

Your notes and thoughts:

2018-11-18 Poplar Grove UMC
Genesis 12:2-3
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67

Blessed to Be a Blessing

1. God Blesses us.

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:2-3

- This blessing starts out with a single person, moves to a nation and then flows out to the entire world.

This blessing is fulfilled in the NT through Christ Jesus and all of us who call ourselves Christian’s are heirs of this great promise to be a blessing.

**Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
Galatians 3:7-9**

2. God desires to be blessed by us.

- 1) We bless God when we allow Him to take up residence in our hearts. Ezekiel 36:27
- 2) We bless God through our praise, when we thank Him for His mercies, his kindness, and his goodness.

**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Psalm 51:15-17**

3) We bless God and give God our blessing through our actions and our words.

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. Psalm 145:1-2,21

3. God wants us to Bless our neighbors.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
And Love your neighbor as yourself.

To truly love your neighbor as yourself means ... you will “be a blessing” to your neighbor

Created in the image of our Triune God, God has given us the ability to receive blessing from Him; to give blessings to Him and to BLESS others.

Old Testament Priests were divinely ordained to bless the people through words and action.

At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister and to pronounce blessings in His name... Deuteronomy 10:8

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:22

In many Protestant churches today, we are familiar with this blessing at the close of our service.... and we refer to it as the benediction.

Paul’s Benediction to the Corinthians:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

We are all priests of God:

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1Peter 1:9

Serving as priests to those around you, your words have power to bless. You bless others when you offer prayers for them, you bless others when you speak well of them.

How the process of blessings works:

A. God desires to bless us so God blesses us through His Word and actions.

This is called salvation and sanctification

B. God desire’s our blessing so we bless God through our words and actions.

This is called worship – giving ourselves fully to God

C. Our “Neighbors” need our blessings so we have to choose to put aside our hurts and bless others through our Godly words and actions.

This is called loving our neighbors as ourselves

**“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11**

1. God blesses us.
2. We bless God.
3. We bless our neighbors.

YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING