

FAITH
IN THE BLESSING

by Bill Winston

Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (AMPC) are taken from the Amplified® Bible, Classic Edition. Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

Scriptures quotations marked (NIV) are taken from The HOLY BIBLE® New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. www.zondervan.com

Scripture quotations marked (KJ21) are taken from the 21st Century King James Version®. Copyright © 1994. Used by permission of Deuel Enterprises, Inc., Gary, SD 57237. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (MSG) are taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Scripture quotations marked (AMP) are taken from the Amplified® Bible. Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631. All rights reserved. For Permission To Quote information visit <http://www.lockman.org/>

Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible. Copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. The Living Bible, TLB, and The Living Bible logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NCV) or New Century Version are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (TJB) or The Jerusalem Bible are taken from The Jerusalem Bible®. Copyright ©1966, 2018 by Penguin Random House. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Faith in The Blessing

by Bill Winston

ISBN: 978-1-63541-013-6

Copyright © 2018

All rights reserved

Published by Bill Winston

P.O. Box 947

Oak Park, IL. USA 60303-0947

Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the author or Bill Winston Ministries.

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

Introduction.....	5
Chapter 1 What is The Blessing.....	9
Chapter 2 Revelation of The Blessing.....	19
Chapter 3 Activated by Faith.....	29
Chapter 4 Commanding The Blessing.....	39
Chapter 5 Empowered by The Blessing.....	49
Chapter 6 Blessing Connectors and Blessing Blockers.....	57
Chapter 7 Living in Power.....	73
Conclusion.....	79

Introduction

God is a God of love, and His desire is for you to be abundantly blessed. He wants you to have everything that belongs to you in His Word, and that is why I wrote *Faith in The Blessing*. The Blessing is designed to give you your inheritance and to take back everything the enemy has stolen from you. The Blessing will fix whatever may be broken in your life, but for it to operate, faith is a requirement.

Faith is the currency of the kingdom and anything you receive—including The Blessing—must be received by faith. It takes faith to be saved, faith to be healed, and faith to access anything else you need or desire from God.

One man of God said that “revelation is the bedrock of faith.” And we need revelation of The Blessing like never before. I had some revelation of The Blessing, but it has grown deeper. I pray that as you read this book, you’ll receive more knowledge about The Blessing of the Lord than you had before. Why? Because the more knowledge you have, the more faith you can generate and the more you can do for God.

We have been taught to have faith in the Name of Jesus. The Bible says, “that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth...” (Philippians 2:10 TLB). That Name was used by Paul to cast out devils. In Acts 3:12 and 16, Peter said to the people who had witnessed the lame man being healed, “...why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?...his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong.” My point is that it is faith in the Name of Jesus that brings results. You can drop something on the floor and say, “Oh Jesus!” However, that didn’t do anything because you didn’t have any faith in what you said. *Faith* in that Name is what makes you whole.

We also have been taught to have faith in the blood of Jesus. Remember when the children of Israel had to put the blood from a sacrificial lamb on the doorpost and then

the death angel passed over? I received a testimony from a man who gashed his head open on a nail while working in a garage. He was bleeding and began to plead the blood of Jesus. All of a sudden the bleeding stopped. As he continued pleading the blood of Jesus over the wound, the opening closed up, and the scar went away!

Now, we need to be taught to have faith in The Blessing. The Blessing operates by faith and by speaking the Word of God. God has given you a Word for anything you may need or desire in your life. If we meditate on His Word, say and do what God's Word says, then God will do for us what He promised. God's Word never returns to Him void, and He is not a man that He should (could) lie. Also, His Word says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17 NKJV). That tells me that you must say it out loud to hear it. Notice, it doesn't say, "Faith comes by having heard the Word." Faith is always NOW.

Whatever issues you might have in your family, business, or community, The Blessing will change them. As you study The Blessing and your faith is increased, begin to apply it by speaking faith-filled words over every area of your life to see its manifestation. As you do what God says, God will pour out The Blessing to heal you, restore your family, increase your finances, get you out of debt, anoint your ministry and bring favor, success and promotion to your business or career. The Blessing will distinguish you from others and raise you to a higher level.

The enemy has tried to seduce God's people by keeping them busy and distracted from spending time in God's Word. Why? Because it's believing and acting on the Word that makes the Word work for you. God's Word is powerful and true, but it doesn't work just because it's in the Bible. The Word works because you have faith in it and you put it to work. His Word says, "The angels hearken unto the voice of His word" (Psalm 103:20). You must speak His Word to give "voice to His Word...."

So, we have faith in the Name, faith in the blood, and faith in the Word. Now, we need **faith in The Blessing**. As you read this book, allow the faith inside you to build a

strong image of “The Blessing” operating in your life. Once you see what The Blessing will enable you to do, you will be unstoppable.

I believe The Blessing of the Lord is an end-time message for the Body of Christ because it’s a covenant promise that overrides the curse of disease, sickness, poverty, oppression, broken relationships and failing government systems. It is without a doubt one of the most, if not the most, important messages for the Church—and the world—today. Once you get a true understanding of The Blessing, it will change your life forever!

Chapter One

What is The Blessing?

The Blessing of the Lord can be defined in several ways: as the covenant of God that overrides the curse; the anointing of God through which divine favor flows; or the power of God to produce. In other words, The Blessing is the presence and power of God in a person's life that enables them to prosper in every area of their life, regardless of natural circumstances.

Empowered to Prosper

The word *blessing* is from the Hebrew root word *ble* or *barak* which means "to invoke divine favor, to empower, to prosper, or to make successful."¹ It means an "empowerment of success." Every believer has access to the power and wisdom that will override the curse through faith in The Blessing of the Lord.

The Blessing was first given to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. God transferred to them the same power and ability He used to create this earth so that they could continue the work of creation and make every place on the earth just like the garden of Eden. Eden was a copy of heaven.

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.
Genesis 1:28

Again, this Blessing on Adam carried the same power that God used to create all matter. It was given to Adam to help mankind fulfill the mission and plan of filling the earth with the Garden. God's plan was for mankind to replicate the Garden over the whole earth and to live in the garden of Eden all of their days. With The Blessing, you can take the worst place on earth and turn it into heaven on earth (Eden) without having to toil and struggle to do it.

Humanity Fell to the Level of the Curse

The Blessing was first on Adam and Eve to keep the earth stocked and fully functioning as God intended. When Adam through disobedience and sin lost "The Blessing," humanity fell to the level of the curse. All humanity was in Adam, which is why the Bible says "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" and "the wages of sin is death...." Sin is not so much what we did, but how we were born. We were all born in sin, and we all must be born again.

Though God pours out His blessings (plural) on the just and the unjust, only those who have experienced the "new birth" can partake of the fullness of THE Blessing (the covenant of God that overrides the curse). Notice, there is no "s" on The Blessing. God is not talking about blessings, which are His specific acts of goodness. He's talking about "The Blessing" and there is only one...The Blessing of the Lord.

For example, let's say you get a new car and you shout, "Oh, I sure got blessed today. I got a new car. Praise the Lord!" Or you get a new house and say, "I sure got blessed today. I got a new house." Or how about you get a new job? Well, these are blessings. But when you receive The Blessing, it will enable you to get all these blessings and more.

Although Adam fell, God did not change His “garden of Eden” plan for the earth. We see some years later that God spoke the same words to bless Noah that He used to bless Adam and Eve, “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” (Genesis 9:1). Then in Genesis, chapter 12, God chooses another man named Abram (later changed to Abraham) to carry this same Blessing. We will discuss this in more detail later.

There Is Only One Blessing

The story of Isaac and his sons, Jacob and Esau, is a good example that there is only one Blessing. When Isaac blessed Jacob in Genesis, chapter 27, he said, “therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: 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” (verses 28–29).

This blessing not only empowered Jacob for leadership but also to inherit everything that strangers have (Genesis 28:1–4). The problem was that Jacob was not Isaac’s firstborn son, Esau was. In the Old Testament, the Father’s blessing was conferred on the firstborn and there was only one given. After Isaac commands “The Blessing” on Jacob, Esau comes in to receive his father’s Blessing. He said, “I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.”

His father regretfully informs him, “...Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing” (Genesis 27:35). Jacob stole it because he knew that if he ever got “The Blessing,” he could get all the blessings. Once Isaac finished blessing Jacob, it could not be recalled or reversed. This Blessing was spoken, and now

it would stick to Jacob like superglue—nothing could separate it from him.

Notice, Isaac, who received The Blessing from his father Abraham, didn't have any big-time lawyers and a table full of documents to sign in order to pass this inheritance to his son. The father simply spoke it, and the beneficiary received it by faith. By faith, Abraham passed on The Blessing to Isaac (Genesis 25:5). And by faith, Isaac later passed on The Blessing to Jacob. And, here's the good news: This same Blessing is now on you and me through our faith in Jesus Christ!

The Blessing of Abraham

In the book of Genesis, chapter 12, God instructs a man named Abram to do something that changed his life and the destiny of his descendants forever.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 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: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:1–3

Abram obeys God and leaves with his wife, Sarai, his nephew, Lot, their servants, hired hands, and all their possessions and livestock. He journeys through Egypt, and eventually settles in the land of Canaan. Lot eventually separates from Abram and settles in Sodom, where he is later taken captive by Chedorlaomer, king of Elam. Interestingly, after Lot leaves, God says to Abram, "Lift up now thine eyes, and look...for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And

I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth..." (Genesis 13:14–16).

When Abram hears about Lot's capture, he arms his 318 trained servants (who were born in his house), and pursues and defeats the king of Elam. (See Genesis 14:14–16). Abraham brings back all the people and the possessions taken by Chedorlaomer, and on his return is met by Melchizedek, king of Salem, with bread and wine. Melchizedek, "a priest of God Most High," blesses Abram, saying "...Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth" (Genesis 14:19).

Genesis 12:1–3 is often referred to as "The Blessing of Abraham." God knew He had to separate Abraham from his father's house and from all that he previously trusted in. The Blessing only operates by faith, and faith demands that God be your only Source (Psalm 62:5). As one man of God said, "Every alternative (to God) will keep you stranded."

So God directed Abram to a land that was dry and barren, but Abram said, "Let's not stop here" and goes to Egypt. Why did he go to Egypt? Abram didn't yet fully believe. I define to *believe* as "abandoning yourself enough to an idea that you are willing to put your life on the line for it."

In Egypt, Abram gets into trouble because he tells the Egyptians that Sarai was his sister because she was very beautiful. "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" (Genesis 12:12). Abram was fearful. He didn't yet know and believe in the supernatural power and protection of The Blessing.

Abraham eventually learns to fully trust God because the Bible says when "Abraham was old, and well stricken in age...the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things...flocks and herds, silver and gold, menservants,

and maidservants, and camels and asses.” When it says, “all things,” it means everything brought to him by the power of The Blessing, which includes supernatural fruitfulness (beginning with Isaac), supernatural provision (financial), supernatural protection (Genesis 20), supernatural health or longevity, supernatural favor and promotion, supernatural business savvy and strategies, and so on. The scripture also tells us in Romans that “Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Romans 4:3).

Abraham experienced the *berakah* or “Blessing of the Lord.”² He owned businesses and provided jobs. And because of that Blessing, Abraham didn’t try to make things happen on his own. No. God, through The Blessing, had taken away all his struggling. Struggle and toil are designed to wear you out and cut your life short.

You Are the Seed of Abraham

This Blessing upon Abraham was for Abraham and his Seed, which is Jesus Christ and all those who would receive salvation in Him. This is where we come in. In the book of Galatians, it says,

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: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ: that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. And if ye be Christ’s, then are you Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:13–14, 29

If you are a believer in Christ, you are the seed of Abraham. God’s Word says He has promised to bless you the same way He blessed Abraham. And Abraham was very rich! God called Abraham His friend. We have

an even stronger relationship as sons and daughters of God. Imagine how much He wants to do for those who are His children, who have been redeemed through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Once we were born again, we became “joint-heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17). This means we have an inheritance. Whatever He gets, we get. The book of Revelation clearly shares what Jesus received, “...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing” (Revelation 5:12). The Blessing is available to every member of the Body of Christ, which has been given the authority to change, rearrange and subdue any place on earth.

Again, The Blessing enables you to continue what God started in the creation. No longer will you shrink back from doing something because you don't have enough money. The Blessing of Abraham was an empowerment for financial prosperity. You are blessed just as faithful (believing) Abraham was blessed (Galatians 3:9). Whatever God did for him, He has promised to do for you. This Blessing will distinguish you and cause a clear difference between you and the rest of the world, the same as it did for Abraham. “The LORD has blessed my master greatly...” (Genesis 24:35).

Financial Benefits of The Blessing

We shouldn't be just representatives of the wealth of God...we should be His representatives *with* the wealth! And it's the Blessing of Lord on our lives that empowers us to achieve this. We are sent to be producers and distributors on a mission to destroy the works of the devil. God intended for us to create a platform of sufficient credibility that the world would desire to know about our God.

In closing, let me share a few of The Blessing's financial benefits:

- The Blessing brings multimillion dollar ideas.
- The Blessing brings benefits and promotions.
- The Blessing brings visions and dreams.
- The Blessing brings inventions and strategies.
- The Blessing brings checks in the mail.
- The Blessing brings unexpected blessings.
- The Blessing brings real estate.
- The Blessing brings only progress and no setbacks.
- The Blessing brings debt elimination.
- The Blessing brings freedom from debt.
- The Blessing brings divine health.
- The Blessing brings preservation, longevity and fruitfulness.
- The Blessing brings accelerated growth and development.
- The Blessing brings strategic positioning.
- The Blessing brings world-class goods and services.

- The Blessing brings a new way of living, a new way of thinking and a new way of working.
- The Blessing brings a new use of time.
- The Blessing brings new communication skills.
- The Blessing brings resource management skills and a kingdom billionaire mindset.

There is so much more. I've experienced The Blessing in my life, my family, my finances, ministry and businesses. God has blessed my wife, Veronica, and me exceedingly above all that we could ask or think. (See Ephesians 3:20.) And He will do the same for you. As your faith in The Blessing increases, watch what God will do for you!

Chapter Two

Revelation of The Blessing

As I shared in the Introduction, we need revelation of The Blessing for our faith to work and make The Blessing become a reality in our daily lives. Revelation is knowledge revealed by the Spirit of God. To understand The Blessing, intellect or head knowledge is not enough. We must spend time hearing and meditating God's Word until "light" comes. The Blessing is supernatural and revelation from God will always lead you into a supernatural experience.

One way that God reveals things to His people is through the "ministry gifts" that He places within the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11–12 says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." This means that God uses preachers, teachers and evangelists to help you grow and mature so that you can receive your divine inheritance and fulfill your kingdom assignment.

The apostle Paul writes in Romans, chapter 10, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?...And how shall they preach, except they be sent?...So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (verses 14–15, 17).

Association is Important

Remember when Moses sent twelve spies (leaders) to spy out the land of Canaan? When they returned after forty days, only two of the leaders encouraged

the people saying, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." If the children of Israel had believed the "good report" of these two leaders, Joshua and Caleb, they would have received their inheritance: the Promised Land, "a land flowing with milk and honey." Unfortunately, the people believed the ten leaders who gave an evil report, "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we...we were in our own sight as grasshoppers...." Their report caused three million Jews

Revelation from God will always lead you into a supernatural experience.

to become fearful and discouraged and lose their inheritance.

My point is this: God uses anointed men and women to minister His truth and godly associations (especially in leadership) are important. God designed it so that people are saved and disciplined through a person...His ministry gifts.

In this chapter, I go deeper into the revelation that God has given me about The Blessing and pray that it will raise the level of your faith to make you unstoppable and unshakeable in pursuing God's best for you, your family, your business, your community and your nation.

What You Believe is What God Delivers

Once people hear the Word of God through preaching or teaching, they can receive faith to believe. And what we believe and act on is what God delivers. Remember, faith is the requirement to receive anything from God. That's why the Bible says, "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17).

As I shared in chapter 1, we see in Revelation 5:12 what Jesus received as a result of His sacrifice on the cross, "...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." One man of God calls this verse "our inheritance package." It is what Jesus died to provide for every believer. As the Lamb, Jesus is worthy and we take our place in Him. We have been made the righteousness of God in what Jesus did. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.)

So far, we have not even scratched the surface of The Blessing's awesomeness. The more you hear about The Blessing, the more confidence you will have in its ability, and the more of God's goodness and power you will see manifest in your life.

You Are Empowered to Succeed

Again, the word *blessing* is from the Hebrew root word *ble* or *barak*, which means to "invoke divine favor, to empower to prosper, or to make successful." It means an "empowerment for success."

Once you are blessed, and you embrace and believe The Blessing, your life will become distinctly different from what it was before and from the life of those around you who are without The Blessing. It dramatically lifts you up and promotes you to the top, no matter what your color or country, industry or field of endeavor. It makes no difference what socio-economic group you were born into, or if you even know your biological parents. When this Blessing comes on your life, your status will start to change instantly. Get ready! It's your season to move to the top: "the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath."

The Blessing Is Available to All Who Will Receive It

Abraham experienced the *berakah* or “Blessing of the Lord,” and because of it, he no longer had to make things happen on his own. Divine favor, success, riches and supernatural empowerment were now working on Abraham’s behalf. Abraham became fully persuaded that what God had promised through The Blessing He was also able to perform!

As was shared earlier, Moses and the children of Israel also experienced The Blessing as they escaped the slavery of Egypt:

The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. Exodus 12:35–36 NIV

Not even sickness could touch their bodies with The Blessing, “He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and *there* was not one feeble *person* among their tribes” (Psalm 105:37).

For forty years, the Lord was with Moses and the children of Israel and they “lacked nothing.” (See Deuteronomy 2:7.) Even their clothes and shoes never wore out, “And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot” (Deu-

**Revelation
brings a
revolution.**

teronomy 29:5).

God provided everything they needed for the journey. He also protected them, fought their battles, and made their enemies to fear them. How much more will God provide and protect you and me, who are “spiritual Israel”?

My People Are Destroyed by a Lack of Knowledge

Without an understanding of The Blessing, this message becomes more theology than a life-changing word of the kingdom. This is why we must build our faith in The Blessing.

Isaiah 5:13 says, “Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because *they have no knowledge....*” Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge....” This knowledge is not head knowledge, but revelation knowledge. Even believers are sometimes led by human reasoning, as mentioned before, instead of led by the voice and Spirit of God.

Many people think they know everything. However, if you know that you’ve been on the road to Mississippi for forty years and haven’t gotten there yet, it would be good to question the knowledge or the map that you have. You might discover, “I’m on the wrong road.”

A revelation of The Blessing will help you get on the right road. And when you get a revelation, things get transferred to you. Whatever is deficient in your life, revelation and faith will enable God to come in and make up the difference. **Revelation** will bring a **revolution** because it makes you radical about what belongs to you.

The Devil Can’t Separate You from The Blessing

When you have The Blessing, you can’t wash it off. It’s on you for life. Whether or not you benefit from it depends on the knowledge you have which is why you need a revelation of The Blessing. Jesus promised that the “gates of hell” will not prevail against His Church—You are the Church, the Body of Christ. The devil cannot stop you or separate you from The Blessing of God that is on your life.

Much of the world right now is falling on hard times financially. Men may cite many reasons for this in the natural; i.e., undeveloped or underdeveloped countries, war, greedy governments or economic scares that cause the stock markets to crash and fail. However, God wants to bring economic restoration through a spiritual revolution called The Blessing. Things are shifting in the spiritual realm. The kingdom of God is invading Babylon, the world's system, and taking back its dominion over the earth.

Start Thinking Like God

God has made you rich beyond your wildest imagination. The biggest billionaire in the world can't come close to what God has given to one of His people as the seed of Abraham. You have been made phenomenally wealthy, but you need to get a revelation of this in your spirit and renew your mind to this truth. Scarcity starts in your mind, your thinking. Jesus said, "If you believe, you will see the glory of God." We've got to change what we think and believe.

We must start thinking like God for The Blessing to work the best. Once Abraham entered into covenant with God, he had to change the way he thought and the way he talked. God even changed his name from Abram to Abraham, meaning "a father of many nations" (Genesis 17:5). Like God, Abraham started calling things that be not as though they were (Romans 4:17), and became "fully persuaded that, what he (God) had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:21). This is why Abraham is called "the father of all them that believe" (Romans 4:11).

Whatever God is going to do for you, He's already done. God is not going to make you rich in the future, He said, "Let the poor say I am rich." He's not going to make

you strong in the future. He said, "Let the weak say I am strong." We have to renew our minds to the "I AM." It's not, "I'm going to be." There is nothing in the Bible that says, "You are going to be healed." It says, "By His stripes you are healed." Healing is a part of your inheritance, and so is being rich. How do you get healed? You call it. How do you get rich? You call it. You have to start declaring, "By His stripes I am healed!" And, "Wealth and riches are in my house."

Just like the Garden supplied everything for Adam, the kingdom is going to supply everything for you. If you want to know what's in the kingdom, then look in the Bible. God has it all listed. You've got to understand that if God owns it, then you own it, too. Take ownership! The only reason that satan could get in the Garden is because Adam never took ownership. Satan is a con man. He comes to try to either bully you or negotiate with you.

Don't Accept Compromise

When Moses told Pharaoh to let God's people go, Pharaoh tried to negotiate the "terms and conditions." Pharaoh told Moses "Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind" (Exodus 10:24 NIV). Moses said, "No! I'm not going to do that." Pharaoh tried three times to get Moses to agree to his terms. He didn't give up easily, and neither does the devil.

When you got saved, everything that you were entitled to from God's Word came with salvation. And everything satan did against you; he's got to pay for it. It's called "recompense." The Bible says that if a thief is found, he has to pay sevenfold. How much did it cost you? Nothing, it is paid for through redemption. It doesn't make a difference if you made a mistake. The devil still has to recompense the cost to you.

Redemption is what Christ did on the cross for you, but He not only paid the price for your salvation, He bought back your healing, deliverance, protection and provision. (See Isaiah 53:4–5 and Luke 4:18–19.) All of these and more are included in The Blessing. Some people may just be happy to get free from sin. That's okay, but don't overlook all the other benefits. (See Psalm 103:1–5.)

The prophet Isaiah described The Blessing this way:

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock *whence* ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit *whence* ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah *that* bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou *art* my people. Isaiah 51:1–3, 16

The world is crying out for something that only God can fill. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can satisfy the human spirit, and only the Blessing of the Lord can satisfy the physical needs and desires of mankind without toil and struggle. Proverbs 10:22 NIV says, "The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it." God placed it in the earth to renew and re-supply everything on the planet and to meet the needs of every person.

God told Abraham (my paraphrase): "I'm not bless-

ing you so that you can keep it all to yourself. I'm blessing you so that you can be a conduit for Me to bless the nations of the earth." (See Genesis 12:3.) The Blessing of Abraham is not just for you and your house, but for others also. God may direct you to what might seem to be the worst company, the worst neighborhood, or the worst nation to share the gospel. Just remember that The Blessing on your life can turn the worst place into a garden of Eden and become the greatest blessing you've ever experienced.

Chapter Three

Activated By Faith

The Word of God is the source of faith, and faith is required to manifest The Blessing of the Lord. Faith activates The Blessing like gasoline activates a car engine. If you are born again and filled with God's Spirit, the Blessing of the Lord is on you. Don't wait for a feeling or your mind to confirm this. Just receive it by faith, which the Bible defines as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

When you start walking by faith, you can't afford to stop using your faith for one minute. You have to stay with faith until Jesus comes. Hebrews 10:38 says, "Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Faith connects you with God, and when you are connected with God, nothing is impossible for you to accomplish.

As was shared earlier, the enemy (satan) tries to keep you from spending time with God and His Word because he is after your faith. He knows that without faith you cannot access God's promises and reach your destiny. You must continue to hear the Word and build your faith for The Blessing to be activated in your life. For instance, God might tell you that He's giving you some land or a piece of property, but without faith you will never receive it, which is what happened with the children of Israel in Numbers, chapter 13. Let's take another look at this story.

Let Us Go Up and Possess It

Moses sent out twelve spies to spy out the land of Canaan. They all came back and gave a report. They all agreed that the land was there and the land was good. Good in Hebrew is the word *tub* which means “prosperity, abundance and rich.”³ However, they also said that the land was occupied by giants. Ten of the spies gave an “evil report,” which means a report that disagreed with God’s plan for them to possess the land. (See Numbers 13:28–33.) Because of how they saw themselves, they were afraid to act on what God said.

...We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we....The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.
Numbers 13:31–33

Only two of the twelve gave a good report. Joshua and Caleb said, “The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.” Notice, Joshua and Caleb exercised faith, but all the other spies were filled with fear and unbelief.

The unbelieving spies were no longer in Egypt (which symbolizes the world), but Egypt was still in them. Their belief system and the image on the inside of them caused them to give an evil report.

When Adam and Eve sinned, the earth fell under the dominion and authority of satan, who began building a new kingdom and culture called "Babylon." Babylon is any society that tries to meet its needs without God. Satan tries to put pressure on people to meet their needs through his curse-based, Babylonian system instead of trusting in the perfect provision of the kingdom of God.

Choose The Blessing

When you walk by faith, you have to say, "Wait a minute! I've got a choice here. I'm going with God." Any other choice will lead to destruction. Why? It was designed to fail. Satan can't make anything last. He only has death, not life. This is why John 10:10 says, "The thief (satan) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I (Jesus) am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly." Satan is the thief, and Jesus is the One who gives life and blesses abundantly!

I often say that today's drug problem is not the world's problem but the Church's problem. Why? We have The Blessing! Whatever problems are going on now, the Church has been sent to solve them through the anointing of God. Everywhere Jesus went, He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and delivered all that were oppressed of the devil. And the same Blessing that was on Him is on you and me.

Again, don't try to "feel" The Blessing. That's not the way faith works. If you can feel it, you're not in faith. Faith is something that is outside of the five physical senses.

Depending on God in faith is where a lot of saints don't want to be. That's why a lot of people try to go to a church where they don't have to use one ounce of faith. But that's not where God wants you. He wants you in a place where you have to use your faith because "without faith *it* is impossible to please *him*" (Hebrews 11:6).

For example, a pastor might say, "We're going to build a new Family Life Center that will cost \$13 million." The congregation might react saying, "Oh, Lord, how are we going to pay for that?" The reason they reacted that way is because they think they have to pay for it with their paychecks. They are only looking at what *they* can do. Faith focuses on what *God* can do.

Know Your Value

I remember a guest minister telling a church he was visiting, "Everybody in here can have an airplane." He heard the people sigh in disbelief, so he said, "Let me ask you this. Does everybody in here have a car?" Most people had a car. Then he said, "If you can have a car, why can't you have an airplane?" They responded, "Well, because we don't need an airplane." And he said, "You don't need a car. You could get a ride every day or catch public transportation."

His point was that the enemy has taken over many people's minds and caused them to think that some things are too lavish or expensive for them to have. Some people think that a Rolls Royce is more valuable than they are, and that's why it's hard for them to see themselves owning one. The truth is that we are valuable, so much so that not even money could redeem us from sin and death. God had to give the life of His only begotten Son, Jesus.

"As he (a man) thinketh in his heart, so *is* he." The enemy wants our thoughts because thoughts are the things that turn into ideas and ideas eventually become the things that will manifest in our lives. God said in Isaiah 55:8: "For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD."

Whatever He Says to You, Do It

Don't ever think that God doesn't have enough money, spare body parts, or whatever you need. That's what they thought at the wedding in Cana when the host ran out of wine after they had been drinking for two weeks.

In John, chapter 2 (NCV), when the wine was all gone, Mary said to Jesus, "They have no more wine." Jesus replied, "Why come to me? My time has not yet come." Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you to do." Notice, she was operating totally in faith. Jesus told them to fill the water pots up with water. There were six water pots, each holding 20 to 30 gallons. Then Jesus said, "Now take some out and give it to the master of the feast." They did as Jesus said and after the man in charge drank the water (now turned to wine) He called the bridegroom over and said, "People always serve the best wine first. Later, after the guests have been drinking awhile, they serve the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine till now" (verse 10).

Jesus performed a miracle by jumping over the natural process to make wine: sowing the grape seeds, growing the vine (about nine years), waiting for the fruit to come on the vine (another three to four years), harvesting the grapes, mashing them up, and then storing and fermenting them until wine is produced (another five, ten, twenty years or more). He overrode time and turned water into the best and most expensive wine at the wedding.

Interestingly, Jesus' first miracle noted in the Bible was a miracle of luxury. This is not to appeal to anyone's greed, but to show that God wants and has the very best for us. That's why He gave us The Blessing. It's time for the Church to move from the place of scarcity and "just enough," and move into our promised land.

Seek God's Best

When Veronica and I first began our ministry in Chicago, we didn't have much money. At first, we didn't even have a place to stay. We started a small storefront church, and I remember we wanted a keyboard for praise and worship. So, we went to a large music store chain to buy a keyboard. The salesman said, "Okay. What kind would you like?" I said, "What do you have?" He said, "I have this one. It's new, and it's called a Chord." He started playing, and it sounded like an orchestra. I had about \$150. When I asked how much it was, he said, "This is a little over \$3,000."

"Well," I said, "You can take me to the ones that cost \$150." While I was over there looking at the less expensive keyboards, a guy came in the store and bought two Chords right on the spot. He belonged to a rock band and had blue and yellow hair and rings on every finger. I thought, "Here we are serving Jesus with all our hearts, and we can't even buy a decent keyboard for the church." Well, praise God, through The Blessing on our lives and ministry much has changed since those early days. Our ministry has been able to buy many top-of-the-line keyboards with no toil or struggle.

It's our thought life that often holds us back. I refuse to think small! God thinks BIG, and He wants His children to think like Him. T.L. Osborn once wrote. "See yourself in God's class—tapped into God's wealth. You were born with the right of choice and your ability to decree how much I want out of life, how high I want to climb, how rich I want to be, how long I want to live, how much power I want to have, and what goals I want to reach." In short, if you belong to Jesus, then God is for you and there is no person, group or government that can stand against you and your success.

God Has Given You an Assignment

The Church should be the wealthiest institution and group of people on the face of the earth. And it's not just so we can have all of this "stuff." It's because God has given us the assignment to win the world to Jesus. And we will need money to do it.

Don't look at yourself or at your own background to figure out how God is going to bless you. There was a testimony from a man who got saved in prison and started listening to my teachings while there. After he was released, he began to confess God's Word over his life, family and finances. Understand, he had a third-grade education. The only thing he said he did was to listen to my teachings and do what I said.

He got a small job making \$4.50 per hour mowing lawns. Then he got another job making \$12 per hour at a manufacturing plant. He continued to confess the Word and then showed up at our church to share his testimony. He said, "From listening to Pastor Winston's teaching, I want to let you know I have a new Mercedes, an SUV, and I am about to purchase a Rolls Royce. I have a seven-bedroom home and four Jacuzzis." He couldn't even pronounce Jacuzzi[®], but he had them.

Take the Limits Off

We must take the limits off God and what He wants to do in our lives. This brother only had a third-grade education. He had been in the penitentiary, but he got saved. Once we get saved, we're in a whole different kingdom.

God wants to take you somewhere. It may be to a problem that you can't solve or a piece of property that you can't afford. But He can...through your faith in The Blessing. He is God Almighty. And if you let Him in your life, He's going to fix everything that is broken. Take the

limits off! The entire Bible is about The Blessing, from Genesis to Revelation.

Miracles Still Happen Today

I was once in Uyo, Africa to preach the gospel. The Bishop there had recently been in Angola and was telling me that because of the tribal wars, soldiers would sometimes take some of the women from other tribes and cut off their hands. He said some of the women looked like they could have been models because they were so beautiful. He said he just cried about it.

He said he came back home that night and started praying. God said to him, "What did I do in Matthew 15?" He said, "You healed the blinded eyes. You made the lame walk. And the maimed were made whole." Then he heard, "Now what is the difference between what I did then and what I can do right now?" Jesus made those women's hands that were cut off grow back. Glory to God! You see, there are plenty of hands in "Daddy's house," heaven's storehouse. There is plenty of *whatever* you need in heaven.

Remember, the whole world is crying out for **The Blessing**. Many medications are not working like they're supposed to, and they sometimes cause more harmful side effects than the disease they are trying to cure. As the Church, we've got The Blessing. You have The Blessing on you if you believe and act on it.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Mark 16:17-18

The Blessing Will Distinguish You

We've been trying to distinguish ourselves by how holy we are or how long we pray. We walk around with our Bibles and say, "Praise the Lord." There is nothing wrong with this, but even people from other religions pray all day. This won't distinguish us as Christians. What will distinguish us is The Blessing.

People will see it on our lives. It is the power or covenant of God to override the curse and it cannot be duplicated.

Hearing the Voice of God: The Stronghold of Faith

One man of God said, "Hearing the voice of God is the stronghold of faith." This statement says it exactly, and I can't improve on it. If you don't know what to do and you hear God's voice, it will lock in your faith so that nothing can shake it. You will now know what to do because God said it.

When God spoke to me in my spirit to leave my job at IBM, it gave me the strength to do it. I had been trying to leave, but every time I stepped out and wanted to resign, a voice said, "The baby needs a new pair of shoes." So, I stepped back in and didn't move. Then I tried to leave again. And a voice said, "The house needs repairs." Guess what? I pulled back again!

Then I heard God speak to me through a scripture preached by a man of God on sowing and reaping. It was Mark 10:29-30 which says, "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in

The Blessing
is the power
or covenant
of God to
override the
curse.

this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

I took that word and meditated it day and night. Soon, light (revelation) broke forth. I heard God’s voice confirming His will for me to leave. Whenever light comes, struggles cease. I was driving down the road in Minnesota where I had been transferred by the company, and the next thing I knew, I had pulled over to the side of the road and called my wife who was still back in Chicago. I told her, “Baby, I’m leaving this company.” She said, “Well, praise the Lord!”

It’s important to mention that when I left IBM, in obedience to God’s Word, it seemed like all kinds of forces started coming against me, my finances, and everything else. However, because my faith was “locked and loaded,” nothing could turn me back. I share this because when you hear the voice of God and act on it by faith, even if storms come, you have the strength to stand and not turn back. It doesn’t matter how bad it may look for a season.

Whenever
light comes,
struggles
cease.

When you hear the voice of God and activate your faith in The Blessing, you will become immoveable and unshakeable.

Chapter Four

Commanding The Blessing

As shared earlier, one definition of The Blessing is the covenant of God that overrides the curse. Someone might ask, "What is the curse?" It's the curse that came into the earth when Adam sinned in the garden of Eden by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. Adam's disobedience affected more than his relationship with God and mankind's authority over the earth. His sin affected the entire planet.

In Genesis 3:17–19 AMP, God tells Adam, "Because you have listened [attentively] to the voice of your wife, and have eaten [fruit] from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it'; The ground is [now] under a curse because of you; In sorrow *and* toil you shall eat [the fruit] of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face...." Now, everything on the planet was under divine judgment and demonic control, causing Adam and Eve and their descendants to enter a life of toil, struggle, hard labor and insufficiency. Satan became "the god of this world" ruling through fear, unbelief and deception.

But God always had a plan to get back control of the earth and to redeem mankind. First through a covenant with Abraham in the Old Testament (The Blessing of Abraham), and then through the Seed of Abraham, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Jesus came and paid the price for Adam's sin and reconnected us and everyone who would believe in Him back to The Blessing. Jesus returned the earth to its rightful owners—the people of God!

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we now have a better covenant with God than the children of Israel. Hebrews 8:6 KJ21 says, "But now hath He (Jesus) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."

Your Obedience Commands The Blessing

Material prosperity, which comes with The Blessing, is the covenant birthright of every child of God. It is part of our inheritance in Christ. A covenant is like a contract, and it involves two or more people who each have to do their part to make it work. God is the "Covenantor" and you are the "covenantee," which means you are the beneficiary of the covenant.⁴ God's side of the covenant is forever secured, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the things which have gone out of my lips" (Psalm 89:34 KJ21).⁵ God, through Jesus, did His part at Calvary. The Bible says "(He) made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant...He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death—even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:7–8 KJ21).

It's on our side of the covenant that the contract is variable or liable to change. That is, when we fulfill our part of the covenant, God is committed to fulfill His part and manifest Himself in our circumstances.⁶ When we don't, God is not committed. Our responsibility is to believe in the finished work of Jesus and to obey God's commands (the Word of God). Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Said another way, "The just shall live by faith." Like Abraham, our part of the covenant is faith and obedience.

If Abraham had not obeyed God's command to leave his country and kinfolk, Abraham would not have activated The Blessing in his life. If the widow woman who was down to her last meal for her household had not obeyed the prophet Elijah and fed him first, she would not have activated The Blessing. (See 1 Kings 17.) Her obedience caused the heavens to open so that her "barrel of meal (did) not waste, neither (did) the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord (sent) rain upon the earth...and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days" (verses 14–15). In short, our obedience to God's Word *commands* The Blessing to manifest in our lives.

God Commands The Blessing

Again, The Blessing is a divine empowerment whereas blessings are temporal benefits of The Blessing. In Deuteronomy 28:8, God said, "The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

The word *command* here is the Hebrew word *tsavah* which means "to appoint, to charge, to order."⁷ In this verse, God Himself is directing The Blessing for a specific cause or situation.

A good example of this is found in Luke 5:1–3 KJ21, when Peter, a professional fisherman, had toiled all night and caught nothing.

And it came to pass that, as the people pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God, He (Jesus) stood by the Lake of Gennesaret and saw two boats standing by the lake, but the fisherman were gone out of them and were washing their nets. And He entered into one of the boats,

which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat.

After Jesus had finished teaching, He turned to Peter and said, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." I believe Jesus taught about THE BLESSING, Proverbs 10:22, because it produced the faith needed for the miracle that Peter and his partners would soon experience. "The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, without painful toil for it" (NIV).

When Peter "sowed" his boat and obeyed Jesus' command, he reaped a harvest...without toiling. God ordered those fish to jump into Peter's net and it didn't matter that it was daytime. You see, when you fulfill your part of the covenant, God will command The Blessing to come into your situation. God can order contracts to come to your business and "big gift" givers to bless your church's offering bucket. Whatever the need, The Blessing is designed to meet it.

God's covenant is tied to His throne and it will work for you anywhere, every time without exception. This is why God can send you to any place or nation on the earth to advance His kingdom and make it like a garden of Eden.

See Yourself as God Sees You

This Blessing has the same power that God used to create the earth, and is given to us to continue the work of creation that Adam started in the Garden. When we received Christ as Lord and Savior, the very nature of God came to live on the inside of us. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Now, like salvation, we must receive this by faith.

In John 10:30, when Jesus said, "I and *my* Father are one," the religious leaders took up stones to kill Him. Why? Jesus was declaring His divinity. In response to the Pharisees, Jesus asked, "Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?" (verse 34). Satan fights the revelation of our divinity because there are certain things that you can't access in the kingdom with the wrong identity. Unless you see yourself in God's class, as T.L. Osborn said, you cannot receive those things that God has for you.

Psalms 82:1 says, "God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods." God was not talking in this verse about the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. He was talking about God's offspring...you and me. "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God" (Acts 17:29).

Psalms 82:2-5 continues, "How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid *them* out of the hand of the wicked. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course."

God is saying that we are the ones that He is holding responsible for what happens in the earth, including defending the poor and the fatherless and getting them out of poverty. He is counting on us, the Church, to dismantle systemic poverty in the nations.

We are not only producers, but we are also distributors. We are not agents and ambassadors *of* God's wealth. We are agents and ambassadors *with* God's wealth. If you don't know that, it's like having money in a bank that you don't know you have. I heard a story about a woman who lived on Skid Row, where hundreds of impoverished and homeless people live. She died of malnutrition, but later it was discovered that she had plenty of money that was hidden in a mattress and even in the walls of her apartment.

How sad! She obviously had the wrong self-image rooted in poverty rather than the abundance that Jesus died to provide for her (John 10:10).

Find Out Who You Are in Christ

Only the Bible can tell us who we are in Christ. Not Hollywood, the media or the culture we live in. We must study the Scriptures to learn who God says we are. And whoever He says we are, that's who we are! God's Word cannot be broken or changed.

The religious leaders wanted to stone Jesus because He said He was divinity. People may want to stone you for that same reason today. But God doesn't have any problem with this because He's the One who said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." God knows that you will never be El Shaddai. When you see yourself as God sees you, you will act according to that new self-image, and this is what some people have a problem with.

Once you receive the fact that you have been made the **righteousness of God**, faith will flow like a flood! Some people try to make faith work in a condemned heart, but it can't. The soil is contaminated. (See Mark 4:1–20.) To walk in The Blessing, we must see ourselves as God sees us, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Faith is designed to work in the atmosphere of righteousness. Romans 5:17 NKJV says, "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." You must know that you are in right standing with God.

We Have a Better Covenant

The Bible says "All unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:17). Sin is designed to do one thing, and that's to sepa-

rate us from the Father. If you miss it, stop and confess it. God promises that "If we confess *our* sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Some may say, "That's just giving people a license to sin." People don't need a license. People will sin if they want to, but when you know the Father's love, you won't want to sin anymore.

The Bible says, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not..." (1 Corinthians 15:34). If you are alive to righteousness, you won't be sin conscious. Remember, the blood of Jesus removes all consciousness of sin..."how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14).

People in the Old Testament didn't have the blood of Christ yet. They had only the blood of bulls and goats to atone for and cover their sins. The guilt, however, was still there. We have a much better covenant! We have the blood of Jesus that *removes* the sin and guilt.

When you believe that Jesus took the punishment for your sins through the sacrifice of His own precious blood, you are appropriating the power of His shed blood by faith into your own life and heart, removing all sin consciousness and guilt. If the Word of God is not working in some area of your life, it could be an issue of righteousness.

The Blessing on You Shines in the Darkness

God wants to use The Blessing to distinguish the Church and to point people back to Him. People will be drawn to The Blessing on your life, and because of it, they will want to know about your God. While the world is getting darker, the light of God's Word is shining brighter.

God, on purpose, dispenses carriers of His light, God's people, among the wicked. The light doesn't need to shine

inside the church. It needs to shine where there's darkness. God will grace you where He sends you, and The Blessing will protect and shield you.

The Blessing is necessary to keep the earth functioning as it should. The earth was never supposed to be without The Blessing because it is the divine endowment of the power of God to produce well-being in every area of life.

Man Cannot Curse What God Has Blessed

Do you remember the story in the Bible about a donkey that spoke to its master? Briefly, here is what happened: King Balak of Moab dreaded the advance of the Israelites because they had increased greatly in number and he feared that they would overtake Moab. So, King Balak offered wealth and honor to a diviner named Balaam if he would curse the Israelites. Balaam went back and forth between the king and God, foolishly and in rebellion, trying to seek the Lord's approval to curse Israel. Finally, Balaam's donkey spoke a warning to him and saved him from certain death by an angel sent to kill him for attempting to curse Israel.

What's interesting in the story is Balaam's explanation about why God would not allow him to curse Israel:

Then Balaam spoke his message... "How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced?... God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? I have received a command to bless; **he has blessed**, and I cannot change it." Numbers 23:7-8, 19-20 NIV (emphasis mine)

You see, once God has "commanded The Blessing," He cannot and will not take it back. The Blessing stands, and neither the devil nor a person can override it. The Bible shows throughout the Old Testament that the Israelites were not perfect. They rejected the Lord and sinned against Him repeatedly. Yet, God never removed The Blessing that was on them. The same is true for you and me.

There isn't anything you have done that can stand in the way of The Blessing operating in your life if you repent and do whatever the Lord tells you. The Lord has commanded The Blessing on you, and it cannot be revoked. Receive it!

Chapter Five

Empowered By The Blessing

When The Blessing is on your life, you will be empowered far beyond anything you could attain or accomplish in your own strength or ability. It was The Blessing that empowered Joshua and the men of Israel to conquer Canaan, the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 2:24–25 says, “Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess *it*, and contend with him in battle. This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations *that are* under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.”

This divine empowerment was the Eden blessing that was on Adam, which later became The Blessing of Abraham, and what God called The Blessing of the Lord in Proverbs 10:22. It is all the same blessing.

As I’ve shared, this Blessing is to empower you for success. No matter what your condition is when The Blessing comes on you, it will turn your mourning to joy. It will turn around everything in and about your life, and cause you to rise to the top. You will be able to live above the limitations that people—or maybe even yourself—would try to put on you. That’s the power of The Blessing.

The Blessing on Adam enabled him to rule this planet and to fix anything on this planet that was broken. It also was to enable Adam to expand the Garden to all parts of the earth. It didn’t matter how desolate any part of the earth had become. With The Blessing, Adam could turn it into a garden of Eden.

Understand, the garden of Eden was a replica of heaven. God modeled the garden, which He planted Himself, after heaven. It was “heaven on earth” and everything in that Garden was replicated from something that exists in heaven.

Isaac Receives a Hundredfold During Famine

Genesis 26:1–4 tells how The Blessing operated in Isaac’s life,

¹ And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

² And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

³ sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;

⁴ and I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Verse 4 says that God is going to bless “all the nations” of the earth, not just one particular group. Who do all the nations include? Black, Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, Indian—ALL who are in Christ. They will get The Blessing.

Verses 12–14 go on to say, “Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went

forward, and grew until he became very great: for he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.”

Isaac harvested a hundred times more crops than he planted in the same year because the Lord said, “I will bless thee, and I will be with thee.” We are not talking about an increase over time. We are talking about explosive increase that happens overnight!

Don't ever confuse your current condition with your portion. If the promises you read in the Bible don't agree with your current circumstances, you're coming up short. As a child of God, you were never meant to be pitied; you are supposed to be envied. When The Blessing starts working in your life, you can't hide it. Why? Because it will overrun and change everything your hand touches.

Study God's Word to learn what it has to say about The Blessing. Meditate it. When you wake up in the morning say, “I'm blessed. I'm blessed going in to work this morning, and I'm blessed coming out.” Say it until you believe it!

God Must be Your Only Source

As the story of Isaac demonstrates, God's covenant of prosperity will always prevail, even in the midst of a famine. The famine could not stop the covenant or THE BLESSING from working. However, what I am about to share is ever so vital in operating in covenant power and receiving your inheritance: Living a covenant lifestyle not only demands that God be your Source, but that He be your only Source. One man said it like this, “When God is not the only Source of your expectation you will end up in frustration.”⁸ As the Psalmist wrote, “My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is

**Don't
confuse your
condition
with your
portion.**

from Him” (Psalm 62:5 NKJV). Another translation says it this way, “My soul, wait only upon God and silently submit to Him; for my hope and expectation are from Him” (AMP).

God wants us to totally depend on and trust in Him. This is why the LORD said, “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord...they will not see prosperity when it comes, But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD...” (Jeremiah 17:5–7 NIV).

**God not only
should be
your Source
but your
only Source.**

In other words, as one man said, “Either we trust totally in Him, or He takes His hands off our affairs.” Again, “If God is not the only Source of your expectations you will end up in frustration.” Remember, everyone who makes God their Source and Supply has just stepped into unlimited prosperity. That’s the way The Blessing works.

When the Lord introduced Himself to Abraham in Genesis 17:1, He said, “I am the Almighty God.” God was telling Abraham “I have all you need.” God never planned for His children to have to go “begging” the world to take care of them. He refuses to allow an economic slump to affect His Church’s ability to flourish and evangelize the world. We are to live in this economy according to heaven’s economy...empowered by The Blessing!

The Power to Protect You and Your Family

The Blessing not only empowers us to prosper beyond our greatest imagination; it also supplies God’s supernatural power to protect and preserve us from all hurt, harm, danger and disease. When Esau realized that Jacob had stolen his blessing and said that he was going to kill him,

it was too late. Once The Blessing was pronounced on Jacob, Esau couldn't curse him. And to die an early death is a curse. With The Blessing, you are going to live long and strong!

Psalms 91 is commonly referred to as the "protection psalm" because it lists God's powerful promises to protect those who dwell in "the secret place of the Most High." Here are just a few:

- He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.
- He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust *and* find refuge.
- You shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day.
- Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction *and* sudden death that surprise *and* lay waste at noonday.
- There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.
- He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany *and* defend *and* preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].
- With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation. (Verses 3–6, 10–11, 16 AMPC)

When The Blessing is operating in your life, you will walk in the "secret place" of safety and daily communion with God, as Adam did before the Fall. You will not fear, nor can evil or danger come near you or your loved ones. Even in the midst of an earthquake or a nuclear strike that claims thousands of lives, you can be assured that God will take care of

you: "A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you" (verse 7).

Psalm 34:19 also assures us of God's protection, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." You are not going to get shot or die from disease. God will also keep your family safe...The Blessing protects all that is yours.

Divine Favor Follows The Blessing

We read earlier that The Blessing empowers you to receive divine favor. This means that you will be the one to receive the promotion, the big business deal, the honor, the best place, the opportunity everybody else wanted, unexpected finances, abundant increase in every area, and so much more when you walk in The Blessing.

Before his death, Moses blessed each of the twelve tribes of Israel with a special blessing. When Moses came to the tribe of Naphtali, he spoke this blessing over them: "...O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south" (Deuteronomy 33:23).

Moses' words show the connection between "favour" and being "full with the Blessing of the LORD." When you are empowered with The Blessing, you will be satisfied with divine favor. Notice, this divine favor brought the power to "possess" land in "the west and the south." This region was an extremely fertile plain called Gennesaret. Josephus, a Jewish historian, described the land as "the ambition of nature, an earthly paradise."

You don't have to earn or work for God's favor. God can give you the best possessions, land and property without you having to buy it or earn it. "Wait *and* listen, everyone who is thirsty! Come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Yes, come, buy [priceless, spiritual] wine and milk without money and without price

[simply for the self-surrender that accepts **the blessing**]... Hearken diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness..." (Isaiah 55:1–2 AMPC emphasis mine).

The Blessings of The Blessing

Although there is only one Blessing, it contains the power to unleash unlimited blessings. Deuteronomy 28:3–13 lists the many blessings that come when The Blessing is operating in your life. I encourage you to read these verses in the *New Living Translation*. You will see that these blessings cover everything you would ever need or desire: health, family, finances, business or career, travel, home and properties, protection from your enemies, vehicles and other goods, prosperity, an outstanding reputation and fame, and preparation and savings (storehouses) for the future. Even the weather will be favorable to you! You will have an abundance so that you can lend and help others, and never have to go in debt.

The Blessing of the Lord will empower you for success and cause you to:

- Rise to the top.
- Be respected in the marketplace, your community and your family.
- Possess exceptional business savvy and leadership skills.
- See things that others don't see, so you can develop resources and solve the world's problems, such as poverty and hopelessness.
- Discover major innovations that will generate growth and profit in technology, medicine, industry, education or other fields.
- Live life with no more limits!

Chapter Six

Blessing Connectors and Blessing Blockers

Faith is the number one requirement to manifest The Blessing in your life. But, there are other factors that can affect it—either by cultivating a favorable environment for The Blessing to work in your life or by preventing it from fully operating. I call them “Blessing connectors” and “Blessing blockers.” We will discuss some of them in this chapter.

The Bible has a lot to say about our associations and who we choose to “hang out” with. Relationships with people who love God and reverence His Word help us to grow and stay strong in our Christian walk. Sometimes God places people in our lives to assist us in fulfilling our kingdom assignment. Personally, I thank God for the people He has placed in my life to guide and encourage me.

Whether it’s a spouse, friend, coworker or even a teammate, relationships are important. I heard an old African proverb that says, “If you want to go fast go alone; if you want to go far go together.”

Blessing Blocker #1: Evil Companionships

First Corinthians 15:33 *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says, “Do not be so deceived *and* misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt *and* deprave good manners *and* morals *and* character.” *The New International Version* translation says it like this, “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’”

I heard one man say, “Show me your friends, and I’ll show you your future.” Proverbs 13:20 says, “He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion

of fools shall be destroyed.” There are relationships sent by the devil that are designed to discourage us and keep us from The Blessing and from reaching our God-given destiny.

Remember the story of Samson and Delilah in Judges, chapter 16? God had anointed Samson to defend Israel in the days of the Philistines for twenty years. Through the anointing, Samson slew 1,000 men with the jaw bone of a donkey and performed other mighty works. But Samson fell in love with a heathen woman named Delilah, who betrayed him to the Philistine rulers. Samson shared the secret of his great strength, and while he was sleeping, Delilah had a man “shave off the seven locks” of Samson’s hair (verse 19 NKJV). Because of this, Samson’s strength departed and he “did not know that the LORD had departed from him” (verse 20 NKJV).

Who we associate with can be extremely beneficial or extremely costly. Some folks have been drawn into expensive legal battles through wrong associations. Others have lost valuable time and money, all because of wrong relationships. If you find yourself in this group, **I command restoration in your life today. I decree every person assigned to undermine, frustrate, or hinder your success is removed out of your sphere of influence, NOW! In Jesus’ Name.**

Good Companionships Connect You to The Blessing

The Bible is full of examples of God-ordained associations—from Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:16–17) to David and his mighty men (1 Samuel 22 and 2 Samuel 23). Even Lot was blessed by his relationship with his uncle Abraham.

The scriptures tell us that “Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold” (Genesis 13:2). Then it goes on

to say that Lot, who was associated with Abraham, “had flocks, and herds, and tents” (verse 5). Notice how Lot got blessed because of his association with his uncle Abraham. They both had such an increase of wealth that a fight broke out between their herdsmen and they had to separate their camps. Lot received The Blessing in his life purely by association.

The Widow of Zarephath

Another great example of the law of association is found in 1 Kings, chapter 17, when God told the prophet Elijah to go to Zarephath after the brook dried up and the birds brought him no more bread and meat to eat.

¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

¹¹ And as she was going to fetch *it*, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

¹² And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

¹³ And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go *and* do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring *it* unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

¹⁴ For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day *that* the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

¹⁵ And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat *many days*.

This widow was preparing to die along with her son until her divine encounter with the prophet Elijah. Her obedience to make Elijah a “little cake first” led to her and her house eating “many days” until the famine was over. She believed God’s prophet and reaped a prophet’s reward.

A Prophet’s Reward

Matthew 10:41 *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says, “He who receives *and* welcomes *and* accepts a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward....” The scriptures also say “...believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper” (2 Chronicles 20:20).

Anything you give to God’s prophets attracts prophetic rewards. This means your gifts and offerings will provoke “prophetic utterances” (decrees from the Lord) that are designed to deliver and prosper you. An example of this is found in 2 Kings 4, when a Shunammite woman, probably of considerable wealth, repeatedly cared for the physical needs of the prophet Elisha.

⁹ And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this *is* an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

¹⁰ Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

The woman’s kindness provoked the prophet to speak a blessing over her. Elisha asked his servant Gehazi,

¹⁴ ...What then *is* to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

¹⁵ And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

¹⁶ And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son....

¹⁷ And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

Her generosity to the prophet provoked a release of blessings that overturned her barrenness. One man of God said this, "Increase is not by accident but by association."

Remember in Luke, chapter 5, when Jesus asked Peter to use his boat (a seed) to teach those gathered at the shore? He sat down and taught, and after He was done teaching, Jesus directed Peter to "launch out into the deep," where he caught a net-breaking, boat-sinking load of fish.

What happened next is interesting..."And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink" (Luke 5:7). Notice, the partners got blessed because of their association with Peter.

Our ministry's airplanes, our home and our ministry's shopping malls are all the result of our relationships and sowing seed into other ministries. God never intended for us to add to ourselves, and He alone wants to be our Source and Supply. Caring for the prophet takes care of

**Increase
is not by
accident
but by
association.**

your “care.” Referring to the biblical account of the widow whose husband had died and left her and her two boys in extreme debt (see 2 Kings 4), one man said, “The miracle wasn’t the multiplication of the oil as she poured it. The biggest miracle was that she *believed* her man of God.”

Blessing Blocker #2: Not Honoring the Tithe

Malachi 3:8–9 KJ21 says, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me! But ye say, ‘Wherein have we robbed Thee?’ In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.” Some say that this scripture is no longer valid for New Testament believers because they are under grace. We are under grace; however, the command to tithe was implemented before the Law of Moses was established. Tithing was also practiced by Abraham when he gave a “tenth of everything” to Melchizedek. This is shown in the New Testament book of Hebrews, chapter 7:1–6 NIV (emphasis mine),

¹ This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,

² **and Abraham gave him a tenth (tithe) of everything.** First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.”

³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴ Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch **Abraham gave him a tenth** of the plunder!

⁵ Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even

though they also are descended from Abraham.

⁶ This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and **blessed him who had the promises.**

This portion of scripture clearly shows that tithing began before the Law because this man, Melchizedek, was not part of the Levitical priesthood that tithed according to the Law, and yet Abraham tithed to him. Look at verse 6. As a result of his tithing, Abraham received The Blessing from Melchizedek—the same Blessing that God originally gave to Adam.

Tithes and Offerings Connect You to The Blessing

One way that we command or activate The Blessing is by the tithe. Malachi 3:10–11 NKJV says, “‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room* enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes... nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field....’” God is saying, “Try Me and see if I won’t pour out The Blessing (*berakah*) upon you.”

One man of God described the tithe as **“The Blessing connector.”** God promises that when we tithe, we will live under an “open heaven.” An open heaven provides everything you need or desire: supernatural favor, prosperity, fruitfulness, protection, longevity, felicity (joy and happiness), and even business savvy. This means that the Lord will give you supernatural cunning and wisdom in conducting your business affairs, both personally and in the marketplace.

The tithe blessed Jacob with supernatural business savvy while he worked for Laban. His crooked uncle Laban had deceived and cheated Jacob for many years, changing his wages ten times. (See Genesis, chapter 30.) When Jacob cried out to the Lord for help, God gave him supernatural wisdom and instruction that changed his situation.

Jacob told Laban that he didn't want his (monetary) wages anymore. Why? Because money was no longer the problem. Jacob was now operating under God's anointing or The Blessing. When The Blessing is commanded on your life, nothing can stop you. Laban's sons even complained about Jacob's success in Genesis 31:1 NKJV, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth."

This is why the tithe is so powerful. You might think, "I can't afford to tithe." Well, you can't afford not to tithe if you want The Blessing on your life.

Blessing Blocker #3: Strife and Unforgiveness

Another Blessing blocker that will prevent The Blessing is strife and unforgiveness. Forgiving others is so critical in our lives that Mark 11:25 says God will not forgive us if we don't forgive others. Unforgiveness will prevent our prayers from being answered, which certainly would hinder the fulfillment of The Blessing.

The Blessing is activated by faith, and faith works by love. Galatians 5:6 in the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says, "For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated *and* energized *and* expressed *and* working through love."

If You Want The Blessing, Walk in Love and Treat People Right

First Corinthians 7:14 says, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband." If only one spouse is a believer, God promised that both of them, along with their children, will be blessed and protected. He said, "I'll bless those that bless thee, and curse those that curse thee."

In other words, "Nobody will be able to come against you." In Deuteronomy 28:7, God says the enemy will "come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways." That was a part of The Blessing that was on Abraham.

I once shared a testimony with my congregation about a woman who was married to a man who physically abused her. She was a praying woman and cried out to God about her husband's abuse. God came to her husband in a dream and told him that if he continued abusing his wife, "You are but a dead man." (You see, God can come to people who are mistreating you and speak to them in a dream.)

Someone heard me share this testimony and sent me a text saying, "Pastor, what you preached, my grandparents lived. My grandfather was abusive, but God came to him in a dream and said to him, 'If you touch my daughter again, you will find yourself in hell.' He woke up in a sweat and said to his wife, 'Wake up!' He told her, 'I'm sorry! I'm sorry!' And for fifty years, wherever they went, they held hands just like teenagers. And everywhere he went, he told everybody how much he loved his wife. My grandfather changed overnight."

The Blessing in your life will not only get things to you, but it will get people off of you! The Blessing will make it

so that nobody can touch you. Remember, one of the benefits of The Blessing is protection.

Blessing Blocker #4: Speaking Wrong Words

In Deuteronomy 30:19, God said, “I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life...” Your days of saying things like, “It scared me silly” are over. Those are the wrong words that come from the wrong kingdom. If you want The Blessing to operate in your life, you must remove negative words such as these out of your vocabulary.

Do you remember the story of Job? The Bible says Job was an upright man who feared God and he was extremely prosperous. The devil couldn’t touch him and even complained to God about it, “...Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land” (Job 1:9–10). This hedge was not just around Job but around his house. Job had the authority in his house, and because of his authority, everyone was protected. There was a “blessing wall” around him, and satan couldn’t penetrate it.

The only one that could pull it down was Job—and he did! Job opened the door to the devil because of what he believed and spoke. Through Job’s words, satan maneuvered himself into Job’s life and destroyed everything. In Job 3:25, it says, “For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” Job’s fear helped to tear down the wall.

The devil can’t get through the wall. And God won’t pull down the wall. That leaves only one person. You! If you’re in a tight situation, get a grip on your mouth. The enemy wants your authority, so he can use it against you. “He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso

breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him" (Ecclesiastes 10:8). We are the ones who pull down the hedge (or wall) in our lives. The only thing the enemy can do against us is to deceive us.

Fortunately, Job learned from his mistake, saying to God, "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred" (Job 6:24).

Faith-Filled Words Connect You to The Blessing

There is a "blessing wall" around every believer that is activated mainly by what we say, especially when under pressure. Thank God, Job finally saw the truth, and God restored to him twice as much as he had lost. If you've lost some things because of what you've believed, spoken or done, get back on the Word of God and activate The Blessing. It's designed to make a masterpiece out of a mess. But, it's your choice: You can either build The Blessing wall or tear it down.

The Blessing of Three Generations

As was previously shared, Isaac sowed in a time of famine, and God gave it back to him a hundredfold. (Genesis 26:12). The Blessing surrounding Isaac kept him and his family safe and provided all that they needed while others were starving.

Then after Isaac, came Jacob. How did Jacob get blessed? He deceived his brother into giving up his rightful claim to The Blessing. He came to his dad, who was elderly and nearly blind, and told him he was Esau, his older brother.

**The Blessing
is designed
to make a
masterpiece
out of
a mess.**

His dad spoke The Blessing over Jacob. Once again we see that you release The Blessing through words and by faith empower it to come to pass.

When Esau came and wanted his dad to bless him, Isaac told him that Jacob had already received The Blessing that was intended for the firstborn. Genesis, chapter 28, says, "And Isaac called Jacob and blessed him...and give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham" (verses 1 and 4). In other words, Isaac was saying, "I'm giving you (Jacob) The Blessing and that blessing will empower you to inherit everything strangers have."

Later, in Genesis 32:10, Jacob describes The Blessing on his life when he says to God, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands." The *Living Bible Translation* says this: "For when I left home I owned nothing except a walking stick! And now I am two armies." Jacob became very wealthy.

The Blessing Will Make Others Jealous

When The Blessing starts manifesting in your life, be prepared that it may provoke others to be jealous of you. This is what happened to Joseph. In Genesis, chapter 37, The Blessing is coming on Joseph. He dreamed about being a ruler and his brothers bowing down to him. He made the mistake of sharing the dream with his brothers and father. His brothers got so jealous they wanted to kill him. Instead, they threw him into a pit, and he ended up being sold to Ishmaelite slave traders, who took him to Egypt and sold him as a slave.

This is where Joseph began to work as a slave for Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the Royal Guard

of Egypt. Potiphar made Joseph an overseer over all the affairs of his household. Because Joseph had The Blessing on him, Potiphar's house was also blessed. The more Potiphar put in Joseph's hand; the more Potiphar received The Blessing. Potiphar's cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and crops all increased because of Joseph. Everything Joseph touched started to multiply because of The Blessing, and he did better than anybody before him.

Now understand, Joseph was still a teenager. The Ishmaelites took him from the pit when he was only seventeen. Now he's about nineteen and supervising everything. What taught him? The Blessing!

In Genesis, chapter 37 of *The Message* translation, we read what Joseph's brothers did after selling Joseph to the slave traders:

³¹⁻³² They took Joseph's coat, butchered a goat, and dipped the coat in the blood. They took the fancy coat back to their father and said, "We found this. Look it over—do you think this is your son's coat?"

³³ He recognized it at once. "My son's coat—a wild animal has eaten him. Joseph torn limb from limb!"

³⁴⁻³⁵ Jacob tore his clothes in grief, dressed in rough burlap, and mourned his son a long, long time. His sons and daughters tried to comfort him but he refused their comfort.

Now, was that true? No! You have to watch and pray because the enemy tries to give you evidence that something has happened that has not happened. He's using sorcery. You've got to stay with the Word of God.

What happened next? Jacob said, "I'll go down to my grave grieving." What did he do? He backed off the cov-

enant and let go of The Blessing. He then began to act and operate like any other natural man. No longer was The Blessing coming upon Jacob and overtaking him. No longer was the land fruitful for him. What Jacob believes, even though it's a lie, has interrupted The Blessing from working in his life. Jacob didn't know that Joseph was in Egypt getting his M.B.A. in ranch management as a servant in Potiphar's house.

The Devil Will Try to Cut Off The Blessing in Your Life

In Egypt, The Blessing is operating in Joseph's life even as a slave, but then the devil starts operating in Mrs. Potiphar. She wants Joseph to have an affair with her and starts telling him how big his muscles are. Joseph said, "No! No! You don't understand. I can't sin against my God." Joseph wasn't thinking about Mrs. Potiphar; he was thinking about The Blessing. He knew the Source of his favor and prosperity.

Angered by Joseph's rejection, Mrs. Potiphar lies and tells her husband that Joseph tried to seduce her. Mr. Potiphar believes his wife's lie and has Joseph thrown in jail. Although Joseph was falsely accused, not one time did he speak evil about Mrs. Potiphar while he was in jail. How can we know this? Blaming and The Blessing don't go together. You must walk in love for The Blessing to keep working. And it does, even while Joseph is in prison. Joseph gained favor with the jail keeper and was soon overseeing the prison.

Then, Pharaoh has a dream that nobody can interpret. Pharaoh's butler who had been in prison with Joseph remembers that Joseph could interpret dreams and tells the king. They bring Joseph before Pharaoh and he not only accurately interprets Pharaoh's dream, but offers a divine solution for the nation's impending famine that was the

meaning of the king's dream. As a result, Pharaoh promotes Joseph to be his second-in-command.

The Blessing continues to teach Joseph what to do as he rules Egypt. Though the famine was widespread, Egypt had stored away grain because of Joseph's wisdom. Now affected by the famine, his brothers travel to Egypt to get something to eat. Why were they coming to Egypt? Jacob let go of The Blessing, which is now operating in Egypt with Joseph.

Don't Let Go of The Blessing

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and forgives them for the way they treated him. The brothers went back home with a wagonload of food from Egypt and told their father that Joseph is alive (Genesis 45). When Jacob sees this evidence produced by The Blessing, he says, "My son is still alive!" Joseph brings his entire family to Egypt to live in Goshen, the choicest land in all of Egypt.

Genesis 47 says, "And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old *art* thou? And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage" (verses 7–9).

He basically said, "Now, I'm 130 years old, and I have not attained to the years of my father. My dad was 180, and my granddad was 175 when he left here. And I feel slightly embarrassed because I have not yet attained to either of their ages. Remember, The Blessing will make you fruitful; it will multiply, and replenish you. That's what your body needs.

Jacob let go of the covenant. He let go of God's re-supplying power through that Blessing. As a result, he did not

attain the years of his father. In Genesis 43:28, we read that Jacob was in "good health." But we read in Genesis, chapter 48, that "And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick." The word *sick* in Genesis 48 means "worn out."

This planet wears out, but The Blessing continues to renew and supply it. No human can destroy this planet. What destroys this planet is sin. It's a spiritual force and you need a more powerful spiritual force to renew, resupply and bring the earth back together...The Blessing.

Chapter Seven

Living in Power

Isaiah 51:3 beautifully describes what happens when we choose to live in the power of The Blessing.

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock *whence* ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit *whence* ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah *that* bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For the LORD shall comfort Zion:

he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. Isaiah 51:1–3

Two systems are presently functioning in the earth: the system of Babylon and the system of the kingdom of God. Babylon represents a society trying to meet its needs without God. We see it today in various forms of “isms,” such as communism, socialism, capitalism, and throughout society in marriages, education, business, banking, and so on. In the system of Babylon, all are trying to solve today’s problems with only the limited intelligence of fallen man.

The Babylonian system leads to all kinds of inadequate solutions—from casinos and riverboats to solve the revenue shortfall in our cities to printing more paper money to solve our national debt crisis. This system is running out of answers.

When Joseph was in Egypt, he was promoted from prisoner to Prime Minister, second-in-command to Pharaoh, because he had the wisdom of God. He gave the king a strategy of how to have abundance throughout the seven years of famine. Notice, the “smartness” of Egypt was not enough to deliver them from the famine.

And the Egyptians were extremely smart. They built the great pyramids, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and gave the world calculus and advanced mathematics. They bred some of the finest horses and made the finest chariots. Egypt was also the fashion capital of the world. Lastly, Egypt was the first to emerge as a nation and not simply a “city culture.” However, for all their “smarts” or genius, they were not able to deliver Egypt from impending national disaster. They still needed “The Blessing.”

The Church: A Modern-Day Esther

I believe today’s Church is a “modern-day Esther.” Why? Like Esther, “we are come into the kingdom for such a time as this.” The Church is coming into its finest hour. We are the problem solvers for this end-time generation.

Because the spirit of “mystery Babylon” has taken God out of much of our society, people are now faced with the most threatening consequences. We, the “sons of God” who are functioning in The Blessing of God, are assigned to bring God back into every aspect of our culture, and to make every land that is now desolate like the garden of Eden. (See Ezekiel 36:35.) Psalm 33:12 KJ21 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.”

Time For Restoration

Here is an example of how the power of God working through His covenant people can help restore an entire city.

Several years ago, in the city of Newark, New Jersey, a group of believers “adopted” streets to do what is called “Prayer Evangelism.”⁹ They walked the streets praying, declaring, and decreeing The Blessing where poverty, crime, and drugs were pervasive. After the prayer walks, one man documented what had happened:

- Facebook founder, Mark Zuckerberg, chose to invest \$100 million in Newark to help their failing public school system.¹⁰
- The Panasonic Corporation announced that they would relocate their U.S. headquarters to downtown Newark. At the time, this was expected to bring 250 jobs to Newark by 2016 and an additional 200 jobs within 10 years. (Newark had extremely high unemployment.) The company’s relocation was also expected to bring in \$223 million in tax revenues within the next 11.25 years.¹¹
- Federal officials announced “the largest mob roundup in FBI history” with nearly 125 arrests in Newark and surrounding areas.¹²

In more recent news stories, the city’s overall crime rate in 2016 was down 13%, the lowest it has been since 1967. In commenting about the drop in crime, one city official said that among other things, “prayer helped, too.”¹³ It was reported that Newark Liberty International Airport was “forging ahead with a \$2.7 billion redevelopment plan to overhaul its oldest terminal,” and to build “a one-million square-foot terminal with 33 gates and a new 3,000-car parking garage.” Its new Terminal One is expected to create more than 23,000 jobs, \$1.9 billion in wages and spur \$4.6 billion in economic activity in the area.¹⁴

These are not random circumstances or even the brilliant plans of man. No! These are answers from a loving God who heard the prayers of His people to save their city. Those believers “commanded The Blessing” through prayer. You see, wherever God sends us, He expects us to take control. He does not expect us to leave this planet as we found it. He said, “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). We, the Church, are here to invoke The Blessing, not the curse.

God’s People Should Be the Wealthiest in the World

I am convinced that God’s people should be the wealthiest people in the world. Our lifestyles should stagger the imagination of the world. Why? Because we have a larger responsibility than any other generation to evangelize the world and to complete the assignment that God gave to Adam in the book of Genesis. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, (staggering works) and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). The Church is responsible for fulfilling in the nations the prophecy that was spoken in Ezekiel 36:35 KJ21: “This land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities have become fortified and are inhabited.” Without ample financial resources, millions of souls could be lost for the kingdom of God.

Realize that sometimes The Blessing will bring out the “haters,” but don’t be discouraged. Jesus said, “...They hated me without a cause” (John 15:25). You’ll find that when The Blessing begins to manifest in your life, some folks (even brethren) will start to be envious of you and they may not even know why. I know why. It’s because

satan fears The Blessing and the believers in whose lives it operates.

When Veronica and I came to Chicago with only \$200 and no place to stay to start our ministry here, very few people cared about what we were preaching or teaching. But when our ministry began to grow and we eventually purchased a vacant 33-acre shopping mall in a suburb of Chicago, and it began to flourish...oh, did the haters begin to surface! It didn't matter that our vision was to bring economic prosperity to the area through jobs and tax revenue.

But, no matter how hurtful their words or how badly they gossip about you, our responsibility as believers is to walk in love. Remember, only you can pull down "The Blessing wall" that surrounds you through wrong words, fear, strife and anger. Don't be deceived. The devil has no new tricks.

Today, because we stayed in love, our ministry is preaching the gospel all around the world, and that once-deserted shopping mall has created over 400 jobs and provides millions of dollars in tax revenues to the village and county. We kept our faith in The Blessing!

Rise Up!

It's time for the Church to rise up and live in the power of The Blessing. To live it, you must believe it. You have to be confident. The more confidence you have in The Blessing, the more The Blessing will do for you.

The Blessing is your heritage. Adam lost it, but Jesus came and paid the price to get it back for you. Now it is your responsibility to receive this truth by FAITH and walk in it all the days of your life. "I declare that from this moment, you shall walk in The Blessing of Abraham from now through the rest of your days. You shall be blessed in the city and blessed in the field, and all the nations shall call you blessed."

Conclusion

Ephesians 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **hath blessed us** (emphasis mine) with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ." This verse says that God has already blessed us, which is past tense. This means that God has done all that He's going to do for us.

Someone might ask, "Well, if that's true, why haven't my blessings manifested?" The issue with many people is that they haven't renewed their minds to God's Word. Romans 12:2 KJ21 says, "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Often, a poverty mindset is what stands between people and The Blessing. Whatever is on the inside of you is what will manifest on the outside.

God won't force The Blessing on anyone. As was shared throughout this book, The Blessing must be received by FAITH. As a joint-heir with Jesus Christ, The Blessing of Abraham is for you. Galatians 3:13–14 (emphasis mine) says, "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: 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 24:1 tells us, "the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things." And in Genesis 24:35, it describes how much he was blessed, "And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses." The same way Abraham was blessed, you are blessed. Now receive and believe this. Confess and meditate this truth

until it becomes a reality in your life.

The Church is coming into its finest hour. I believe we are about to see miracles on a level that we have never seen before. This generation is the one God has been waiting for. Through faith in The Blessing, God's people will have a new level of boldness. We will not draw back in any situation but will say what God commands us to say exactly.

When you face a troublesome situation, just begin to speak to it in faith and then step back and watch God work. Begin to call "those things which be not as though they were" and watch God perform miracles in your life—and in the lives of others through you.

This is our time! If God puts something in your heart, speak it out. If He leads you to someone, speak to them. God may use you to pass by people, and your very shadow will deliver them—just like the apostle Peter.

The world is looking for the manifestation of the sons of God. The remedies and solutions of this world are not enough. The wisdom and intelligence of Egypt were not enough to deliver them from the famine. They needed Joseph because The Blessing of the Lord was on his life. The world now needs you because The Blessing is on you.

Endnotes

- ¹ "barak." Hebrew translation for "bless," root word for "blessing," accessed July 26, 2018, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* "Hebrew Chaldee Dictionary," <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/1288.htm>.
- ² "berakah." Hebrew translation for "a blessing," accessed July 26, 2018, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* "Hebrew Chaldee Dictionary," <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/1293.htm>.
- ³ "tub." Hebrew translation for "good," accessed July 26, 2018, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* "Hebrew Chaldee Dictionary," <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/12898.htm>.
- ⁴ David O. Oyedepo, *Understanding Financial Prosperity* (Lagos, Nigeria: Dominion Publishing House, 2005), pages 24.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, page 25.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, page 25.
- ⁷ James Strong and W.E Vine, *The New Strong's Concise Concordance & Vine's Concise Dictionary of the Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc., 1997, 1999) in *Strong's Concise Concordance*, ref. 6680, "tsavah," Hebrew translation for "command," page 59.
- ⁸ David O. Oyedepo, *The Unlimited Power of Faith* (Lagos, Nigeria: Dominion Publishing House, 2011), page 196.
- ⁹ *Prayer4Newark.org* <http://www.prayer4newark.org/about-us.html>.
- ¹⁰ Gregg Toppo, "What did Zuckerberg's \$100 million buy in Newark? A bit of progress," *USA Today*, News, October 16, 2017, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/10/16/what-did-zuckerbergs-100-million-buy-newark-bit-progress/769536001/>.
- ¹¹ Sarah Portlock, "Panasonic gets tax credit approval for Newark move," *NJ.com, The Star-Ledger*, New Jersey Business, February 16, 2011, https://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2011/02/panasonic_gets_tax_credit_appr.html and Omar Akhtar, "How Panasonic Learned to love Newark," *Fortune.com*, June 3, 2013, <http://fortune.com/2013/06/03/how-panasonic-learned-to-love-newark/>.

- ¹² William K. Rashbaum, "Nearly 125 Arrested in Sweeping Mob Roundup," *The New York Times*, NY Region, January 20, 2011, <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/21/nyregion/21mob.html>.
- ¹³ Thomas Moriarity, "Newark sees greatest crime drop in nearly 50 years, officials say," *NJ.com*, NJ Advance Media, December 28, 2016, https://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2016/12/newark_crime_down_in_2016.html.
- ¹⁴ Karen Yi, "Newark Airport's \$2.7B terminal overhaul will make flying easier for millions," *NJ.com*, NJ Advance Media, February 27, 2018, https://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2018/02/newark_airport_terminal_a_new_terminal_one_develop.html.



William (Bill) Samuel Winston

Bill Winston is the visionary founder and senior pastor of **Living Word Christian Center** in Forest Park, Illinois.

He is also founder and president of **Bill Winston Ministries**, a partnership-based global outreach ministry that shares the gospel through television, radio, and the internet; the nationally accredited **Joseph Business School** which has partnership locations on five continents and an online program; the **Living Word School of Ministry and Missions; and Faith Ministries Alliance (FMA)**, an organization of more than 800 churches and ministries under his spiritual covering in the United States and other countries.

The ministry owns and operates two shopping malls, **Forest Park Plaza** in Forest Park and **Washington Plaza** in Tuskegee, Alabama. Bill Winston is also the founder and CEO of **Golden Eagle Aviation**, a fixed base operator (FBO) located at the historic Moton Field in Tuskegee.

Bill is married to Veronica and is the father of three, Melody, Allegra, and David, and the grandfather of eight.

Books By Bill Winston

- Born Again and Spirit Filled (Available in English, Polish and Spanish versions)
- Climbing Without Compromise
- Divine Favor – A Gift from God, Expanded Edition
- Faith & The Marketplace
- Imitate God and Get Results (Available in English and French versions)
- Possessing Your Mountain
- Power of the Tongue
- Seeding For the Billion Flow
- Supernatural Wealth Transfer: Restoring the Earth to Its Rightful Owners
- Tapping the Wisdom of God
- The God Kind of Faith, Expanded Edition
- The Kingdom of God In You: Discover the Greatness of God's Power Within
- The Law of Confession: Revolutionize Your Life and Rewrite Your Future with the Power of Words
- The Missing Link of Meditation
- The Power of Grace
- The Power of the Tithe
- The Spirit of Leadership: Leadership Lessons Learned from the Life of Joseph
- Training For Reigning: Releasing the Power of Your Potential
- Transform Your Thinking, Transform Your Life: Radically Change Your Thoughts, Your World, and Your Destiny

Connect With Us!

Connect with Bill Winston Ministries on Social Media. Visit www.billwinston.org/social to connect with all of our official Social Media channels.

Bill Winston Ministries

P.O. Box 947
Oak Park, Illinois 60303-0947
(708) 697-5100
(800) 711-9327
www.billwinston.org

Bill Winston Ministries Africa

22 Salisbury Road
Morningside, Durban, KWA Zulu Natal 4001
+27(0)313032541 orders@bwm.org.za
www.bwm.org.za

Bill Winston Ministries Canada

P.O. Box 2900
Vancouver BC V6B 0L4
1-844-298-2900
www.billwinston.ca

Prayer Call Center

(877) 543-9443

