

The Blessings and Curses (part 2)

Purpose: to encourage God's people to yield to His Spirit so that they do not miss His blessing and come under His discipline.

It seems that everyone wants the blessings that comes from God:

- Recently a guy on the street ask me to pray for a blessing upon him – just before he was going to ask me for money as he usually does.

But is a blessing guaranteed simply by asking a “man of God” to pronounce it over us? Can we as believers simply “declare a blessing” over someone and expect it to happen?

In the first 14 verses of Deuteronomy 28, Moses explains to them the blessing that will come upon them and overtake them if they obey the LORD's commands. But from verse 15 all the way to verse 68, Moses declares to them the curses that will come upon them and overtake them if they disobey the LORD's commands. Here are just a few of the words of the curse:

Deu 28:15 - "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

Deu 28:16 - "Cursed *shall you be* in the city, and cursed *shall you be* in the country.

Deu 28:17 - "Cursed *shall be* your basket and your kneading bowl.

Deu 28:18 - "Cursed *shall be* the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

Deu 28:19 - "Cursed *shall you be* when you come in, and cursed *shall you be* when you go out.

Deu 28:20 - "The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.

- God's promises are always conditional, based on our response.
- The conditions of their blessing – obedience. Whenever the children of Israel obeyed God, they were blessed by him in abundance.
- The conditions of the cursing – disobedience. Whenever the children of Israel disobeyed God, they were cursed in abundance.

One example of a person who was blessed by God but eventually came under a curse was Saul. He was anointed as Israel's first king and was blessed by God. But when he disobeyed God's commandment he was rejected:

1Sa 13:13 - And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

1Sa 13:14 - But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to

be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

Daniel confessed that disobedience was the reason that the entire nation was defeated by their enemies and taken into captivity by the Babylonians:

Dan 9:11 - Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.

Dan 9:12 - And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

Dan 9:13 - "As *it is* written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth.

Dan 9:14 - Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice.

Are things the same for us today?

- Our blessings come through the sacrifice of Jesus, not by works of righteousness. We are children of God through adoption! We cannot work for God's favour.

Eph 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

Eph 2:9 - not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- God has given us His Spirit to shape us into the likeness of Jesus.

Rom 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Rom 8:29 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2Co 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- Yet, we still must yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to work in us.

Php 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Php 2:13 - for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

- We must not allow sin to rule over us, or we will find ourselves missing the blessing of God and even coming under His divine discipline. Don't be fooled; we will reap what we sow!

Gal 6:7 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 - For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Gal 6:9 - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

So remember:

- God's promises are conditional, based on our response
- God has given us His Spirit to help us to become like Jesus
- If we do not yield to His Spirit, we can miss His blessing and even come under his discipline
- We will reap whatever we sow!