

# 'BLESSINGS'

## 7 REASONS WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN 'BLESSED'

### 1. You haven't ASKED !

(Matt 7:7-8; 20:20-22, 24; 21:22; Mark 10:35-41; Luke 6:30; 11:9-10; John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24; James 1:5: 4:2, 1John 3:22, 5:14-15)

### 2. You have 'neglected' the House of GOD

Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. Haggai 1:2-10

### 3. You don't know what a 'blessing' is.....(see '5 true blessings')

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18

### 4. You haven't sown anything !

Psalm 126:5; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-8

### 5. Unresolved sin.....

Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you - Jer 5:25

### 6. Failure to 'honor'.....

The 'less honorable' (1Co 12:23), Pastors (1Tim 5:17), all 'men' and rulers (1Pet 2:17), wives (1Pet 3:7)

### 7. Its not 'time' yet.....

For every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven - Ecclesiastes 3:1

## 5 TRUE 'BLESSINGS'

<p><b>ALTITUDE</b>      the height of a thing; a high level, <u>rank</u>, etc.</p> <p><b>AMPLITUDE</b>    the quality of being abundant, large in size, extent, or scope; <u>more than enough</u></p> <p><b>APTITUDE</b>      the quality of being fit (adaptable; in accord with) , appropriate; <u>quick to learn or understand</u></p> <p><b>FORTITUDE</b>     the strength to bear misfortune, pain, etc. <u>calmly and patiently</u>; firm courage</p> <p><b>LATITUDE</b>      freedom <u>from narrow restrictions</u>; freedom of opinion, conduct, or action</p>
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## THE PATH TO 'BLESSINGS' (e.g. structure of LORD's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13)

<u>PRAISE</u>	->	<u>PENITENCE</u>	->	<u>PETITION</u>	->	<u>PROMOTION</u>
(2 Chronicles 20)		(Job 42)		to <b>GET BIG</b>		(Matthew 19:21)
• <b>RECOGNIZE</b> (v3)		• <b>CONFESS</b> yours (v6)		(Matt 17:1-9)		to be <b>PERFECT</b> (complete)
• <b>REMEMBER</b> (v6)		• <b>FORGIVE</b> theirs (v8)		you must		1. <b>SELL</b> that THOU HAST
• <b>RELEASE</b> (v15)		• <b>RESTORE</b> yours (v10)		<b>ASK BIG</b>		2. <b>DISTRIBUTE</b> to the POOR
• <b>REJOICE</b> (v21-22)				(Mark 10:35:41)		3. <b>COME TO JESUS</b>
• <b>REWARD</b> (v25-26)						4. <b>FOLLOW JESUS</b>
 v		 v		 v		 v
<b>AMPLITUDE</b>		<b>APTITUDE</b>		<b>ALTITUDE</b>		<b>LATITUDE</b>
		<b>FORTITUDE</b>				

## LEVELS OF 'BLESSINGS'

TRANSITION	a passing from one form, stage, activity, place. etc. to another
TRANSFORMATION	to change the form (appearance, condition, nature, function, personality, character) of; convert
TRANSCENDENCY	to go beyond the limits of; surpass; exceed; to be superior to, excel

## MORE UNDERSTANDING OF 'BLESSINGS'

### teachings from SOLOMON (1 Kings 3:3-13)

- ♦ don't tell GOD what you are going to do, tell HIM what you have ALREADY DONE
- ♦ to EQUIP, not RECEIVE, is the true BLESSING (v9)
- ♦ HUMILITY and the FEAR OF GOD are the PREREQUISITES for RICHES and HONOR (e.g. Proverbs 22:4)

### teachings from JABEZ (1 Chronicles 4:9-10)

- ♦ your PAIN is the source of your GAIN
- ♦ the PAIN CAUSER becomes the PAIN COUNSELOR
- ♦ BLESSINGS require the BALANCE of WEALTH, WITNESS, WEIGHT, and WISDOM

### teachings from HANNAH (1 Samuel 1:1-28)

- ♦ TRUE BLESSINGS
  - ♦ come when OUR DESIRE harmonizes with GOD's DESIGN
  - ♦ are 'shaped' through TORMENT (v6), TIME (v7), and TRAINING (v11)
  - ♦ have lasting effects (e.g. Samuel - asked for of GOD)
- ♦ Persecution produces the passion; passion uncovers the purpose; purpose fulfills the promise
- ♦ Only the EXPERIENCE of DEATH can give one the DESIRE for LIFE

## 'BLESSINGS' THAT BECOME 'CURSES'

Hebrew Word: בָּרַךְ. Transliteration: bārak a primitive root; to kneel; by implication to bless God (as an act of adoration), and (vice-versa) man (as a benefit); also (by euphemism) to curse (God or the king, as treason) :- x abundantly, x altogether, x at all, blaspheme, bless, congratulate, curse, x greatly, x indeed, kneel (down), praise, salute, x still, thank.—Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

**AMPLITUDE BLESSINGS** bring **ABUNDANCE**

but ABUNDANCE can bring **WASTE, COMPLACENCY, GLUTTONY, IDOLATRY**

**APTITUDE/FORTITUDE BLESSINGS** bring **RESTORATION AND RESOLVE**

but RESTORATION and RESOLVE can bring **OPPRESSION, MANIPULATION, DESTRUCTION**

**ALTITUDE BLESSINGS** bring **ELEVATION, SEPARATION, AND REVELATION**

but ELEVATION, SEPARATION, and REVELATION can bring **SEGREGATION, PRIDE, PRETENSION**

**LATITUDE BLESSINGS** bring **ELIMINATION and EMANCIPATION (FREEDOM)**

but ELIMINATION and EMANCIPATION can bring **LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY**

## FOR MEDITATION - the 'Beatitudes' ( Matthew 5:3-12)

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.