

Immersed pt10 - The Blessing Declaration

Pastor John Carmichael

[Num 6:23-27 NASB95] 23 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: 24 The LORD bless you, and keep you; 25 The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.' 27 "So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I [then] will bless them."

- We were not designed to live in a fallen world. Our physical bodies do not handle living in stress. Cortisol and other chemicals are released and hurt our bodies. Suicide is rising. The dark, negative pressure is rising.
- Many feel naked, unprotected, and powerless to do anything to combat the darkness.
- God has not left us unprotected and powerless. He has bestowed the blessing upon us.
 - Through Jesus we are too blessed to be stressed.
 - [Eph 1:3 NASB95] 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ,
 - [2Pe 1:3 NASB95] 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- God gave us an example of how to not succumb to the ignorance, forgetfulness, and unbelief of the blessing He so very much desires for you to live with. He commanded the priests to declare the blessing upon the people. Apostle Paul often uses similar language in the beginning and ending of his letters.
 - Interesting note: The character Mr. Spock on Star Trek used the hand gesture "shin" for his greeting, "Live long and prosper." It came as they saw Orthodox priests use it.

How can the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6 help us to overcome ignorance, forgetfulness, and unbelief of the blessing of God upon us?

The Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6 defines what the blessing is and how often it is to be released/received.

I. God defined the blessing upon us.

- a. V. 23 – the blessing is released by saying. The priests were given a script. Not devoid of the Spirit's power, but rather filled with the Spirit's power.
- b. V. 24
 - i. God loves to bless His people, and He loves to have leaders long that the people be blessed. This also recognizes that all blessing really comes from God; and without His blessing, all is futile.
 - ii. J. Wesley "manner of blessing temporal and spiritual."
 - iii. Keep you – protection.
 - iv. [Num 22:12 NASB95] 12 God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."
 - v. God gives good. He protects from evil.
- c. V. 25
 - i. God's Presence and pleasure.
 - ii. Grace here is God's favor.
 - iii. The idea is that God shows tender mercy and care for His people.
- d. V. 26
 - i. More emphatic. Pay attention to you.

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- ii. Give you peace. The Hebrew word is shalom, which is more than the cessation of hostility - it is God's word for wholeness and goodness and total satisfaction in life. This is the abundant life Jesus promised! (John 10:10)
- e. V. 27
 - i. God's name on the people. They are His.
 - ii. God has decided to bless His people.

II. God desires us to walk in the blessing.

a. Reminder of the blessing.

- i. It is not the will of God for us to live without knowing we are blessed of God.
- ii. This blessing was done over and over.
- iii. We need the constant reminder of the blessing of God upon our lives.

b. Receive the blessing.

- i. Like Jacob, we are to receive the blessing. "I will not let You go until You bless me."
- ii. "You" ... six times. 2nd person singular. Not someone else, but you.

c. Release the blessing.

- i. God Himself put these words in the priest's mouth. It was God Himself speaking to the people.
- ii. NET Bible notes, that it is not a prayer, but a declaration of fact.

d. Rest in the blessing.

- i. God has every intension to back up this blessing in your life.
 - ii. V. 27 - "I will bless them!" (emphasis added) No devil in hell can stop any blessing from God that is received by faith.
 - iii. He puts His name on you. You are His.
- Jesus speaks this over us. I, as your pastor, speak this over you. You, as a believer, can speak this over yourself, family, and others who are serving Jesus Christ.
 - God does not want us ignorant, forgetful, or unbelieving of the blessing that He wants on our lives.