

Blessed Part 2 2022

Last week we started our exploration of the Blessings of the Lord.

We established that as believers in Christ Jesus we are redeemed from the curse, by faith we live in the same level of Blessing as did Abraham and really beyond Abraham.

Galatians 3:9 (NASB) 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

Galatians 3:13 (NASB) 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—

Galatians 3:14 (NASB) 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

We are blessed through faith if its of faith then I don't need any externals because the thing believed is based on the Word of God nothing else is needed.

I'm not blessed due to where I am - people are forever chasing prosperity.

Moving from this city to that city, from this church to that church and seldom ask God is that where you want me.

I am not blessed due to where I am I'm blessed due to who I am - A believer in Jesus Christ.

Who you are is blessed / how you live might not be

In Dan 4 we read the story of a great King. Nebuchadnezzar

For 7 years Nebuchadnezzar ate grass and lived in the field like an animal but he was still king.

How he lived did not change who he was.

He was a king who lived like an animal.

Its possible to be one thing but experience another.

You can be Blessed but live like you ain't

You can negate the truth of who you are by unbelief, disobedience and tradition.

But that doesn't change who you are.

Be who you are / BeLieve who you are.

Deuteronomy 28:3 (NASB) 3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

So do I have to be in the city to be blessed?

But that is where all the money is - not if God has need of you in the country.

Deuteronomy 28:2-8 (NLT) 2 You will experience all these blessings if you obey the LORD your God:

3 Your towns and your fields will be blessed.

4 Your children and your crops will be blessed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed.

5 Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed.

6 Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed.

7 "The LORD will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven!

8 "The LORD will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

When the Blessed of the Lord obey the Lord prosperity chases them

Everyone say this out loud in faith, "I am the Blessed of the Lord and I obey the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:7 (TPT) 7 for we live by faith, not by what we see with our eyes.

So if the Bible says that I, as a believer, am blessed, then I, as a believer, believe that I am blessed.

My belief alters my behavior and Blessed people are a bold people, courageous people, a happy people and blessed people change the world.

BLESSED TO FLOURISH

Psalms 92:12 (TPT) Yes! Look how you've made all your devoted lovers to flourish like palm trees, each one growing in victory, standing with strength!

Psalms 92:12-15 (NASB) 12 The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 Planted in the house of the LORD, They will flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green,

15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

In these verses we see some wonderful answers

1. Who
2. How
3. Where
4. When
5. Why

Who shall flourish? "The righteous." There are none who are righteous by a righteousness of their own—that is, a righteousness derived from themselves; but there are those who are righteous by a righteousness derived from God.

Philippians 3:9 (NASB) 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through

faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

There is a twofold righteousness spoken of in the Scriptures: the righteousness of justification, and the righteousness of sanctification.

Justification is instantaneous. Sanctification is a process.

John Wesley taught that sanctification is the process of growing in growing in grace.

2 Peter 3:18 (NASB) 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

And the proof of sanctification is love.

Justification is the change of our nature; Sanctification changes our circumstances.

3 John 1:2 (NASB) 2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, **JUST AS** your soul prospers.

The one is an instantaneous operation, and applies at once; the other is gradual and progressive.

They are not the same but they are connected and work at the same time **JUST AS**

God's design is that as we grow (in grace & knowledge) we increase (in resources) so that we always know what to do with with what we have.

- **How shall they flourish?** Like the palm-tree; which is constantly green and flourishing. . like a cedar.
- **Where shall they flourish?** In the courts of our God. This is the place of fellowship.
- **When shall they flourish?** Their whole life even into old age they shall still bring forth fruit, full of life and very green.

- **Why are they to flourish?** To show that the Lord is upright and good. .

There is a universal longing, a desire at the core of every human heart. It's a desire for thriving. For blessedness. For fullness of life. For flourishing.

Creation as God intended it was in a state of flourishing.

In the Garden there was no death, God doesn't delight in death.

In the Garden there was no decay, God doesn't delight in decay, or ruin.

He finds no joy in failure, fatigue and frustration.

He delights in prosperity.

The Blessing of God equips you to flourish.

Genesis 1:22 (NASB) 22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

Fruitful - bring forth increase, to grow aka Flourish.

Genesis 1:27-28 (NASB) 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:31 (NASB)

31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

God pronounced it GOOD!

Flourish -grow, thrive, prosper, grow/do well, develop, burgeon, increase, multiply, proliferate; spring up, shoot up, bloom, blossom, bear fruit, burst forth

ANTONYMS die; wither decline.

Flourishing is about more than us.

Knowing God is glorified when HIS creation flourishes, we work for the flourishing of others out of gratitude and a desire to spread HIS glory throughout the earth.

John 15:8 (TPT) 8 When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father!

When we serve other people with our God-given gifts, talents, time and resources, we help them flourish.

What does flourishing look like, then?

It's when the wilderness becomes fruitful.

It's when justice dwells. It's when righteousness abides. It's when people live peacefully.

Flourishing is happiness. It's joy. It's a fullness of life. It's wholeness. It's abundance.

Flourishing seeks the welfare of the city. It promotes the common good. It radiates God's Kingdom on earth.

Flourishing is a thriving farm. It's a booming city. It's a cure for disease. It's a new technology. It's a beautiful song. It's a vibrant street mural. It's a loving family. It's a fun friendship. It's a deep relationship with God. It's living as an image bearer of our Creator.

Flourishing means becoming everything we were created to be.

No where in the Bible are granted the right to retire from life, play games till we die.

We are all commissioned by God to engage in good works, to keep bearing fruit

The fruit you bear isn't for you.

Apple trees produce apples but apple trees don't eat apples.

Fig trees produce figs but fig trees don't eat figs

The fruit you bear is for me, the fruit I bear is for you. The fruit we bear is for the world.

Someday this will all end. In the meantime, we've got work to do. Until HE returns, God keeps calling us to do our part in bringing about flourishing for the world.

Proverbs 11:28 (NASB) 28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.