where what God says to us is more real than what our bodies say, what the doctor says, what the banker says, what the people on the news say, or what the government says.
  - D. We need to get to where God's Word is the absolute, final authority, and if anyone or anything opposes it, they're wrong.
- VII. It's easy to say God's Word is first place when reading an inspirational book; but if you go to work and people start ragging on you, talking bad about everything that stands for good, and countering everything moral, would you fold like a two-dollar suitcase?
- A. Or would you stand up and speak the truth in love?
  - B. Many Christians need to rise to their feet and get to where they believe, act on, and speak the Word of God.
  - C. It ought to be the unbelievers who feel embarrassed instead of Christians.
  - D. Instead of you feeling weird, the people who don't believe in God ought to feel weird.
  - E. Psalm 14:1 and 53:1 say the same thing: *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”*
- VIII. If you say, “I just don't believe anything that I can't see, taste, hear, smell, or feel,” then all that means is that you aren't very smart.
- A. There are radio and television signals right there in the room where you are, but you can't see them.



## Living in God's Best

---

- B. If you had a radio or television set, and you plugged it in, turned it on, and tuned it in, you could perceive those signals.
- C. Now, when you see and hear signals is not when they started; they were already there.
- D. In the spiritual realm, there are angels right there with you; God is there, and His glory is there.
- E. The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is not just out in heaven someplace; it's on the inside of every born-again believer, but how do you access it?

*By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.*

Romans 5:2

- F. According to *Strong's Concordance*, the Greek word translated *access* here literally means "admission."
- G. The way you gain admission to the grace of God is through faith.

IX. Faith is believing that something exists beyond your carnal ability to perceive:

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Romans 10:17

*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

John 6:63

- A. If you want to know what's going on in the spirit realm, you have to go to the Word of God.
- B. God's Word is a window into the spirit world.
- C. When you ask "Lord, what have You done for me?" look at His Word.
- D. When God's Word is more real to you than anything carnal, then the things that you believe will come to pass.
- E. You don't get to this place by being carnal and constantly feeding your five senses; you're going to have to spend time in the presence of the Lord; you're

going to have to renew your mind, talk to Somebody you can't *see*, listen to Somebody you can't *hear*, and learn to operate in the supernatural realm.

- F. You do need to hear the preaching of the Word on a regular basis, but eventually you're also going to have to go directly to God yourself.
  
- X. In the same way that what God has provided in the spirit realm has to be accessed by faith, a curse has to be accessed by faith too.
  - A. This is called *unbelief*.
  - B. Unbelief is nothing but faith in the wrong thing.
  - C. If Satan comes against you—including with a curse—you have to put faith in that in order for it come to pass in your life.
  - D. You're the one who empowers the devil.
  - E. Faith works.

## Discipleship Questions

1. Before something manifests in the physical realm, God moves where (John 4:24)?

---

---

---

2. *Discussion question:* Other than time, what does it take for a manifestation to occur in the physical realm?

---

---

---

3. True or false: Since it took about three minutes for God's answer to show up in the first instance and three weeks in the second instance, God was not the variable (Dan. 9:20-23 and 10:12-14).

4. When you pray and there is a period of time in between "amen" and the answer showing up, what could be the cause?

---

---

---

5. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ process in the things of the Lord (Mark 4:28).

6. *Discussion question:* According to Mark 11:24, how can you believe you receive something if you can't see, taste, or feel it?

---

---

---

7. What does *carnal* mean?

---

---

---

8. True or false: You can't love God with your whole heart if you're carnal.

9. *Discussion question:* What is an example of carnal-mindedness equaling death (Rom. 8:6)?

---

---

---

10. When people list all of the negative things they have growing in their lives, what *haven't* they been doing?

---

---

---

11. If you're being dominated and controlled by the devil, you haven't done what (James 4:7)?

---

---

---

12. What does *resist* mean?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

13. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and fight against Satan in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
- A. Call / brother / night / day
  - B. Take / authority / power / name
  - C. Hold / horses / saddle / wagon
  - D. Take / sword / wrath / cruelty
  - E. Trust / feelings / mercy / kindness
14. According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, God is just \_\_\_\_\_ for somebody to bless.
15. According to 2 Corinthians 5:7, what's normal for a born-again believer?
- 
- 
- 
16. True or false: You need to get to where what God says to you is more real than what your body says, what the doctor says, what the banker says, what the people on the news say, or what the government says.
17. True or false: You need to get to where God's Word is the absolute, final authority sometimes.
18. *Discussion question:* How do you respond when someone talks bad about everything that stands for good and counters everything moral?
- 
- 
- 
19. According to Psalm 14:1 and 53:1, "*The \_\_\_\_\_ hath said in his heart, There is no God.*"
- A. Wise
  - B. Misunderstood
  - C. Well-intentioned
  - D. Intelligent
  - E. Fool

20. How do you access what you can't see (Rom. 5:2)?

---

---

---

21. According to *Strong's Concordance*, what does "access" mean in Romans 5:2?

---

---

---

22. According to Romans 10:17 and John 6:63, what is faith?

---

---

---

23. If you want to know what's going on in the spirit realm, you have to go where?

---

---

---

24. God's Word is what?

- A. A glimpse into the spirit world
- B. A collage of the spirit world
- C. A window into the spirit world
- D. A day pass into the spirit world
- E. A mirage of the spirit world

## Living in God's Best

---

25. *Discussion question:* What do you plan to do to make God's Word more real to you than anything carnal?

---

---

---

26. True or false: A curse has to be accessed by faith.

27. What is this called?

---

---

---

28. If Satan comes against you—including with a curse—you have to put faith in that in order for it to what?

---

---

---

---

## Scriptures

JOHN 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

DANIEL 9:20-23

And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; [21] Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. [22] And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. [23] At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

DANIEL 10:12-14

Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. [14] Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

MARK 4:28

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

MARK 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

MARK 11:14

And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

MARK 11:20

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.



## Living in God's Best

---

MATTHEW 21:19

And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

ROMANS 8:6

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

JAMES 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

EPHESIANS 1:19-20

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

PSALM 14:1

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

PSALM 53:1

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

ROMANS 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

ROMANS 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

JOHN 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:21

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

PROVERBS 26:2

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

PHILIPPIANS 2:9

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

## Outline

- I. When people say the name of some sickness or disease, like cancer, it strikes fear in their hearts.
  - A. Many people are more moved by what the doctor, banker, or somebody else says than they are by what God's Word says, and that's the problem; they're empowering that curse and those negative things that have been spoken.
  - B. I could have believed what was said about the Great Recession back in 2007-2009 and pulled back, but I was listening to God, and He told me to do something else instead.
  - C. Although this is simple, it's not easy.
  - D. The hardest thing you'll ever do is get to where the Word of God—what you hear from Him, the truth He speaks to you in your heart—is more real to you than what anything or anyone else says.
  
- II. Satan can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation.
  - A. Many people don't like to admit this because they take great comfort in thinking, *The devil made me do it. He's fighting against me, and I can't help it. I'm not responsible.*
  - B. You might be saying, "Come on, Andrew! You're saying it's my fault?"
  - C. That's exactly what I'm saying.
  - D. If you have an enemy out there who's bigger and stronger than you and you can't stop him, well then, woe is you!
  - E. But if it's your fault that you have allowed Satan to lie to and steal from you, then you can change.
  - F. It's actually good news to find out that you're the problem, because you can change yourself.
  
- III. Quit being a victim!
  - A. Nobody owes you anything.

- B. Quit being oppressed by people, and stand up and take responsibility for your life.
- C. Declare, “It’s not what other people do or don’t do. I’m the one who has the authority and power of God. I’m going to choose life, and through Christ, I will live and succeed!”
- D. It doesn’t matter what color you are—green or even purple—find out what Jesus has done for you.
- E. Discover who you are and what you have in Christ; then take your authority and start standing on that in faith, and you will prosper.
- F. You might have reasons for being a failure, but you have no excuse; the Lord has made you the head and not the tail; you are above only and not beneath (Deut. 28:13).

IV. Words are weapons:

*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

Isaiah 54:17

- A. Notice that right after the phrase “*no weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper*” is the phrase “*every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn,*” which means that these two actions are linked.
- B. You must condemn curses.
- C. You must judge them and say, “No! In the name of Jesus, that’s not true for me!”

V. God’s Word is a seed:

*The sower soweth the word.*

Mark 4:14

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

1 Peter 1:23

- A. When you plant this seed, it germinates and begins to release the supernatural power within it.

## Living in God's Best

---

- B. But the Word of God isn't the only seed out there; every word that you hear is a seed—every word!

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*

Proverbs 18:21

- C. Everything you hear is either life or death, blessing or cursing.
- D. The moment you hear something contrary to what you're believing God for, you need to stop the speaker right then and say, "In the name of Jesus, that's not so. I condemn it. I judge it!"
- E. If you don't say something right then because you don't want to offend the speaker and you wait until later when you get home, then you will have to root out the unbelief that was spoken.
- F. It can take a while to deal with the unbelief.
- G. Do this even while listening to the radio or watching television.

### VI. The Word says that Jesus "*answered*" the fig tree (Mark 11:14).

- A. This means that the fig tree had been talking to Him.
- B. Speak what God's Word says to things.
- C. You may think, *Andrew's weird*.
- D. But *you're* weird if you're letting the devil run all over you without resisting him.
- E. One of the reasons Adam lived to be 930 years old (Gen. 5:5) is because it took millennia for the devil to teach people to think sick and expect infirmity.

### VII. When our kids felt sick, we refused to encourage it.

- A. We taught our kids that being sick isn't good, and as a result, our children weren't sick.
- B. Don't believe in being sick.
- C. God's Word says, "*There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling*" (Ps. 91:10).

VIII. It's sad to say, but other Christians will think you're weird for believing in healing, prosperity, and victory.

- A. One of the most popular doctrines in the body of Christ today is the belief that God controls everything.
- B. A person who holds to this extreme can blame all of their failure on God, saying, "It's His fault. God must have a plan for me being sick."
- C. No, you don't have to be sick, poor, or depressed (1 Pet. 2:24 and Ps. 91:10-11)!

IX. In this verse, God gives you the answer to a multiple-choice test, saying, "Choose life":

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*

Deuteronomy 30:19

- A. Why would we choose debt over being debt free?
  - B. Why would we choose sickness over being well?
  - C. Why would we choose welfare over being productive?
  - D. Why do so many shoot for nothing and hit it every time?
- X. Perhaps you've been embracing the standards that the world promotes today, and this is the way that you think.
- A. It doesn't bless you to hear someone say that this isn't God's best.
  - B. You need to repent!
  - C. If you approach God with humility, grace will flow, and He'll show you the way (James 4:6).
  - D. Just say, "Father, You're a good God. It's not Your fault that I've received less than Your best. What I don't know, please show me. Teach me. Everything's on the table before You. I'm not going to hold on to anything. I want Your best. Show me what I need to do."

## Discipleship Questions

1. When you are more \_\_\_\_\_ by what the doctor, banker, or somebody else says than you are by what God's Word says, you're empowering that curse and those negative things that have been spoken.

2. *Discussion question:* Who and what do you believe when it comes to your finances and your health?

---

---

---

3. The hardest thing you'll ever do is get to where the Word of God—what you hear from Him, the truth He speaks to you in your heart—is what?

---

---

---

4. Satan can't do anything to you without your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Consent / cooperation
- B. Time / money
- C. Mind / emotions
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. If it's your fault that you have allowed Satan to lie to and steal from you, then what can you do?

- A. Nothing
- B. Change
- C. Quit
- D. Run
- E. Hide

6. True or false: Somebody owes you something.

7. What do you need to declare?

---

---

---

8. Discover who you are and what you have in Christ; then take your authority and start standing on that in faith, and you will \_\_\_\_\_.

9. True or false: There is no excuse for being a failure.

10. According to Deuteronomy 28:13, you are above \_\_\_\_\_ and not beneath.

- A. Sometimes
- B. People
- C. Prayer
- D. Authority
- E. Only

11. According to Isaiah 54:17, what two actions are linked?

---

---

---

12. What must you do with curses?

- A. Accommodate them
- B. Tolerate them
- C. Accept them
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

13. According to Mark 4:14 and 1 Peter 1:23, what is God's Word?

---

---

---

14. True or false: Every word you hear is a seed.



## Living in God's Best

---

15. *Discussion question:* What do you do when you hear something contrary to what you're believing for?

---

---

---

16. Since Jesus "*answered*" the fig tree in Mark 11:14, that means what?

---

---

---

17. What should you speak to things?

---

---

---

18. True or false: You shouldn't let the devil run all over you without resisting him.

19. The devil had to teach people to \_\_\_\_\_ sick and \_\_\_\_\_ infirmity.

20. *Discussion question:* How will you learn not to accept sickness as normal?

---

---

---

21. A person who believes that God controls everything can do what?

---

---

---

22. According to 1 Peter 2:24 and Psalm 91:10-11, what don't you have to be?

---

---

---

23. Read Deuteronomy 30:19. What is the answer to the multiple-choice test?

---

---

---

24. If you've been embracing the standards that the world promotes today, and this is the way that you think, what do you need to do?

---

---

---

25. If you approach God with humility, \_\_\_\_\_ will flow, and He'll show you the way (James 4:6.)

26. *Discussion question:* Why is it important to approach God with humility?

---

---

---

27. *Discussion question:* What would be a good prayer to pray right now?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

DEUTERONOMY 28:13

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.

ISAIAH 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

MARK 4:14

The sower soweth the word.

1 PETER 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

MARK 11:14

And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

GENESIS 5:5

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

PSALM 91:10-11

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. [11] For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

PSALM 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

GALATIANS 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

HEBREWS 13:15

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

JAMES 4:6

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

JAMES 1:21

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

## Outline

- I. God has different ways of getting His supply to us.
  - A. The two primary ways He uses are blessings and miracles.
  - B. Most Spirit-filled believers—those who speak in tongues and understand that God is real, supernatural, and can do anything—have a tendency to go for the miracles.
  - C. Miracles are for other people (unbelievers) primarily.
  - D. Jesus used miracles like a bell to draw people to Himself, arrest their attention, and confirm His preaching.
  - E. More of the supernatural miracles of God are needed in our services to help encourage people and show them that God is real.
  - F. But our lives aren't going to be sustained off miracles.
  - G. God wants us to walk in blessings because blessings are better than miracles in the long term.
  
- II. By definition, a miracle is an event that supersedes or suspends natural laws.
  - A. Miracles are supernatural.
  - B. When God created the heavens and the earth, He also spoke into being the natural laws that govern them (Gen. 1:3-5 and 31).
  - C. Unfortunately, the world has been influenced by unbelievers to such a degree that even Christians think that creation evolved, that the earth and the heavens “just happened” naturally.
  - D. When God said, “*Let there be light*” (Gen. 1:3), “*Let the dry land appear*” (Gen. 1:9), and “*Let the earth bring forth...the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself*” (Gen. 1:11), He had already spent much time thinking about these things and conceiving them in His heart—perhaps even eons.
  - E. When He spoke, His words encapsulated everything that He had been thinking and brought those things into being.

## Living in God's Best

---

- F. I believe that God thought creation through all the way down to the tiniest detail, the smallest cell and atom.
- G. So, when He supersedes or suspends these natural laws that He created, it's an exception, a miracle.
- H. Miracles aren't the way God really intended for you to live.
- I. He wants you to learn how to operate within the natural laws of creation.

### III. Choosing to rejoice does our souls and bodies good:

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

Proverbs 17:22

- A. This is one of God's laws in creation.
- B. He created us for fellowship with Him and to be full of joy: "*In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore*" (Ps. 16:11).
- C. Stress, worry, fear, and care are all a result of the Fall.
- D. Medical science has recognized that stress shuts down the immune system, making people susceptible to all kinds of things.
- E. But if we walk in joy with the presence of the Lord, our merry hearts will be like medicine.
- F. Many sicknesses and health conditions won't be able to stay in our bodies when we cooperate with this law God has spoken.

### IV. Exodus 20:12 says that if we honor our fathers and mothers, it will prolong our days and cause us to live long in the land that God has given us.

- A. Ephesians 6:2-3 confirms this:

*Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) [3] That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

- B. Yet there are many people who are rebellious and don't respect their parents.
- C. I'm not saying that our parents did everything right, but we can still choose to honor them.
- D. The quality of a person's health is linked directly to whether or not they honor their father and mother.
- E. Unfortunately, researchers don't factor this in because they're only looking for physical, tangible things.
- F. There's great benefit to cooperating with God's laws in creation.

V. God's Word is life and health:

*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*

Proverbs 4:20-22

- A. Having a merry heart, honoring our parents and elders, and studying the Word of God are all major factors contributing to good health.
- B. Our humanistic world doesn't consider spiritual things, so they focus on diet, exercise, and other natural things—which is a part of overall health—while ignoring and overlooking these more important factors.
- C. They're majoring on minors and completely missing the majors.
- D. God fashioned our bodies to function a certain way.
- E. When our hearts are full of stress, fear, worry, unforgiveness, and bitterness, God's whole system is corrupted.
- F. But if we walk in joy, peace, and freedom, meditating in the Word and keeping our minds stayed on God, we would discover that the blessing of God would flow (Is. 26:3).
- G. Everything in life would work so much better!

## Living in God's Best

---

- VI. The church has twisted prayer into something it was never intended to be.
- A. Prayer is primarily relationship with God.
  - B. Granted, there is a place to intercede for others and rebuke the devil, but that should constitute a very small percentage of your prayer life.
  - C. Prayer ought to be loving God, thanking Him, and fellowshiping together.
  - D. Do you realize that Adam and Eve didn't have anything to pray for?
  - E. They probably met with God every day and said, "Thank You for this beautiful day. It's awesome! I just saw some trees today that I have never seen before. I ate fruit from them and saw animals near them. God, You are awesome!"
- VII. If you fellowship with God, you'll find that things work supernaturally.
- A. But if you aren't walking in what God has instructed in His Word and you're stressed out, miserable, bitter, in strife, and full of unforgiveness, then you'll have all kinds of problems.
  - B. If you are walking in love, joy, and peace, you won't need a miracle.
  - C. God loves you so much that He will supply miracles for you, but if you learn how to cooperate and walk in the blessings, you wouldn't even need miracles.



## Discipleship Questions

1. What are two primary ways God gets His supply to you?

---

---

---

2. Why did Jesus use miracles?

---

---

---

3. *Discussion question:* Since blessings are better than miracles, why are miracles needed?

---

---

---

4. What is a miracle?

---

---

---

5. When God created the heavens and the earth, He also spoke into being the natural laws that \_\_\_\_\_ them (Gen. 1:3-5 and 31).

6. When God supersedes or suspends these natural laws that He created, what is it?
- A. A violation
  - B. An anomaly
  - C. An exception
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

## Living in God's Best

---

7. Since miracles aren't the way God really intended for you to live, what does He want?

---

---

---

8. True or false: According to Proverbs 17:22, choosing to rejoice does your soul and body good.

9. *Discussion question:* How has this law operated in your life?

---

---

---

10. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ are all a result of the Fall.

11. If you walk in joy with the presence of the Lord, what will your merry heart be like?

- A. Venom
- B. Honey
- C. Music
- D. Medicine
- E. Mush

12. If you honor your father and mother, it will \_\_\_\_\_ your days and cause you to live \_\_\_\_\_ in the land that God has given you (Ex. 20:12 and Eph. 6:2-3).

13. True or false: If your parents did something wrong, you shouldn't honor them.

14. There's great \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ with God's laws in creation.

15. According to Proverbs 4:20-22, God's Word is what?

- A. Love and grace
- B. Tedious and irrelevant
- C. Yes and amen
- D. Life and health
- E. Harsh and condemning

16. What three things are major factors contributing to good health?

---

---

---

17. *Discussion question:* Why is it important to major on the majors?

---

---

---

18. If you walk in joy, peace, and freedom, meditating in the Word and keeping your mind stayed on God, you would discover that the blessing of God does what (Is. 26:3)?

---

---

---

19. True or false: Intercession for others and rebuking the devil should constitute a large percentage of your prayer life.

20. Prayer ought to be \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and \_\_\_\_\_ together.

21. True or false: If you are walking in love, joy, and peace, you won't need a miracle.

22. *Discussion question:* How do you plan to better cooperate with God's natural laws?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

MATTHEW 14:22-33

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. [23] And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. [24] But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. [25] And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. [26] And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. [27] But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. [28] And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. [29] And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. [31] And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? [32] And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. [33] Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

GENESIS 1:3-5

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. [4] And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. [5] And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

GENESIS 1:31

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

GENESIS 1:9

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

GENESIS 1:11

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

## Living in God's Best

---

GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

PROVERBS 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

PSALM 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

EXODUS 20:12

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

EPHESIANS 6:2-3

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) [3] That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

PROVERBS 4:20-22

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

PSALM 107:20

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

ISAIAH 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

## Outline

- I. The same principle of learning to walk in blessings rather than beg for miracles is also true in the area of finances.
  - A. There are laws that God created about how provision works.
  - B. The Lord said that He would bless the work of your hands (Deut. 28:8 and 12).
  - C. If you set your hand to something, God can multiply that.
  - D. But don't settle for less than God's best.
  - E. Start believing God to be a producer and a contributor.
  
- II. We shouldn't have this mindset of not needing to work.
  - A. Looking back, I realize now that I wasn't cooperating with God's laws:

*Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

1 Corinthians 9:14
  - B. Since I wasn't ministering to anybody, I shouldn't have expected to "live of the Gospel."
  - C. Jamie and I lived from miracle to miracle.
  - D. After moving to Colorado, I was driving and thinking about all of these things and said, "God, we used to see miracles all the time. We'd have to pray every day or else we didn't eat. But now it's been decades since I've had a miracle. It's been a long time since I've had to lay hands on our car and see it run without gas, or since we've been hungry and received a miraculous provision of groceries."
  - E. Then the Lord spoke to me, asking, "Would you like to go back to those days?"
  - F. I answered, "No, Sir."
  - G. If you are going to live from miracle to miracle, you're going to be living from crisis to crisis.

## Living in God's Best

---

- H. There aren't only natural, physical laws; there are also spiritual laws, such as those in the financial realm:
    - 1. What you set our hands unto, He'll bless (Deut. 28:8).
    - 2. If you don't work, you don't eat (2 Thess. 3:10).
    - 3. A hundred times zero is zero (Gen. 26:12).
  - I. The miracles may give you provision when you need it, but if the root of your financial problem remains, then you're going to need another miracle next month and next year because you aren't learning to cooperate and flow with the laws of God.
  - J. You learn what the Word of God says about how to prosper and you just put it into practice.
  - K. The spiritual laws God created are for your good.
- III. Walking in the blessing of God requires your cooperation.
- A. You have to access it by faith.
  - B. Receiving a miracle, on the other hand, is basically dependent on how desperate you are.
  - C. If you don't give up or quit and you're still looking to God, you can have a supernatural intervention, but it's going to be after a crisis.
- IV. In contrast to a blessing, a miracle is only temporary; it's never going to become your norm.
- A. When you get a miracle—a temporary intervention—God's going to eventually return everything back to the natural, spiritual laws.
  - B. This is what happens with some people when they get cancer or some other disease.
  - C. In the natural, it's a life-or-death situation, so they have a surge of faith, believe God, and get miraculously healed.
  - D. But whatever it was that allowed the illness to come in—wrong thinking,

unforgiveness, bitterness, or whatever (there are multiple things that can cause this)—isn't dealt with.

- E. They leave the root intact, and over time, the physical ailment comes back with a vengeance.

V. By far, the longest miracle recorded in the Bible is the miracle of the manna (Ex. 16).

A. God's people were in a desert, and there wasn't any food to eat.

B. God granted them this manna, and it was absolutely supernatural:

*Man did eat angels' food.*

Psalm 78:25

C. But it was temporary and lasted only during those forty years in the wilderness (Josh. 5:10-12).

VI. Here's another difference between a blessing and a miracle: a miracle is always just enough to get you by.

A. Manna met a need, but it wasn't an abundance.

B. Contrast this with the Promised Land: there, they had all kinds of fruit and meat available to eat.

C. The blessing of God comes through natural things:

1. It grows and takes time.

2. You have to plant a seed and then weed and water it.

3. This takes some effort.

VII. God's plan is for you to live in the blessing.

A. The blessing is more abundant and prevents a crisis, whereas a miracle occurs in response to a crisis.

B. The blessing isn't temporary; it's eternal.



## Living in God's Best

---

- C. Later in this book, I'll show you that once you access the blessings of God, you cannot reverse it, and Satan can't stop it.
- D. God gives you miracles because He loves you so much, He's trying to help you.
- E. But you need a miracle because you've been violating spiritual or natural laws.

VIII. Miracles should be for other people, like those who are just coming to the Lord who don't know how to walk in the blessing yet.

- A. They haven't gotten their hearts right and lives conformed to the Word yet.
- B. They aren't walking in joy.
- C. They still have bitterness and unforgiveness.
- D. However, if you understand what is being shared, you ought to get to a place where you say, "God, help me to never need another miracle in my life. Father, teach me what I need to know so that I can walk in Your blessing and prevent crisis. And as I live in the abundance of Your blessing, make me a vessel through whom You can bring miracles to others who need them. Amen."

## Discipleship Questions

1. The same principle of learning to walk in blessings rather than beg for miracles is also true in the area of what?
  - A. Cleaning house
  - B. Ordering takeout
  - C. Finances
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

2. According to Deuteronomy 28:8 and 12, what did the Lord say He would do?

---

---

---

3. *Discussion question:* How has the principle of being a producer and a contributor played out in your life?

---

---

---

4. According to 1 Corinthians 9:14, “*they which \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel should \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel.*”

5. True or false: If you are going to live from miracle to miracle, you’re not going to be living from crisis to crisis.

6. What are some spiritual laws (Deut. 28:8, 2 Thess. 3:10, and Gen. 26:12)?

---

---

---

7. The miracles may give you provision when you need it, but if the root of your financial problem \_\_\_\_\_, then you’re going to need \_\_\_\_\_ miracle next month and next year because you aren’t \_\_\_\_\_ to cooperate and flow with the laws of God.

## Living in God's Best

---

8. The spiritual laws God created are for \_\_\_\_\_ .
9. Walking in the blessing of God \_\_\_\_\_ your cooperation.
- A. Requires
  - B. Eliminates
  - C. Diminishes
  - D. Replaces
  - E. Multiplies

10. What do you have to access by faith?

---

---

---

11. True or false: If you don't give up or quit and you're still looking to God, you can have a supernatural intervention, but it's going to be before a crisis.

12. In contrast to a blessing, a miracle is what?

---

---

---

13. *Discussion question:* Share a story about a miracle you or someone you know has experienced.

---

---

---

14. How long did the miracle of the manna last?

---

---

---

15. What is another difference between a blessing and a miracle?

---

---

---

16. True or false: There was abundance in the Promised Land.

17. The blessing of God comes through what natural things?

---

---

---

18. The blessing \_\_\_\_\_ a crisis, whereas a miracle occurs in \_\_\_\_\_ to a crisis.

- A. Produces / route
- B. Postpones / relation
- C. Prolongs / respect
- D. Prevents / response
- E. Patterns / revolt

19. Why does God give you miracles?

- A. Because He knows He will make you pay for it later
- B. Because He wants to appear as good sometimes
- C. Because you caught Him at just the right time
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

20. True or false: If you need a miracle, it's because you've been violating spiritual or natural laws.

21. True or false: Miracles should be for people who have been saved for a while.

22. *Discussion question:* What will you do to start walking in the blessing of God?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

DEUTERONOMY 28:8

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

DEUTERONOMY 28:12

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:14

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

ACTS 18:3

And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:10

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

GENESIS 26:12

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

PSALM 78:25

Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

JOSHUA 5:10-12

And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. [11] And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. [12] And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

## NUMBERS 21:5

And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

## NUMBERS 13:23

And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

## Outline

- I. There are ways that you can prosper outside of God, but it takes away your life (Prov. 1:19).
  - A. The blessing of the Lord will make you rich, and He adds no sorrow with it (Prov. 10:22).
  - B. Although my wife and I lived in poverty for a time because of my own stupidity, God taught me some things, and I've learned to cooperate with Him.
  - C. There's a way to prosper through God that is different than just working your fingers to the bone and stressing yourself out.
  
- II. Consider what God said to Abraham: "*I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing*" (Gen. 12:2).
  - A. If you aren't blessed, you can't bless others.
  - B. Afraid that someone would kill him to get his beautiful wife Sarah, Abraham lied, saying, "She's my sister."
  - C. So, Pharaoh took Sarah into his harem, intending to make her his wife (Gen. 12:10-20).
  - D. Abraham did this same thing a second time, with King Abimelech in Gerar (Gen. 20:1-18).
  - E. God rebuked Pharaoh and King Abimelech and gave Abraham servants, cattle, and sheep.
  - F. Abraham became one of the richest men on the face of the earth, not because he was the most upstanding and perfect guy, but because he believed he was blessed.
  
- III. Because Abraham believed he was blessed, he was able to let Lot choose the best land for himself (Gen. 13:1-11).
  - A. This shows that Abraham was trusting God.
  - B. He wasn't looking just to natural things.

## Living in God's Best

---

- C. God was his source and he was obeying Him.
- D. Abraham believed in the blessing, and it was the blessing of God that made him rich.

### IV. God has said that He will bless you (Deut. 15:6).

- A. It took me a while to figure some things out, but we're blessed now.
- B. I'm cooperating with God's spiritual laws much more these days, and His blessing has been made manifest in a supernatural, abundant way.
- C. You must believe!

### V. This blessing of Abraham is now ours:

*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.*

Galatians 3:13-14

- A. This blessing that God gave Abraham made him very prosperous, but when we read about the blessing, it isn't referring to things.
- B. The blessing of Abraham that is ours today as believers is the favor of God spoken over us.
- C. God blessed by *saying* (Gen. 1:28).
- D. This is important!

### VI. The Bible is full of blessings—God's favor that has been spoken.

- A. The words *bless*, *blessed*, *blesseth*, and *blessing* occur about 500 times in the Bible; the words *miracle* and *miracles* occur 37 times.
- B. Sadly, we live in a culture where words don't mean much.
- C. Nowadays, people make covenants, contracts, constitutions—whatever—and then just ignore those things and do whatever they want.



- D. Many Christians have been raised in this kind of culture.
- E. We don't understand the power of a blessing.
- F. Since the way that we access the blessing is through faith (Rom. 5:2), we stop that blessing from coming to pass when we don't believe in its power.

VII. In the blessing of Genesis 1:28, God spoke for you to have dominion over the animals and to subdue them.

- A. The truth is, the animals are afraid of you:

*And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. [2] And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.*

Genesis 9:1-2

- B. Many Christians don't exercise their God-given authority.
- C. If you are afraid of dogs and bugs, it's because you don't believe that you've been blessed and have dominion and authority over them.
- D. So, it won't work for you.
- E. But you have much more authority than you realize.

## Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: There is no way to prosper outside of God (Prov. 1:19).
2. The blessing of the Lord will make you \_\_\_\_\_, and He adds no \_\_\_\_\_ with it (Prov. 10:22).
  - A. Pay / joy
  - B. Sorry / wealth
  - C. Rich / sorrow
  - D. Greedy / remorse
  - E. Generous / simplicity
3. *Discussion question:* What are some ways to prosper God's way?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. According to Genesis 12:2, "I will \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a \_\_\_\_\_."
5. True or false: If you aren't blessed, you can still be a blessing.
6. True or false: Abraham became one of the richest men on the face of the earth because he was the most upstanding and perfect guy God could find (Gen. 12:10-20 and 20:1-18).
7. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God did not rebuke Abraham?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What shows that Abraham was trusting God (Gen. 13:1-11)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. *Discussion question:* How is God your source?

---

---

---

10. What did God say He will do (Deut. 15:6)?

---

---

---

11. What must you do with God's spiritual laws?

---

---

---

12. What else must you do?

---

---

---

13. True or false: The blessing of Abraham isn't referring to things (Gal. 3:13-14).

14. What is the blessing of Abraham?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

15. How did God bless (Gen. 1:28)?
- A. By saying
  - B. By pointing
  - C. By singing
  - D. By dancing
  - E. By crying
16. True or false: The Bible has more to say about miracles than about blessings.
17. *Discussion question:* Why do you think words don't mean much in today's culture?
- 
- 
- 
18. If you don't believe in the power of the blessing, you will \_\_\_\_\_ that blessing from coming to pass (Rom. 5:2).
19. According to Genesis 1:28, God spoke for you to do what?
- A. Have fun with the animals and tame them
  - B. Make pets of the animals and coddle them
  - C. Take captives of the animals and exploit them
  - D. Have dominion over the animals and subdue them
  - E. Stay away from the animals and fear them
20. True or false: The animals are afraid of you (Gen. 9:1-2).
21. True or false: If you're afraid of dogs and bugs, it's because God hasn't given you dominion and authority over them.

## Scriptures

PROVERBS 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

PROVERBS 1:19

So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

GENESIS 12:2

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

GENESIS 12:10-20

And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land. [11] And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: [12] Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. [13] Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee. [14] And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. [15] The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. [16] And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels. [17] And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife. [18] And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? [19] Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way. [20] And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

GENESIS 20:1-18

And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. [2] And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. [3] But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. [4] But

Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? [5] Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. [6] And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. [7] Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine. [8] Therefore Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ears: and the men were sore afraid. [9] Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done. [10] And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing? [11] And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake. [12] And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. [13] And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother. [14] And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife. [15] And Abimelech said, Behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee. [16] And unto Sarah he said, Behold, I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that are with thee, and with all other: thus she was reprov'd. [17] So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. [18] For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife.

## GENESIS 13:1-11

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. [2] And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. [3] And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; [4] Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. [5] And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. [6] And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could

not dwell together. [7] And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. [8] And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. [9] Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. [10] And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. [11] Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

### GENESIS 14:14-23

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. [15] And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. [16] And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. [17] And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. [18] And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. [19] And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: [20] And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. [21] And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. [22] And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, [23] That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich

### DEUTERONOMY 15:6

For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.

## DEUTERONOMY 28:8

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

## GALATIANS 3:13-14

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.

## GENESIS 1:22

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

## GENESIS 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

## ROMANS 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

## GENESIS 9:1-2

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. [2] And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.



## Outline

- I. Isaac's two sons, Jacob and Esau, actually fought over the blessing (Gen. 27:1-34).
  - A. Isaac had received the blessing from his father, Abraham, and Isaac intended to speak the blessing over his older son, Esau.
  - B. While Esau was still out hunting, the younger son, Jacob, went into Isaac's room, pretending to be Esau.
  - C. So, Isaac blessed Jacob instead of Esau.
  - D. When Esau found out, he began to wail and cry because he had lost his father's blessing.
  - E. Most folks don't even care about their fathers' blessing.
  - F. I'm telling you, the attitude expressed in the Bible is the right attitude.
  - G. The Bible says,

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*

Proverbs 18:21
  - H. Death and life only—not death, life, and a lot of other stuff—are in the “*power of the tongue.*”
- II. Your parents' words have had influence in your life.
  - A. Perhaps you were cursed by other people—by an extended family member or a teacher.
  - B. Maybe you were told that you would never amount to anything.
  - C. It may not have been a parent who said that, but perhaps an ex from a prior relationship cursed you.
  - D. Maybe you haven't even realized what your problem is, but you were cursed.
  - E. There's power in words!

## III. There's also power in a blessing.

- A. A blessing is much greater than a curse.
- B. A curse doesn't have any power over us unless we believe it, unless we fear it (Prov. 26:2).
- C. Fear is nothing but faith in a negative.
- D. The favor of God—the blessing that has been spoken over us by Him—has to be believed in order for its power to be released.
- E. Most of us are quick to believe in curses and the negative.
- F. We need to reverse that!
- G. God has spoken thousands of blessings over us, and we need to get to the place where we believe them.
- H. If we believed in the power of a blessing, it would work.

## IV. You have to believe in the power of your words.

- A. Jesus said,

*Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Mark 11:23

- B. God has enabled you to bless, and He has given you creative power.
- C. If you just say words to see if it'll work, it won't.
- D. But if you can mix faith with your words, there will be creative power in them (Heb. 4:2).

## V. Once you begin operating in the blessing, Satan can't stop it.

- A. Once it's given, it's eternal and abundant.

## Living in God's Best

---

- B. If you ever started living in the blessing of God, it would transform your life.
- C. You can get to a place where you never have to have another miracle.
- D. You'll believe for miracles for other people who don't yet know how to walk in the blessings of God, but you'll leave the miracles for unbelievers!
- E. That's the way it should be.
- F. You shouldn't have to be living from crisis to crisis or pit to pit.
- G. You should be walking on the mountaintops, rejoicing.
- H. You can receive from God through either one of these—a blessing or a miracle.

### MY PRAYER FOR YOU:

*Father, I pray that the Holy Spirit would help us to understand. I pray for those who are living from crisis to crisis. They're violating spiritual, natural, and emotional laws and are not doing what Your Word says; yet they're believing You for a miracle. I pray that You would speak this word into their hearts right now to encourage them that it doesn't have to be this way, that they don't have to stay this way, that they can tap into Your blessing and the favor You have spoken over them through Your Word. Open their eyes to see all of these wonderful things, all of these exceedingly great and precious promises that You have given us (2 Pet. 1:4). Thank You that we don't have to just barely get by, struggling all the time. Thank You for showing us how to walk in Your blessing!*

### PRAY THIS IN FAITH:

*Father, thank You for revealing the truth to me. Forgive me for empowering these curses. Forgive me for believing in what they've said. Forgive me for being hurt and offended when You've said so many wonderful things about me. You have blessed me. I am blessed above all people on the face of the earth (Deut. 7:14). Forgive me for letting these curses, these negative words, dominate me. Right now, I take my authority in Christ Jesus, and I speak death to all these curses. In the name of Jesus, I say that I am not going to let any curse that anyone has spoken over me—or that I've spoken over myself—to remain. I break them all, in Jesus's name. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13). You always make me to triumph in my Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 2:14). I am above only and not beneath. I am the head and not the tail (Deut. 28:13).*

*I break the curses of doctors, bankers, lawyers, and any other person who has spoken negative things—death words—to me. I renounce these curses in the name of Jesus and refuse to allow them to dominate me anymore. Father, I believe what You have said about me. Your blessing is stronger than any curse, and right now I activate Your blessing by my faith. I put faith in You and in what You have said about me. From this time forth, I am the blessed of the Lord (Ps. 115:15). The blessing of the Lord makes me rich, and You add no sorrow with it (Prov. 10:22). I am blessed coming in and blessed going out (Deut. 28:6). I'm blessed in my basket and in my storehouse (Deut. 28:5). Thank You that everything I set my hand unto is blessed (Deut. 28:8). Thank You, Jesus!*

*I speak the blessing of God, and I break the curse. That curse is over. It's done. From this moment forward, the curse in my life has ended, and it's the beginning of the blessing. I declare it by faith in Jesus's name. Amen. Hallelujah!*

## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* What in this story speaks to you about receiving God's best (Gen. 27:1-34)?

---

---

---

2. True or false: Death and life only are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21).

3. *Discussion question:* How have you dealt with words spoken over you, whether blessings or curses?

---

---

---

4. True or false: A curse has power over you even if you aren't afraid of it (Prov. 26:2).

5. The favor of God—the blessing that has been spoken over you by Him—has to be believed in order for its power to be what?

- A. Revealed
- B. Released
- C. Received
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

6. *Discussion question:* How quick are you to believe in curses and the negative?

---

---

---

7. God has spoken \_\_\_\_\_ of blessings over you.

## Living in God's Best

---

8. What would happen if you believed in the power of a blessing?

---

---

---

9. According to Mark 11:23, "*Whosoever shall \_\_\_\_\_ unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*"

10. What would happen if you just say words to see if it'll work?

---

---

---

11. If you can mix faith with your words, there will be \_\_\_\_\_ power in them (Heb. 4:2).

- A. Artificial
- B. Borrowed
- C. Creative
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

12. Once you begin operating in the blessing, \_\_\_\_\_ can't stop it.

13. Once a blessing is given, it's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

14. True or false: You can get to a place where you never have to have another miracle.

15. True or false: It's better to believe for miracles for yourself than for unbelievers.

16. *Discussion question:* How are you going to start walking in the blessing instead of by miracles or by curses?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

GENESIS 27:1-34

And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. [2] And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: [3] Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; [4] And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die. [5] And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. [6] And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, [7] Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. [8] Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. [9] Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: [10] And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death. [11] And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: [12] My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. [13] And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them. [14] And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. [15] And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: [16] And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: [17] And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. [18] And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son? [19] And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. [20] And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me. [21] And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. [22] And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. [23] And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. [24]

And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am. [25] And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. [26] And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. [27] And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: [28] Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: [29] Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee. [30] And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. [31] And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. [32] And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau. [33] And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed. [34] And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

## PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

## PROVERBS 26:2

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

## GENESIS 9:2

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

## 1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.



## Living in God's Best

---

MARK 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

HEBREWS 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

2 PETER 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

ISAIAH 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

DEUTERONOMY 7:14

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

DEUTERONOMY 28:13

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.

PSALM 115:15

Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

PROVERBS 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

DEUTERONOMY 28:5-6

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. [6] Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

DEUTERONOMY 28:8

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

---

## Outline

- I. Let's review some of the ground we've covered thus far.
  - A. Many believers have settled for less than God's best and don't even think about it.
  - B. Our desire to compromise, to be secure, and to not stretch ourselves out in faith is a hindrance to receiving God's best.
  - C. Receiving God's best isn't about getting the Lord to do something.
  - D. This is expressed in statements like "Faith moves God."
  - E. Faith does not move God.
  - F. God moved by grace, and our faith only appropriates what God has already provided by grace; that's a life-changing truth!
  - G. We can receive God's supply through two different delivery systems—a blessing or a miracle.
  - H. Since a miracle involves a superseding or suspension of natural law, it isn't God's best.
  - I. We can receive a miracle, but to have a miracle, we'll have to be in a crisis.
  - J. A blessing will prevent a crisis.
  - K. A miracle is never as abundant as a blessing.
  - L. A miracle is only temporary.
  - M. A blessing, once it's given, cannot be reversed.
- II. Galatians 3:14 reveals that the blessing of Abraham has come upon believers through faith.
  - A. We should want the favor of God that is spoken over us that produces such abundance.
  - B. It's important to remember that blessings aren't things.

## Living in God's Best

---

- C. If something happened and I lost everything, I'd get it back because His blessing produced those things in the first place; it would just be a matter of time.
- D. The favor of God is the real asset!
- E. There are some people who, if you touch their things, you've touched their hearts!
- F. When we have our faith in the Lord, it doesn't matter what happens to our things.
- G. If Satan steals something from us, we can make him repay with interest:

*But if he [a thief, see Prov. 6:30] be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.*

Proverbs 6:31, brackets mine

- H. If we believe that we're blessed, it doesn't matter what people do to us.
- I. The blessing of God is His divine favor spoken over us, and nothing and no one can take that away!

## Discipleship Questions

1. Many believers have settled for less than God's best and don't even \_\_\_\_\_ about it.

2. What are hindrances to receiving God's best?

---

---

---

3. True or false: Faith moves God.

4. God moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and your faith only \_\_\_\_\_ what God has already provided by grace.

- A. Prayers / requires
- B. Obligation / kindles
- C. Sorrow / validates
- D. Grace / appropriates
- E. Faith / demands

5. Why isn't a miracle God's best?

---

---

---

6. Whose blessing has come upon you as a believer (Gal. 3:14)?

- A. Moses's
- B. David's
- C. Abraham's
- D. Mary's
- E. Isaac's

7. What is the real asset?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

8. *Discussion question:* How do you plan to have faith in the Lord versus have care for your things?

---

---

---

9. According to Proverbs 6:31, if a thief "*be found, he shall restore \_\_\_\_\_; he shall give all the substance of his house.*"

10. What or who can take away the divine favor spoken over you?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

GALATIANS 3:14

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

PROVERBS 6:30-31

Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; [31] But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

## Outline

- I. King Balak of Moab was distressed because of God's people, so he sent to Balaam to come and curse the Israelites so that the Moabite forces could win a battle.
  - A. This sounds foolish today.
  - B. We look at things like this as being superstitious.
  - C. Society today doesn't have the same attitude that Bible people had about words—the proper attitude.
  - D. Words are important.
  
- II. There is power in words if a person believes them.
  - A. Most people don't believe all this stuff today, so it stops a lot of curses from coming to pass.
  - B. It also stops a lot of blessing from coming to pass.
  - C. Jesus's disciples were awestruck at how He just spoke to a fig tree (Matt. 21:18-20, see also Mark 11:12-14 and 20-21) and killed it.
  - D. But Jesus said to His disciples,

*Have faith in God. [23] For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Mark 11:22-23
  - E. The only reason there aren't mountains moving around is because nobody has this faith.
  - F. Words created this physical world (Heb. 11:3).
  - G. Words are the parent force.
  - H. Everything on this earth will respond to words—your body, cancer, blindness—anything will respond to words *if* you believe in your heart and don't doubt.



## Living in God's Best

---

- III. King Balak sent an entourage to hire Balaam to curse the Israelites.
- A. God takes cursing seriously and told Balaam not to do it (Num. 22:7-12).
  - B. According to the New Testament, Balaam loved the rewards of unrighteousness (Jude 11 and 2 Pet. 2:15).
  - C. He was prone to curse the Israelites.
  - D. It angered God that he wasn't following His instructions (Num. 22:21-22).
  - E. The donkey started talking to Balaam (Num. 22:23-28), and her reasoning was better than his (2 Pet. 2:16)!
  - F. Finally, Balaam yielded, saying, "If it displeases You, I won't go," but the Lord said, "All right, you can go, but make sure you only speak what I say."
  - G. In Numbers 23, Balak brought Balaam up to a high place where he began to bless Israel instead of cursing them.

- IV. We ought to take this verse, put it someplace prominent, memorize it, and live by it:

*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

Numbers 23:19

- A. If God has said something, it will come to pass.
- B. We should all have this attitude!
- C. Balaam, the greatest soothsayer of his day, basically admitted, "I cannot reverse God's blessing" (Num. 23:20).
- D. Once we receive the blessing of God, nothing and no one in Satan's kingdom—including the devil himself—can stop it.

## Living in God's Best

---

What does that mean for us today? Once we receive the blessing of God, nothing and no one in Satan's kingdom—including the devil himself—can stop it. God has blessed us, and the enemy cannot reverse it!

## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* How much do you let words, positive or negative, affect what you believe?  

---

---

---
2. True or false: When a person doesn't believe there is power in words, it stops curses and blessings from coming to pass.
3. The only reason there aren't mountains moving around is because nobody has \_\_\_\_\_ faith (Mark 11:22-23).
4. According to Hebrews 11:3, words \_\_\_\_\_ this physical world.
  - A. Cracked
  - B. Salvaged
  - C. Broke
  - D. Evolved
  - E. Created
5. True or false: Everything on this earth will respond to words—your body, cancer, blindness—anything will respond to words *if* you believe in your heart and don't doubt.
6. True or false: According to Numbers 22:7-12, God takes cursing more seriously now than He used to.
7. Balaam was \_\_\_\_\_ to curse the Israelites because he \_\_\_\_\_ the rewards of unrighteousness (Jude 11 and 2 Pet. 2:15).
8. True or false: God didn't care whether Balaam followed His instructions or not (Num. 22:21-22).
9. *Discussion question:* What do you think about a man having worse reasoning than an animal (Num. 22:23-28 and 2 Pet. 2:16)?  

---

---

---

10. *Discussion question:* Why is Numbers 23:19 a good verse to put someplace prominent, memorize, and live by?

---

---

---

11. If God has said something, it \_\_\_\_\_ come to pass.

- A. Won't
- B. Can't
- C. Has
- D. Might
- E. Will

12. *Discussion question:* What does it mean to you that God has blessed you?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

NUMBERS 22:1-35

And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho. [2] And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. [3] And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. [4] And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. [5] He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: [6] Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed. [7] And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak. [8] And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam. [9] And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee? [10] And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, [11] Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out. [12] And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed. [13] And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you. [14] And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us. [15] And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they. [16] And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me: [17] For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people. [18] And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. [19] Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more. [20] And God

came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do. [21] And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. [22] And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. [23] And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. [24] But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. [25] And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again. [26] And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. [27] And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. [28] And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? [29] And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. [30] And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. [31] Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. [32] And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: [33] And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. [34] And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. [35] And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

### NUMBERS 21:21-35

And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, [22] Let me pass through thy land: we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well: but we will go along by the king's high way, until we be past thy borders. [23] And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon

gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel. [24] And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword, and possessed his land from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon was strong. [25] And Israel took all these cities: and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof. [26] For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto Arnon. [27] Wherefore they that speak in proverbs say, Come into Heshbon, let the city of Sihon be built and prepared: [28] For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon: it hath consumed Ar of Moab, and the lords of the high places of Arnon. [29] Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: he hath given his sons that escaped, and his daughters, into captivity unto Sihon king of the Amorites. [30] We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon, and we have laid them waste even unto Nophah, which reacheth unto Medeba. [31] Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites. [32] And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took the villages thereof, and drove out the Amorites that were there. [33] And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan went out against them, he, and all his people, to the battle at Edrei. [34] And the LORD said unto Moses, Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. [35] So they smote him, and his sons, and all his people, until there was none left him alive: and they possessed his land.

## GENESIS 19:30-38

And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. [31] And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: [32] Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. [33] And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. [34] And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. [35] And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. [36] Thus were both the daughters of Lot

## Living in God's Best

---

with child by their father. [37] And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. [38] And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

MARK 11:12-14

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: [13] And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. [14] And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

MARK 11:20-23

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. [21] And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. [22] And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. [23] For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

HEBREWS 11:3

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

JUDE 11

Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

2 PETER 2:15-16

Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; [16] But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.



## GENESIS 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? [2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: [3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [4] And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

## NUMBERS 22:38

And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

## NUMBERS 23:18-20

And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: [19] God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? [20] Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

## Outline

- I. A rumor was floating around that the leading satanist in America had bought the house next door to our ministry and was moving there to establish his headquarters.
  - A. People came to me and asked, "Are you putting your building up for sale?"
  - B. I replied, "I hope he moves in next door. That guy needs Jesus."
  - C. People who get overwhelmed by that stuff don't understand the power of the blessing.
  
- II. Satan can't stop what God has said and done, unless you get into fear and believe that he can.
  - A. I sat next to a satanic high priest on a flight.
  - B. The man wanted to curse me, cut out my heart, and offer me for a sacrifice.
  - C. I lit into the guy: "Your god's a loser. He's a nobody!"
  - D. Then the man threatened me, saying, "I've killed twenty-seven people, offering their hearts as a human sacrifice. I can curse you, and you'll be dead in minutes!"
  - E. I replied, "Proverbs 26:2 says that the curse causeless shall not come. I dare you. Curse me. It'll come back on you. Shoot your best shot!"
  - F. Of course, I also told him about the goodness of God and gave him an opportunity to be saved, but he didn't take it.
  
- III. God has blessed you, and that blessing cannot be reversed unless *you* reverse it.
  - A. You need to start believing in the power of a blessing!
  - B. When Balaam said that God had not beheld iniquity in Jacob, it wasn't because there wasn't any (Num. 23:20-21).
  - C. The Lord saw perverseness and iniquity (Ex. 32:9-10), but when it came to the enemy trying to curse Israel, their goodness or badness didn't affect Him.

- D. He dealt with them on the basis of covenant.
- IV. God also deals with you on the basis of covenant—your new covenant in Christ.
- A. When somebody tries to come out against you, Satan will make you think, *Well, I deserve this treatment.*
  - B. You are blessed by God, and it doesn't matter whether you're doing everything you should or not.
  - C. Even at your worst, you are better than the devil at his best.
  - D. No matter how bad you may be living, you have a covenant with God, and you shouldn't be afraid of the devil.
  - E. Satan is afraid of you (James 4:7)!
- V. If you are born again and Jesus lives in your heart, you're blessed.
- A. If you can understand and believe that you're blessed, you ought to defy sickness, disease, cancer, and poverty; those things are curses!
  - B. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 list what God considers blessings, and Deuteronomy 28:15-68 list all the curses.
  - C. Positive things are listed as blessings, and negative things are considered curses.
  - D. Religion has come along and made many Christians call sickness "good" and healing "of the devil" (Is. 5:20).
  - E. There is nothing—no enchantment—that can come against you (Num. 23:23) unless you empower it by your unbelief.

## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* If a satanist was buying the house next door to you, what would you do?

---

---

---

2. *Discussion question:* If you were sitting beside a satanic high priest during an airplane flight, what would you do?

---

---

---

3. The blessing cannot be reversed unless who reverses it?
- A. God
  - B. Satan
  - C. You
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

4. True or false: God beheld iniquity in Jacob (Num. 23:20-21).

5. How do you know that the Lord saw perverseness and iniquity?

---

---

---

6. How did God deal with Israel?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

7. How does God deal with you?

---

---

---

8. True or false: You are blessed by God, regardless of whether you're doing everything you should.

9. Even at your \_\_\_\_\_, you are \_\_\_\_\_ than the devil at his \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Who is afraid of whom (James 4:7)?

---

---

---

11. True or false: If you are born again and Jesus lives in your heart, you're blessed.

12. You ought to \_\_\_\_\_ sickness, disease, cancer, and poverty.

- A. Deny
- B. Defy
- C. Decry
- D. Deep fry
- E. Retry

13. *Discussion question:* Why is it important to know which are the blessings and which are the curses (Deut. 28:1-68)?

---

---

---

14. *Discussion question:* What does it mean to you to be blessed of God (Num. 23:23)?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

GENESIS 2:5

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

PROVERBS 26:2

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

NUMBERS 23:20-21

Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it. [21] He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.

EXODUS 32:9-10

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: [10] Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

JAMES 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

NUMBERS 23:23

Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

DEUTERONOMY 28:1-68

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. [3] Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. [4] Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. [5] Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. [6] Blessed

shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. [7] The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. [8] The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. [9] The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. [10] And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. [11] And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. [12] The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. [13] And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: [14] And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. [15] But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: [16] Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. [17] Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. [18] Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. [19] Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. [20] The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. [21] The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. [22] The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. [23] And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. [24] The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed. [25] The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee

seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. [26] And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away. [27] The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. [28] The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: [29] And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee. [30] Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof. [31] Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them. [32] Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand. [33] The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway: [34] So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. [35] The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head. [36] The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone. [37] And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee. [38] Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it. [39] Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. [40] Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit. [41] Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity. [42] All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume. [43] The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. [44] He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. [45] Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: [46] And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever [47] Because thou servedst not the



LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; [48] Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee. [49] The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; [50] A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: [51] And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. [52] And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. [53] And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee: [54] So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave: [55] So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates. [56] The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, [57] And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates. [58] If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; [59] Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. [60] Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. [61] Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. [62] And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God. [63] And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice

over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. [64] And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. [65] And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: [66] And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: [67] In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. [68] And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.

ISAIAH 5:20

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

## Outline

- I. Many people think that the sin Balaam was rebuked for in the New Testament was when he went to meet with King Balak and the angel stood there along the way, about to kill him.
  - A. Yes, Balaam was wrong, and the angel would have killed him; but the New Testament rebukes Balaam for something else (Rev. 2:12-14).
  - B. Balaam taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the Israelites—to entice them to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication.
  - C. Many Israelites participated, and the wrath of God came on them.
  - D. The only way God's people could be overcome was if they rejected their own covenant.
  
- II. Before Christ came and established the New Covenant, people who gave themselves over to demons through idol worship had no cure.
  - A. Like cutting out a cancer in order to save someone's life, so was purging the human race from demon-possessed individuals back then.
  - B. It was actually an act of mercy toward humanity as a whole to just kill all the men, women, children, and animals who participated in demonic rituals.
  - C. This helped keep the evil from spreading further and protected what purity remained.
  
- III. Your receiving God's blessing isn't up to Him; neither is it up to the devil.
  - A. It's up to you.
  - B. You are the one who establishes whether or not God's blessing comes to pass in your life.
  - C. You are the one who empowers a curse.

## IV. Your life is going the way of your thoughts.

- A. If you're thinking, *Cancer is incurable*, you're the one who put that value on cancer.
- B. You're the one who believes the curse, receives negative things, and despises God's words.
- C. Deuteronomy 28 says that no sickness, no disease, and nothing that comes against you will ever be able to stand in your way.
- D. If you don't see that blessing in operation, it's you who chose not to believe.

## V. Perhaps you haven't been able to have a child.

- A. Deuteronomy 7:14 says,

*Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.*

- B. Exodus 23:26 says,

*There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.*

- C. You have been blessed regarding conception and childbirth.
- D. You have to appropriate these promises by faith.
- E. Go to the Word of God.
- F. Find out what the Lord has said about you and mix it with faith.
- G. The blessing is stronger than the curse!

VI. Unless you respond to a curse in fear, it's causeless, and "*the curse causeless shall not come*" (Prov. 26:2).

- A. I know that people don't empower curses intentionally.
- B. But they are speaking all of their doubt and unbelief.

## Living in God's Best

---

- C. No, you don't deny that you have a problem.
- D. This is where some people have been turned off and offended.
- E. If I had something wrong, you might hear me answer, "Well, I have this, but..." Then I'd turn around and speak the greater truth: "In the name of Jesus, I'm healed. This thing is bowing the knee."
- F. I deny that the problem is going to win.
- G. I'm going to speak the faith of God!

### VII. Examples abound of people who have defied the odds regardless of color, background, location, or social situation.

- A. If someone has mistreated us, we need to release ourselves by forgiving them and then move on.
- B. Unforgiveness and hatred empower the curse and stop the blessing.
- C. We can't control everybody else; all we can do is control ourselves, and most of us could really stand to improve on that (Gal. 5:22-23).
- D. God has blessed us, and it cannot be reversed!
- E. We need to start empowering the blessing by faith and stop fearing what people have said about us and what they have done to us.
- F. This is the better way to receive!

### VIII. God's blessings are voice-activated.

- A. You have to say them.
- B. Words created you and everything in the physical realm that you can see.
- C. So, start speaking your blessing!
- D. Encourage yourself.
- E. When the doctor says that you're dying, say, "Not today, praise God!"

## Discipleship Questions

1. What was the stumbling block that Balaam taught Balak to cast before the Israelites (Rev. 2:12-14)?

---

---

---

2. What was the only way God's people could be overcome?

---

---

---

3. *Discussion question:* What do you think about your covenant with God, knowing that if you reject it, you can be overcome?

---

---

---

4. It was actually an act of \_\_\_\_\_ toward humanity as a whole to just kill all the men, women, children, and animals who participated in demonic rituals.

- A. Mercy
- B. Vengeance
- C. Peace
- D. Wrath
- E. Joy

5. *Discussion question:* Knowing that you are the one who empowers God's blessing in your life, how are you going to do it?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

6. Your \_\_\_\_\_ is going the way of your thoughts.
7. *Discussion question:* In what ways have you despised God's words?
- 
- 
- 
8. True or false: You have been blessed regarding conception and childbirth (Deut. 7:14 and Ex. 23:26).
9. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ these promises by faith.
10. True or false: The blessing is stronger than the curse only if you believe it.
11. Unless you respond to a curse in fear, it's \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 26:2).
12. True or false: You don't have to empower a curse intentionally for it to work.
13. If you \_\_\_\_\_ all of your doubt and unbelief, you are empowering the curse.
- A. Recall
  - B. Speak
  - C. Command
  - D. Survey
  - E. Write
14. *Discussion question:* Why do you think that denying the problem has turned off and offended some people?
- 
- 
- 
15. Instead of denying that you have a problem, what should you deny?
- 
- 
-

16. What do you need to do if someone has mistreated you?

---

---

---

17. According to Galatians 5:22-23, who can you control?

- A. Everyone
- B. No one
- C. Yourself
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

18. *Discussion question:* In what ways have you allowed fear to stop God's blessing in your life?

---

---

---

19. How do you activate God's blessings?

---

---

---

20. What will happen if you don't speak your blessing?

- A. It will still work
- B. It won't work
- C. Nothing important
- D. Someone else will get it
- E. God will use an animal to speak it



## Living in God's Best

---

21. *Discussion question:* How often should you encourage yourself?

---

---

---

22. True or false: When the doctor says you're dying, you should believe it.

## Scriptures

NUMBERS 24:25

And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

REVELATION 2:12-14

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; [13] I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. [14] But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

NUMBERS 25:1-3

And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. [2] And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. [3] And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

NUMBERS 25:9

And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

NUMBERS 31:15-16

And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? [16] Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

NUMBERS 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

DEUTERONOMY 7:14

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

EXODUS 23:26

There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

PROVERBS 26:2

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

PSALM 91:2

I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

HEBREWS 11:3

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

## Outline

I. The only reason you won't prosper is if you stop the blessing of God by believing a lie.

A. This verse is a blessing:

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13

B. If you mix faith with what you've read in that verse, then you can do all things.

C. You need to dream big and believe God for big things!

D. Jesus essentially declared, "Everything that I've done, you can do" (John 14:12).

II. You are blessed with everything:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath [past tense] blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*

Ephesians 1:3, brackets mine

A. The Lord is not responding to your situation.

B. He doesn't find out about your problem when you realize that you have it.

C. Before you ever had a problem, the supply was already created (Phil. 4:19).

III. No matter the situation or circumstance, we can decide to keep our minds on the promises in God's Word.

A. It's comforting to know how much He loves and cares for us.

B. The Bible says,

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2]  
Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the  
mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.*

Psalm 46:1-2

C. We can reach a place where we say, "God, I don't care what happens: earthquake, tsunami, recession, epidemic, or attack. It doesn't matter what

goes on—I'm blessed! You made the supply before I had the need, and whatever I'm going through, I'm going to keep my eyes fixed on You! Nothing will destroy me.”

D. It's attainable by faith.

IV. You're already blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).

A. For whatever reason, the truth of this verse doesn't register with many people.

B. So, let's see some more specifics.

C. First, you need to know how to properly interpret the Old Testament.

D. In the Old Testament, blessings were conditional on a person's performance.

E. In the New Testament, everything is conditional upon Jesus's performance and whether you put faith in Him or not.

F. If you have faith in Christ, then you get everything that God's provided, whether you deserve it or not.

G. If you receive the Lord, then you receive everything He has to offer.

V. When Jesus was crucified on a tree—the cross—He drew that curse onto Himself (Gal. 3:13).

A. He was made a curse for us and redeemed us from the curse, “*that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith*” (Gal. 3:14).

B. Notice the word *all* that is put in boldface in this passage:

*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.*

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, emphasis mine

C. This means that we have to do ALL of the commandments to receive the blessings.

## Living in God's Best

---

- D. Most New Testament Christians mistakenly interpret this and think, *No wonder I'm in this mess! I haven't done this and that and this or that.*
  - E. The way to read Deuteronomy 28 through New Covenant eyes is to say, "All these blessings are now mine in Christ because Jesus hearkened diligently to observe and to do all of the commandments. Because He did, and because I have faith in Him, all of these blessings are coming upon me. All of the curses that are written here are now turned into blessings. Everything written here as a curse is not for me. I'm not under that curse, so I receive the opposite!"
- VI. When Jamie and I first started out in marriage and ministry, we had mildew in our closets.
- A. Mildew is a curse (Deut. 28:22).
  - B. We opened our closets and cursed the curse.
  - C. We believed the Word, and because we believed, we spoke to mildew and it left.
  - D. You ought to read Deuteronomy 28:15-68 and see for yourself the curses you can curse.
  - E. You get the blessing, not because you've done everything right, but because Jesus did everything right.

## Discipleship Questions

1. If you believe a lie, you will stop the blessing of God, and you won't \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Prosper
  - B. Recover
  - C. Fail
  - D. Learn
  - E. Yield
  
2. Philippians 4:13 says, "*I can do \_\_\_\_\_ things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*"
  - A. "Some"
  - B. "Most"
  - C. "Other"
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
3. *Discussion question:* Why do you think miracles, like the ones Jesus did, aren't being seen today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Ephesians 1:3 says, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*"
  
5. True or false: The supply is not created until you have a problem (Phil. 4:19).
  
6. *Discussion question:* Considering the way God's supply works, what does that make you think about Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. True or false: You can't always keep your mind on the promises in God's Word (Heb. 12:1-3).

## Living in God's Best

---

8. Psalm 46:1-2 says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very \_\_\_\_\_ help in trouble. [2] Therefore will we not \_\_\_\_\_ though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

9. You're \_\_\_\_\_ blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).

10. In the Old Testament, blessings were conditional upon a \_\_\_\_\_ performance.

11. In the New Testament, everything is conditional upon \_\_\_\_\_ performance and whether you put faith in Him or not.

12. *Discussion question:* Why do you think faith can't earn what God's provided?

---

---

---

13. Christ redeemed you from the curse so that you would be what (Gal. 3:13-14)?

- A. Satisfied
- B. Treasured
- C. Blessed
- D. Prideful
- E. Traded

14. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 says, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do \_\_\_\_\_ his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will \_\_\_\_\_ thee on high above all nations of the earth: [2] And all these blessings shall come \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and \_\_\_\_\_ thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."

15. True or false: As a New Testament Christian, you still must do ALL of the commandments.

16. What is the way to read Deuteronomy 28 through New Covenant eyes?

---

---

---



17. Why should you read Deuteronomy 28:15-68?

---

---

---

18. True or false: You get the blessing, not because you've done everything right, but because Jesus did everything right.

## Scriptures

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

JOHN 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

EPHESIANS 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

HEBREWS 12:1-3

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, [2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

PSALM 46:1-2

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2] Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea

GALATIANS 3:9

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

GALATIANS 3:13-14

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.

### DEUTERONOMY 28:1-68

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. [3] Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. [4] Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. [5] Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. [6] Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. [7] The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. [8] The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. [9] The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. [10] And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. [11] And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee. [12] The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. [13] And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: [14] And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. [15] But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: [16] Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. [17] Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. [18] Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. [19] Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. [20] The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. [21] The

LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. [22] The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. [23] And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. [24] The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed. [25] The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. [26] And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away. [27] The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. [28] The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: [29] And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee. [30] Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof. [31] Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them. [32] Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand. [33] The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway: [34] So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. [35] The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head. [36] The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone. [37] And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee. [38] Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it. [39] Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. [40] Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit. [41] Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou

shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity. [42] All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume. [43] The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. [44] He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. [45] Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: [46] And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever [47] Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; [48] Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee. [49] The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; [50] A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: [51] And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. [52] And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. [53] And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee: [54] So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave: [55] So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates. [56] The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, [57] And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates. [58] If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; [59] Then the

LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. [60] Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. [61] Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. [62] And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God. [63] And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. [64] And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. [65] And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: [66] And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: [67] In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. [68] And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.

## Outline

I. Regardless of where you live, you're blessed:

*Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

Deuteronomy 28:3

A. Your location doesn't determine your prosperity if you would believe God.

B. You and all that's yours will be fruitful in every way:

*Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

Deuteronomy 28:4

C. You can use this verse to pray over your dog, cat, goldfish, or whatever else you have.

D. They're blessed because they belong to you!

II. God can't bless your storehouse if you don't have one:

*Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

Deuteronomy 28:5

A. If you don't have any extra set aside somewhere, the Lord can't bless it.

B. The Lord will bless your savings—your storehouse.

C. You need to start some savings.

III. We need to remind ourselves that it doesn't matter whether we are coming or going—we're blessed:

*Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

Deuteronomy 28:6

A. We are blessed anywhere we are.

B. If we're born again, then we're blessed through Jesus whether or not we know it and believe it.

- C. God told us to choose (Deut. 30:19).
- D. Since we get to choose, we must choose—and continue to choose—to be blessed.

IV. This is powerful:

*The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.*

Deuteronomy 28:7

- A. “*Thine enemies*” isn’t only talking about people.
- B. “*Thine enemies*” could be poverty, sickness, worry, stress, and anything else that’s against you.
- C. They will not prosper (Is. 54:17)!

V. Verse 8 agrees with verse 2 of the same chapter:

*The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee.*

Deuteronomy 28:8a

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee.*

Deuteronomy 28:2

- A. We can’t outrun the blessing of God.
- B. The blessing of God is pursuing us, chasing us, and trying to get us blessed.
- C. But we have to cooperate.
- D. We have to believe and start speaking it.
- E. The blessings of God are voice-activated.

VI. God doesn’t have anything to bless if you aren’t setting your hand unto something:



## Living in God's Best

---

*The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto.*

Deuteronomy 28:8

- A. One hundred times zero is zero.
- B. A person can prosper more by working at McDonald's—even though they may take a cut in their welfare payment—because they're doing something, and God can multiply that.
- C. But He can't multiply welfare.
- D. You can reject it if you want to, but it's the truth.

VII. Isaac had a king ask him to leave because he was mightier and wealthier than that king's whole nation (Gen. 26:12-17).

- A. This is the way it's supposed to be.
- B. God wants you to be so blessed that other people can see it:

*The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. [10] And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.*

Deuteronomy 28:9-10

- C. It may take a while because there's got to be a time of renewing your mind and of sowing and reaping.
- D. You don't just jump into this automatically, but this ought to be your goal.
- E. You ought to be saying, "I'm blessed of God, and everybody's going to see it. It will manifest, and they'll recognize the Lord's blessing in my life."
- F. All glory to Jesus!

VIII. These verses are powerful:

*And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. [12] The LORD*

*shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*

Deuteronomy 28:11-12

- A. You can break droughts.
- B. Jamie and I have prayed and broken droughts.
- C. We may not have been the only ones who prayed, but I believe that our prayer and faith made a difference.
- D. Yours can too.

IX. You are supposed to be the head and not the tail:

*And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.*

Deuteronomy 28:13

- A. When I ask someone how they're doing, and they answer, "Not too bad, under the circumstances," it makes me wonder, *Well, what are you doing down there?*
- B. You're supposed to be above only and not beneath.
- C. You have no business being **under** the circumstances!
- D. The head and not the tail, above and not beneath—that's what the Lord says you are to be, and those are blessings.
- E. You don't have to let life knock the wind out of you, keeping you down and under, the way it does other people.

X. Read all of Deuteronomy 28 to mine it for all of the blessings.

- A. And remember, anything you can see that was a curse, you don't have to have it.
- B. Through Christ, the curses have been turned into blessings.

## Living in God's Best

---

- C. You can believe and receive the opposite.
- D. You're blessed!

## Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: According to Deuteronomy 28:3, your location doesn't determine your prosperity.
2. Deuteronomy 28:4 says, "*Blessed shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy body, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy ground, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*"
3. All you have is blessed. Why?  

---

---

---
4. *Discussion question:* What is the purpose of a storehouse?  

---

---

---
5. Deuteronomy 28:5 says, "*Blessed \_\_\_\_\_ be thy basket and thy store.*"
6. You need to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself that it doesn't matter whether you are coming or going—you're blessed.
  - A. Thank
  - B. Remind
  - C. Nag
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
7. True or false: Deuteronomy 28:6 says, "*Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*"
8. *Discussion question:* Since God has blessed you, how does your choice determine whether you actually are blessed (Deut. 30:19)?  

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

9. Deuteronomy 28:7 says, "*The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be \_\_\_\_\_ before thy face: they shall come out against thee \_\_\_\_\_ way, and \_\_\_\_\_ before thee \_\_\_\_\_ ways.*"

10. Besides people, what could "thine enemies" be?

---

---

---

11. According to Isaiah 54:17, your enemies will not \_\_\_\_\_.

12. True or false: You can outrun the blessing of God.

13. *Discussion question:* What do you see when you imagine the blessing pursuing, chasing, and trying to get you blessed?

---

---

---

14. How do you cooperate with the blessing of God?

---

---

---

15. The blessings of God are \_\_\_\_\_.

16. True or false: God doesn't have anything to bless if you aren't setting your hand unto something.

17. Deuteronomy 28:8 says, "*The LORD shall \_\_\_\_\_ the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto.*"

18. Why can a person prosper more by working at McDonald's than by welfare?

---

---

---

19. Why did a king ask Isaac to leave (Gen. 26:12-17)?

---

---

---

20. Why might it take a while for you to be so blessed that other people can see it?

---

---

---

21. Deuteronomy 28:9-10 says, "*The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath \_\_\_\_\_ unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. [10] And all people of the earth shall \_\_\_\_\_ that thou art \_\_\_\_\_ by the name of the LORD; and they shall be \_\_\_\_\_ of thee.*"

22. Deuteronomy 28:11-12 says, "*And the LORD shall make thee \_\_\_\_\_ in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. [12] The LORD shall open unto thee his \_\_\_\_\_ treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ unto many nations, and thou shalt not \_\_\_\_\_.*"

23. With your prayer and faith, what can you break?

- A. Bread
- B. Traditions
- C. Fasts
- D. Droughts
- E. Eggs

## Living in God's Best

---

24. According to Deuteronomy 28:13, you are supposed to be the \_\_\_\_\_ and not the \_\_\_\_\_.

25. You have no business being where?

---

---

---

26. *Discussion question:* How do you plan to overcome obstacles to receive your blessings?

---

---

---

27. Through \_\_\_\_\_, the curses have been turned into blessings.

28. You can believe and receive the opposite of what?

- A. The curses
- B. The blessings
- C. The circumstances
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

## Scriptures

DEUTERONOMY 28:2-13

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. [3] Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. [4] Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. [5] Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. [6] Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. [7] The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. [8] The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. [9] The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. [10] And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. [11] And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. [12] The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. [13] And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

EPHESIANS 6:11-13

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.



## Living in God's Best

---

ISAIAH 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

GENESIS 26:12-17

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. [13] And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: [14] For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. [15] For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth. [16] And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we. [17] And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

## Outline

- I. Many of us have swallowed the lies of this world even more than we realize.
  - A. We've let the world tell us, "You can't do this and you can't do that," "It's the season for you to get sick," "You have to have this," or "You're a certain age, so you have to have that."
  - B. That's walking in the counsel of the ungodly and expecting negative things, just like an ungodly person does:

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*  
Psalm 1:1
  - C. We need to look at people in the Bible like Moses. He lived to be 120 years old, and his natural force wasn't abated and his eyesight wasn't dim (Deut. 34:7).
  - D. If Moses could do that, and what we have is better than what he had, then what he had ought to be the minimum that we expect (Heb. 8:6).
  - E. We're the ones who determine whether or not the blessing is working in our lives!

- II. As believers in Christ, this should describe us:

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD [the Word of God]; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

Psalm 1:2, brackets mine

- A. This is speaking of meditating in God's Word more than just every once in a while.
- B. Certainly, listening to the Word at church and using a daily devotional is a beginning, but this verse is talking about meditating in God's Word day and night.
- C. It's referring to God's Word being in our ears, in our eyes, on our minds, and in our mouths all the time.
- D. In other words, if we delight in God's Word and meditate on it day and night, then we'll be blessed.

III. The Bible says that true believers—the just—shall live by faith (Hab. 2:4, Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, and Heb. 10:38).

- A. Many Christians just visit faith, but they don't live there.
- B. In order to actually live in faith, you must meditate constantly in the Word.
- C. It's a day-and-night process, but when you do it, you will make your way prosperous and you will have good success (Josh. 1:8).
- D. That's another blessing!

IV. When you meditate on the Word day and night, whatsoever you do will prosper:

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Psalm 1:3

- A. You might say, "I'm going to claim that one!"
- B. Well, are you going to quit walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners, and sitting in the seat of the scornful?
- C. Are you going to meditate in God's Word day and night?
- D. Those things are all linked together.
- E. Although it's not based on your holiness, it does take a total commitment for you to see God's blessing manifest in your life.
- F. This verse paints a picture of a tree that is planted next to water.
- G. Even in a drought, that tree will still flourish because its roots draw nourishment from the river.

V. The Holy Spirit will show you things to come:

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

John 16:13

## Living in God's Best

---

- A. That's another blessing!
- B. You don't have to be like a pinball that just bounces off things, going round and round again.
- C. You can hear from God (John 10:3-5)!

VI. We say we're forgiven, but many of us don't even understand what that means.

- A. To have our sins atoned for and wiped out is a huge blessing:

*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. [2]  
Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in  
whose spirit there is no guile.*

Psalm 32:1-2

- B. Many people don't understand the magnitude of this blessing because religion has hidden this truth, saying, "Yeah, when you got born again, your sins up to that point were forgiven. But every time you sin after that, you have to get that sin confessed and under the blood."
- C. This makes forgiveness conditional upon having every sin confessed.

VII. Sin isn't only the wrong things we do:

*For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

Romans 14:23

*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

James 4:17

- A. Sin is also not doing the good things that we should be doing but fail to do.
- B. If we use a Bible definition of sin, then we sin all the time.
- C. Because of this, our own consciences condemn us, saying, "You're not worthy. You're separated from God."
- D. But that's not what the Word teaches.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

For a full exposition of this important truth, refer to my teachings entitled *Redemption and Spirit, Soul & Body*. I'm only able to scratch the surface in these lessons.

## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* How have you walked in the counsel of the godly rather than the counsel of the ungodly?  

---

---

---
  
2. According to Psalm 1:1, “\_\_\_\_\_ is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”
  - A. “Humbled”
  - B. “Gifted”
  - C. “Blessed”
  - D. “Scared”
  - E. “Cursed”
  
3. True or false: Moses lived to be 120 years old, and his natural force wasn't abated and his eyesight wasn't dim (Deut. 34:7).
  
4. What Moses had ought to be the \_\_\_\_\_ that you can expect (Heb. 8:6).
  - A. Limit
  - B. Maximum
  - C. Most
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
5. Psalm 1:2 says, “But his \_\_\_\_\_ is in the law of the LORD [the Word of God]; and in his law doth he \_\_\_\_\_ day and night.”
  
6. Psalm 1:2 is referring to God's Word being where?  

---

---

---
  
7. True or false: If you delight in God's Word and meditate on it day and night, then you'll be blessed.

8. True believers—the just—shall \_\_\_\_\_ by faith (Hab. 2:4, Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, and Heb. 10:38).

9. In order to actually live in faith, you must do what?

---

---

---

10. If you will meditate in the Word day and night, what will happen (Josh. 1:8)?

---

---

---

11. Prosperity and good success is considered one of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

12. Psalm 1:3 says, “*And he shall be like a \_\_\_\_\_ planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his \_\_\_\_\_ also shall not wither; and \_\_\_\_\_ he doeth shall prosper.*”

13. *Discussion question:* What does a total commitment look like to you?

---

---

---

14. Why would a tree that’s planted by a river flourish?

---

---

---

15. According to John 16:13, “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will \_\_\_\_\_ you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he \_\_\_\_\_: and he will \_\_\_\_\_ you things to come.*”

## Living in God's Best

---

16. Another blessing is the guidance of the \_\_\_\_\_.
17. True or false: Only Jesus could hear from God (John 10:3-5).
18. To have your \_\_\_\_\_ atoned for and wiped out is a huge blessing.
19. True or false: Forgiveness is conditional on having every sin confessed.
20. True or false: Sin is only doing the wrong things.
21. According to Romans 14:23, "\_\_\_\_\_ is not of faith is sin."
22. According to James 4:17, "To him that \_\_\_\_\_ to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
23. *Discussion question:* When is it good to trust your conscience, and when is it good not to trust it?

---

---

---



## Scriptures

PSALM 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. [2] But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. [3] And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

DEUTERONOMY 34:7

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

HEBREWS 8:6

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

JOSHUA 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

HABAKKUK 2:4

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

ROMANS 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

GALATIANS 3:11

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

HEBREWS 10:38

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

## Living in God's Best

---

JOHN 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

JOHN 10:3-5

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. [4] And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. [5] And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

JOHN 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

DEUTERONOMY 28:8

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. [8] For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

PSALM 32:1-2

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. [2] Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

ROMANS 14:23

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

JAMES 4:17

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

## Outline

- I. You were forgiven of all sin—past, present, and future.
- A. You might be tempted to think, *That's heresy, Andrew, but I can prove it to you from the following scriptures:*

*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.... [15] And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

Hebrews 9:12 and 15

*For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. [2] For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.*

Hebrews 10:1-2

*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.... [14] For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Hebrews 10:10 and 14

*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, [23] To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.*

Hebrews 12:22-23

- B. You might wonder, *But, Andrew, how can God forgive a sin before I commit it?*
- C. Well, you'd better pray that He can forgive a sin before you commit it because He only died for your sins one time 2,000 years ago, long before you ever committed them.
- D. If you're born again, sin is not an issue between you and God.

## Living in God's Best

---

II. If you go out and live in sin, you're just inviting Satan in (Rom. 6:16).

- A. You're throwing open the door to your life and saying, "Shoot your best shot! Destroy me. Have at me."

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*

John 10:10

- B. If you're living in sin, you're stupid.

- C. But God loves you, stupid.

III. Speaking of God's grace, Paul quoted these verses in Romans:

*Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, [7] Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. [8] Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not [future tense] impute sin.*

Romans 4:6-8, brackets mine

- A. Verse 8 doesn't say "did not" or "does not," but "*will not*."
- B. God will never hold sin against you!
- C. Now, it's true that if you're in sin, you won't prosper, but that's not because God isn't blessing you.
- D. You might be saying, "Come on, Andrew. What's the difference? Either way, I'm not prospering!"
- E. The difference is that if you think God is angry with you and is imputing your sins unto you, then you'll never have any boldness, confidence, or faith.
- F. But if you understand this truth, you can say, "God, thank You that You never turned away from me. You never took the blessing back. I stopped it through my own stupidity. I gave Satan this place in my life. I welcomed him in. How dumb can I get and still breathe? Thank You, God, that You still love me."
- G. Then you can just turn on the devil and say, "I don't care what I've done. Jesus is still my Lord, and I refuse to allow you to dominate me" (James 4:7).
- H. It's huge for you to understand that your transgressions have been forgiven and that all your iniquity has been taken away (Ps. 103:11-12).

- 
- IV. We should be glad that God's covenant with Noah was an unconditional covenant.
- A. God told him, "I'll never destroy the earth again with a flood."
  - B. He didn't add, "As long as you never do anything wrong again."
  - C. If the covenant had been conditional, God would've already destroyed the earth again with a flood.
  - D. We deserve it.
  - E. But it was an unconditional covenant (Is. 54:9).
- V. God has never been angry with you since you became born again.
- A. He has never rebuked you, regardless of what you think.
  - B. Your own conscience smites you, and Satan—the accuser of the brethren—condemns you (Rev. 12:10), but God does not (Rom. 8:31-35).
  - C. Your own heart is condemning you, and you've blamed it on God.
  - D. God is not mad at you.
  - E. He's not even in a bad mood.

#### ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

For further assistance with overcoming condemnation, check out my teaching entitled *The War Is Over*. It'll help you become more confident in your relationship with God.

## Discipleship Questions

1. You were forgiven of \_\_\_\_\_ sin—past, present, and future.
2. *Discussion question:* How does it feel knowing you are forgiven?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. True or false: Sin is still an issue between you and God.
4. Why shouldn't you go out and live in sin (Rom. 6:16)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. According to John 10:10, "*The \_\_\_\_\_ cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*"
6. If you're living in sin, you're \_\_\_\_\_.
7. True or false: God loves you whether you're living in sin or not.
8. Romans 4:6-8 says, "*Even as David also describeth the \_\_\_\_\_ of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, [7] Saying, \_\_\_\_\_ are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. [8] \_\_\_\_\_ is the man to whom the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ impute sin.*"
9. True or false: If you're in sin, you will still prosper.
10. Why is it important to understand that God will never hold sin against you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. If you understand this truth, what can you say to God?

---

---

---

12. What can you say to the devil (James 4:7)?

---

---

---

13. *Discussion question:* Since God has taken away your iniquity, how do you want to respond to Him (Ps. 103:11-12)?

---

---

---

14. God's covenant with Noah was what kind of covenant?

- A. Unconventional
- B. Conditional
- C. Conventional
- D. Unconditional
- E. Circumstantial

15. If the covenant had been conditional, why would God have already destroyed the earth again with a flood?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

16. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God swore He would never flood the earth again (Is. 54:9)?

---

---

---

17. True or false: God has been angry with you since you became born again.

18. What smites you?

---

---

---

19. According to Romans 8:31-35, who condemns you?

- A. Satan
- B. God
- C. People
- D. Angels
- E. Demons

20. What else condemns you?

---

---

---

21. True or false: God is not mad at you; He's not even in a bad mood.



## Scriptures

HEBREWS 9:12

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

HEBREWS 9:15

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

HEBREWS 10:1-2

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. [2] For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

HEBREWS 10:10

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

HEBREWS 10:14

For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

HEBREWS 12:22-23

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, [23] To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

ROMANS 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

JOHN 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

## Living in God's Best

---

PSALM 32:2

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

ROMANS 4:6-8

Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, [7] Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. [8] Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

JAMES 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

PSALM 103:11-12

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. [12] As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

HEBREWS 8:12

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

HEBREWS 10:17

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

ISAIAH 54:9

For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

REVELATION 12:10

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

ROMANS 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

ROMANS 8:31-35

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be

against us? [32] He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? [33] Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. [34] Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

## Outline

I. When you trust in God, there's a blessing that comes upon you:

*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

Psalm 34:8

A. It's better to rely on Him instead of trusting in yourself, because when you do, you're blessed!

B. Peace is one of the blessings that comes through trusting in God:

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Isaiah 26:3

C. Many Christians struggle with peace.

D. They're stressed-out and worried.

E. They feel like they've failed and deserve whatever is happening to them—that God is holding sin against them.

F. These things add up and compound upon each other.

II. You need to understand that you are forgiven of all sin.

A. If God forgave you of your sins, which is the greatest miracle that could ever happen, how could you believe that He won't heal you?

B. If He loved you enough to forgive you of your sins, then He loves you enough to heal your body.

C. He'd keep you in perfect peace!

III. Psalm 37:25-26, Isaiah 54:13-14, Psalm 112:1-2, and Psalm 115:13-15 are about your children being blessed.

A. God will increase both you and your children.

B. Now, this doesn't rule out the fact that your children have a choice of their own to make, to trust God or not.

- C. This doesn't mean that they will automatically be forced to do the right thing, but your children will be blessed.
- IV. Aaron was the high priest, and he was anointed with oil, which symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! [2] It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments. [3] As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

Psalm 133:1-3

- A. On whom did God command this blessing?
- B. On those who dwell together in unity.
- C. These verses say that there is a blessing that comes on people when they are in unity that won't manifest any other way.
- V. Strife is an inroad of Satan:

*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

James 3:16

- A. Some people think, *Well, I'm not giving place to the devil*, yet they're mad, in strife, and bitter.
- B. If you're self-willed and stubborn, those are the same as the sins of witchcraft and idolatry:

*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

1 Samuel 15:23

- C. Maybe you were raised to think that living in strife is just the way it has to be.
- D. That's not true.

## Living in God's Best

---

VI. When the believers were all together in unity, the power of the Holy Spirit fell:

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

Acts 2:1-2

- A. Unfortunately, the body of Christ is so divided today.
- B. The body is separated from and angry with each other.
- C. Nobody will fellowship with anybody who's different than they are.
- D. The church has all this strife, yet we wonder why we're struggling.

VII. You turn Satan loose when you are angry (James 3:16).

- A. You might say, "But, Andrew, I just need to get it off my chest."
- B. No, you just need to repent and get over it.
- C. Pride is the only reason for this strife:

*Only by pride cometh contention.*

Proverbs 13:10

- D. It's what is inside of you—your pride, your selfishness—that makes you angry.
- E. Although God commands His blessing on unity, it's not even a goal for most people.
- F. They're mad, and they just don't care.
- G. They think that they're hurting this other person by harboring unforgiveness.
- H. No, they're hurting themselves.
- I. Satan uses that as an inroad into their lives.
- J. It stops the blessing of God.
- K. They need to forgive and start walking in love.

VIII. We as the church need to be in unity.

- A. Some things just cannot be done on an individual basis.
- B. America isn't going to turn back to God because of one person.
- C. We as the church have to change the hearts of people.
- D. American voters elect people into office who reflect their morals.

IX. John Adams, the first vice president and the second president of the United States, basically said that democracy is totally unfit or unsuited for anybody but a moral people.

- A. If America ever ceases to be moral, democracy will destroy its people.
- B. That's what is happening today.

*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

Proverbs 14:34

- C. If you're an American, then you ought to exercise your right to vote because it's irresponsible not to, and when you do, be sure to vote according to godliness, not outward appearance.
- D. Compared to righteousness, things like good looks, gender, and color aren't important.
- E. If you do what God is leading you to do, and if every other Christian goes out as salt and light and does what the Lord wants them to do, this nation could turn back to God (Matt. 5:13-16).

#### ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

If you struggle with pride, anger, or being in strife, I encourage you to get hold of my teachings entitled *Self-Centeredness: The Source of All Grief and Anger Management*. They'll help you!

## Discipleship Questions

1. When you trust in God, what comes upon you?
  - A. A zeal
  - B. A thirst
  - C. A power
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
2. Psalm 34:8 says, “O taste and see that the \_\_\_\_\_ is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

3. What is one of the blessings that comes through trusting in God?

---

---

---

4. According to Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep him in \_\_\_\_\_ peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

5. *Discussion question:* How have you learned to experience peace?

---

---

---

6. *Discussion question:* When you consider that God would forgive and heal you, what do you think about God’s love?

---

---

---



## Living in God's Best

---

7. Psalm 37:25-26, Isaiah 54:13-14, Psalm 112:1-2, and Psalm 115:13-15 are about what?

---

---

---

8. True or false: This rules out the fact that your children have a choice to make, to trust God or not.

9. True or false: Your children will not automatically be forced to do the right thing, even though they are blessed.

10. Psalm 133:1-3 says, "*Behold, how \_\_\_\_\_ and how \_\_\_\_\_ it is for brethren to dwell together in \_\_\_\_\_!* [2] *It is like the precious \_\_\_\_\_ upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments.* [3] *As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, even life for evermore.*"

11. On whom did God command this blessing?

---

---

---

12. What is an inroad of Satan?

---

---

---

13. According to James 3:16, "*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and \_\_\_\_\_ evil work.*"

14. What are the same as the sins of witchcraft and idolatry?

---

---

---

15. What verse says that?

---

---

---

16. True or false: Living in strife is just the way it has to be.

17. When did the power of the Holy Spirit fall?

- A. When the believers lived in the same house
- B. When the believers agreed on everything
- C. When the believers cooked together
- D. When the believers were all together in unity
- E. When the believers attended the same local church

18. Acts 2:1-2 says, “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one \_\_\_\_\_ in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*”

19. *Discussion question:* Why do you think the body of Christ is so divided today?

---

---

---

20. You turn Satan loose when you are what (James 3:16)?

- A. Angry
- B. Quiet
- C. Happy
- D. Loud
- E. Late

21. If you say you need to get something off your chest, what do you really need to do?

- A. Receive and get a blessing
- B. Respire and get a nap
- C. Repent and get over it
- D. Relax and get a pizza
- E. Relent and get some therapy

22. According to Proverbs 13:10, “\_\_\_\_\_ by pride cometh contention.”

## Living in God's Best

---

23. What makes you angry?

---

---

---

24. *Discussion question:* How do you forgive and start walking in love?

---

---

---

25. *Discussion question:* What does a unified church look like?

---

---

---

26. If America ever ceases to be moral, democracy will \_\_\_\_\_ its people.

27. According to Proverbs 14:34, “\_\_\_\_\_ exalteth a nation: but \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ to any people.”

28. *Discussion question:* How are you going to be salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16)?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

PSALM 34:8

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

ISAIAH 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

PSALM 37:25-26

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. [26] He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

ISAIAH 54:13-14

And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. [14] In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

PSALM 112:1-2

Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. [2] His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

PSALM 115:13-15

He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. [14] The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children. [15] Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

PSALM 40:4

Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

PSALM 133:1-3

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! [2] It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; [3] As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

## Living in God's Best

---

JAMES 3:16

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

1 SAMUEL 15:23

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

JOHN 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

ACTS 2:1-2

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

PROVERBS 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

PROVERBS 14:34

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

MATTHEW 5:13-16

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. [14] Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. [15] Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

## Outline

- I. The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom for everyday life (Prov. 1:2-5; 2:1-2; and 8:32-36).
  - A. Many people in the United States and different countries around the world have rejected godly wisdom.
  - B. They've embraced the wisdom of this world.
  - C. If we want to see the blessing of God manifest, we need to walk in wisdom—the wisdom that's revealed in the Word of God!

- II. If you live a righteous life, you'll have a godly legacy:

*The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.*

Proverbs 10:7

- A. Many don't like to consider this, but how will people talk about you when you're gone?
- B. Would there be a lot of good things to say about you?
- C. You need to confront yourself with this truth.
- D. If you want people to miss you, give them something to miss.

- III. There's a special blessing on every person who has been persecuted for righteousness' sake:

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. [12] Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Matthew 5:10-12

- A. Someday you will stand before God, and He will honor you in front of all creation.
- B. People who have never heard of you will see you rewarded because you stood up for the Lord and suffered the criticism, rejection, and persecution of other people.

- C. If you understood this, you could rejoice.
  - D. When you understand that when you're persecuted for righteousness' sake, it's like a crown that you could wear, then you'll look forward to persecution (Phil. 3:10).
  - E. You should not be unwise and cause persecution to come your way, but when it does come due to your godly life, you can look forward to it because you know that the Lord will bless you for it.
- IV. By Jesus's own words, we who hear the Word of God and keep it are more blessed than even His mother was:

*And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. [28] But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*

Luke 11:27-28

- A. We're blessed!
  - B. Givers are more blessed than receivers:  
*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*  
Acts 20:35
  - C. If we truly understood this, we would choose to be generous givers because we get blessed when we give.
- V. If you can't believe, it's because you willed not to believe (John 20:25).
- A. You chose to believe something else instead of the report of the Lord.
  - B. Your mind is in the way.
  - C. You've educated yourself right out of faith.
  - D. The greatest faith that the Lord ever saw was a faith that simply took Him at His Word (Matt. 8:10).
  - E. The least faith that Jesus ever saw was Thomas's faith (John 20:29), who basically said "Lord, I believe" (John 20:28) only after he saw Jesus risen from the dead.

## Living in God's Best

---

- F. There is a greater blessing on those who will just believe the Word than there is on those who believe because it's been proven to them in some natural, physical way.

### VI. You can't argue a person into faith.

- A. You can't just use something in the natural to force people to believe (Luke 16:31); it won't work.
- B. Everyone has to choose to believe.

### VII. God could do anything, but faith is what pleases Him (Heb. 11:6).

- A. The Lord loves you so much that He wants you to come into His best, and that is to believe without seeing.
- B. His best is for you to believe His promises simply because the Holy Spirit bears witness and there's a quickening in your heart.
- C. God's best is for you to walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7).
- D. It's not that He won't come down to you, but He's already come down to you in Jesus.
- E. Now He's trying to bring you up to His level.

### VIII. There are so many blessings!

- A. God has truly provided everything.
- B. You need to choose to believe in the power of His spoken favor and to find out what these blessings are and then activate them with your voice.
- C. Start acting on the Word.
- D. If you cooperate with what He's said, the blessing of God will manifest itself in your life, and your life will become better than you could ever have believed.
- E. God's plans for you are awesome.



- F. Your future is so bright, you have to squint to look at it.
- G. God loves you, and you're blessed.
- H. Receive His very best!

## Discipleship Questions

1. What is the book of Proverbs full of (Prov. 1:2-5; 2:1-2; and 8:32-36)?

---

---

---

2. *Discussion question:* What are some examples of how people have rejected godly wisdom?

---

---

---

3. If you want to see the blessing of God manifest, you need to \_\_\_\_\_ in wisdom—the wisdom that’s revealed in the Word of God!

- A. Pay
- B. Grow
- C. Walk
- D. Sit
- E. Rest

4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ a righteous life, you’ll have a godly legacy.

5. According to Proverbs 10:7, “*The \_\_\_\_\_ of the just is blessed: but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the wicked shall rot.*”

6. *Discussion question:* What can you do to leave a godly legacy?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

7. What is on every person who has been persecuted for righteousness' sake?

---

---

---

8. Where does it say that in the Bible?

---

---

---

9. Someday you will stand before God, and He will do what?

- A. Reject you in front of all creation
- B. Acknowledge you in front of all creation
- C. Condemn you in front of all creation
- D. Embarrass you in front of all creation
- E. Honor you in front of all creation

10. True or false: You shouldn't cause persecution to come your way.

11. When persecution comes due to your godly life, why can you look forward to it (Phil. 3:10)?

---

---

---

12. Luke 11:27-28 says, "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, \_\_\_\_\_ is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. [28] But he said, Yea \_\_\_\_\_, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

13. According to Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to \_\_\_\_\_ than to \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. "Receive" / "give"
- B. "Work" / "play"
- C. "Walk" / "run"
- D. "Give" / "receive"
- E. "Eat" / "sleep"

14. If you can't believe, it's because you \_\_\_\_\_ not to believe (John 20:25).

15. What did you choose to believe instead?

---

---

---

16. When that happens, what is in the way?

- A. Your brain
- B. Your thoughts
- C. Your mind
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

17. True or false: The greatest faith that the Lord ever saw was a faith that simply took Him at His Word (Matt. 8:10).

18. True or false: The least faith that Jesus ever saw was Thomas's faith, who basically said "Lord, I believe" only after he saw Jesus risen from the dead (John 20:28-29).

19. What kind of blessing is on those who will just believe the Word?

---

---

---

20. True or false: You can argue a person into faith.

21. *Discussion question:* Why do you think a person won't believe even when there is proof (Luke 16:31)?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

22. According to Hebrews 11:6, what pleases God?

- A. Faith
- B. Fasting
- C. Giving
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

23. The Lord loves you so much that He wants you to come into His best, which is what?

---

---

---

24. True or false: His best is for you to believe His promises simply because the Holy Spirit bears witness and there's a quickening in your heart.

25. *Discussion question:* How do you walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7)?

---

---

---

26. Since God has already come down to you in Jesus, what is He trying to do?

---

---

---

27. *Discussion question:* Now that you've reached the end of the book, how will your approach to receiving, walking, and living in God's best be the same or different from what it was at the beginning of the book?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

PROVERBS 8:32-36

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. [33] Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. [34] Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. [35] For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. [36] But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

PROVERBS 2:1-2

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; [2] So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding.

PROVERBS 1:2-5

To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; [3] To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; [4] To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. [5] A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.

PROVERBS 10:7

The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

MATTHEW 5:10-12

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. [12] Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

LUKE 11:27-28

And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. [28] But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

## Living in God's Best

---

ACTS 20:35

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

JOHN 20:25-29

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. [26] And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. [27] Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. [28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. [29] Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

MATTHEW 8:8

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

MATTHEW 8:10

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

JOHN 11:44-53

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. [45] Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. [46] But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. [47] Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. [48] If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. [49] And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, [50] Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. [51] And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; [52] And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together

in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. [53] Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

JOHN 12:10-11

But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; [11] Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

LUKE 16:31

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

HEBREWS 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.