

Blowing the Blessings

Psalm 26:1,2 says *Declare me innocent, O LORD, for I have acted with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. Put me on trial, LORD, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and affections.*

Intro: In this Psalm David knows he has acted properly and even goes so far as to ask God to put him on trial and check for himself. David failed but even then David loved the Lord and his hearts desire was to do what God had instructed him and to dwell in the presence of the Lord. And he wasn't perfect, but his walk was consistent

I don't know about you, but sometimes I don't always do as I should and, if I went on trial, I am sure the Lord would reveal some things that cause me to blow some of the blessings God would like for me to receive.

Lets look for a few minutes at some

I. Things that send our blessings right out the window.

A. Selfishness blows blessings

Why does selfishness blow blessings? Because it violates Philippians 2:3,4 and Acts 20:35

The Philippians passage says *Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.*

Acts 20:35 reminds us with this *You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

A scriptural example is found in Luke 12:15-21 The rich man had plenty and no where does it say anything about him giving anything to anyone else. V 19 especially where it says *And I'll sit back and say to myself, My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!*

He had enough for self. **Remember:** God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves. The rich man seemed to be full of his own self made blessings and in the process he blew away all the God made blessings he would ever need.

B. Laziness blows blessings

Proverbs 20:4 that reminds us of this truth *If you are too lazy to plow in the right season, you will have no food at the harvest.*

II Thessalonians 3:10 tells us *Even while we were with you, we gave you this rule: "Whoever does not work should not eat."*

There is a difference between can't work and won't work. Here the church has long since abdicated their responsibility to care for those who cannot work and have turned the program over to the Govt. who rewards those who will not work.

And in the process they have awarded laziness, As well as also raising several generations of people who think work is a dirty four letter word. Lazy people blow the blessing of a fulfilling life just because they are afraid of getting their hands dirty. The hen is the only one who can lay around and still produce.

C. Covetousness blows blessings

What does this word mean? Webster defines it as an inordinate desire for things and often the things of others. This one might actually be a twin of laziness because when a person is too lazy to work, they have a lot of time to sit and dream of something someone else might have, that they have worked for, yet they themselves want for nothing.

Notice also that it violates scripture. Romans 7:7 says *The law is not sinful, but it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "Do not covet."*

And clear back in Exodus 20 we read in V 17 *"Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else your neighbor owns."*

Once we start coveting, where does it end? Because we are sinful we find that we will always want more. Howard Hughes was once asked, how much money was enough to which he answered, just a little bit more.

You see, we make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. And the blessing is blown when we get and consume only for ourselves.

James 5:1-6 says *Look here, you rich people, weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh in hell. This treasure you have*

accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment. For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every whim. Now your hearts are nice and fat, ready for the slaughter. You have condemned and killed good people who had no power to defend themselves against you.

Herein is blessing: We only truly have what we give a way.

D. Prayerlessness blows blessings

The reasons for prayerlessness can include:

Lack of discipline. Prayer is hard work and it requires discipline. This is one area that is the hardest for me to get victory over. I know that because of this problem I miss some blessings

Lack of concern: Sometimes we don't pray because we aren't really concerned about the plight of others or sometimes even our own.

Lack of faith: Sometimes we simply don't pray like we should because our faith is weak. We believe God can, but sometimes we don't have the faith to believe that he wants to answer. And in the process we miss, maybe by just 1 more prayer, the blessings God wants to give to us. That is potentially really blowing the blessings isn't it?

E . Worldliness blows blessings

Romans 8:5-8 says *Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.*

The reason worldliness blows blessings is because it causes us to look for second best and if second best then second best blessings as well. Correct??

F. Unfaithfulness blows blessings

We blow the blessing of seeing someone saved if we fail to witness.

We blow the blessing of personal growth if we fail to serve and grow in the process

We blow the blessing of watching others grow if we fail to encourage them in their walk for the Lord.

We blow the blessing of seeing Gods' work prosper if we are unfaithful in the areas of giving our time, talent, and finally our finances so he can use them to further his kingdom.

It is not that God needs any of these but in His economy, he takes what we give, uses it to further his kingdom, and in the process he lays up ahead all that we give and multiplies it for us to enjoy later as well.

Well if these are some of the culprits that cause our blessings to blow out the window, what are some things that will turn the weather vane of God?

Lets close with some simple suggestions on

II. How to get the blessings to blow in our direction once again

A. If selfishness causes blessing to blow away from us, then to turn it around lets work towards being selfless. This would be a better world and we all would be blessed if everyone were as good as he wishes his neighbors would be.

B. If laziness blows our blessings away then to turn that around, lets not be afraid to use the other L word. Not lazy but **labor**. A person does not grow old through work - but through rusting

A little elbow grease will help polish our lives with some old fashioned blessings. Laziness isn't blowing your blessings out the window is it? If so then lets make the best of the time we have left.

C. If Covetousness of bad things is blowing some blessings away from you then instead of coveting what is bad or the things we shouldn't. Instead why not covet a growing relationship with the Lord and with him we get his blessings as well

D. If prayerlessness is causing our blessings to blow out the window, lets try see if the tide will turn if we try and pursue a stronger prayer life. Someone noted that when it is hardest to pray that is the time we should pray hardest. So lets not give up, instead lets practice and see if the winds of blessing will begin to blow in our direction once again.

E. If worldliness causes our blessings to blow away lets see if the directions can change if we become a little more other worldly, or upper worldly in our pursuits.

Colossians 3:1,2 is our encouragement and challenge here as we read Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth.

F . If unfaithfulness causes us to lose blessings then lets work on being more faithful in our service, in our witnessing, and in our giving of all that we are and have and we will soon see a shift in the winds of blessing.

I realize that these are really pretty simple if - then statements. But I would also suggest that they might be a bit more difficult to accomplish than one might suppose. Lets work at it and see if the blessings do begin to come back into our lives

This will take obedience and with that I am reminded of that passage back in the OT, in I Samuel 15:22 where it says *But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. Listening to him is much better than offering the fat of rams.*

Remember, there is no harmony in the heart without the joyful notes of obedience. I trust we can all make a little progress this week in being obedient and through that avenue, having the winds of blessing blow gently into our faces, much more than they some times seem to do.

In closing: If you have blown the blessing of knowing you are ready to go to heaven if you died today, you can get right now by reading these next few lines, by understanding what they say and doing what needs to be done according to the instructions. It will be a blessing to you.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them). Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)