

THE POWER OF BLESSING (24 May 2014)

Numbers 6:24-26

The concept of "blessings" runs through the Bible. The giving of blessings applies not only to parents and children, but also to husband and wife as well as within the Church among its members. The Hebrew word "to bless" (*baruch*) means "to bow the knee." A primary connotation of this word is "to empower to prosper" – to set the stage for a person to *thrive* and *succeed* in all areas of life, including marriage, with children, in finances, in health, in career, in ministry, etc. Used over 640 times in the OT, it includes 5 aspects:

1. Meaningful touch, especially the laying of hands communicating acceptance, affirmation even physical health (Genesis 27:26).
2. A spoken message (John 1:14)
A blessing becomes a blessing only when it is spoken. We see the blessing of the father is so important that Jesus did not perform miracle or preach until the blessing of God His Father was pronounced upon Him during His baptism (Luke 3:22) This blessing from His heavenly Father gave Jesus the confidence and strength to walk in His identity in ministry and fulfil His destiny on earth. God intended for this same type of blessing (identity and destiny) to come to each of us from Him through our earthly father. At the church level we are also to speak words that will build confidence and impart strength (Proverbs 18:21; Matthew 12:36-37).
3. Attaching high value (Genesis 27:27-29)
The word "bless" meaning "to bow the knee" was used in showing honour or value to someone important. In the Bible, recognition on a person's value is based on *who he is, not on his performance*.
Listen to Paul's advice in *1 Timothy 5:1-2* on how to honour one another in the church. In *Ephesians 6:1-3* Paul reminds us that if we fail to honour our parents, we not only dishonor God, but we also drain life out of ourselves.
4. Picturing a special future (Genesis 27: 28-29)
With this element of blessing, our children gain a sense of security in the present and grow in confidence to serve the LORD Jesus and others in the future.
5. An active commitment (James 2:15-16)
Words alone cannot communicate the blessing; they need to be backed with a commitment to do everything possible to help the one blessed to be successful.

There is an impartation from the LORD JESUS through these four elements of blessing. So, let all of us start blessing our spouse, children, parents and one another in the family of GOD. AMEN!

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