



RELEASING BLESSING DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

1 Peter 3:8-9 ESV

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Opening Thoughts:

- “For to this you were called.” Called to what? In the context of this verse, what do you think Peter was saying to his readers about their thinking and their behavior? What did Peter mean by bless?
- The word “bless” in the New Testament is a rendering of the Hebrew word for bless, and therefore must be understood by looking into the ancient concept of bless.
- Read the account of Isaac blessing Jacob in Genesis 27:18-33.

Key Takeaway: There is power in blessing.

- Rebekah knew the power of blessing so much that she conspired for Jacob to steal Esau’s blessing (which was rightfully his according to ancient Hebrew culture).
- Jacob knew the power of blessing and that his father’s words carried such power that they set an identity within him, created an atmosphere around him, and reinforced favor upon him.
- As you consider the words that you speak, do they represent all that Peter included in verse 8: sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind? Or do you find that they often repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling? How can you change your words to blessing?
- This account contains three powerful thoughts about blessings.

1) Words Carry Weight—Genesis 27:5-13

- Our words are alive.
 - Proverbs 18:21: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”
 - Blessing—a word of divine favor spoken towards a person, place, or thing.
 - Cursing—a word of divine harm spoken towards a person, place, or thing.
 - What have you used your words to curse in this recent season? The government? Your community? Your finances? Your family? Your boss?
 - How can you change your words in all of these areas to words of blessing?
- Our words are active.
 - Read Matthew 18:18. What do our words have the power to do?
 - Read Isaiah 55:11. What does Isaiah say about God’s words? Would this same principle be true about our own words?
- Our words are authoritative.
 - Read Matthew 16:18-19. Words are binding; they bind themselves to a person, place, or thing.

- Words have a permanence to them, they carry weight over time and generations.
- What words have been spoken over your life that have carried authority over the years? Words of blessing and/or words of cursing?

2) Words Create Atmosphere—Genesis 27:27-28.

- We can create an atmosphere of blessing or an atmosphere of cursing with our words. Over this past season, have you spoken from fear, anger or hurt? If so, these words have been like curses that have gone out and created an atmosphere that restricts the blessing in your life and others.
- Prayer – Petition for divine intervention in present circumstances.
 - Read Ephesians 6:16-18. What can you learn about prayer from this passage? Speaking this prayer out loud can create an atmosphere for divine intervention.
- Prophecy – Speaking heaven’s word over a present or future circumstance.
 - Read 2 Peter 1:21. The one who prophesies speaks for God, which should bring about humility and holy fear.
- Blessing – A binding word of divine favor spoken upon a person, place, or thing.
 - A blessing sets an atmosphere around a person, place, or thing. Speaking favorably attracts blessing. Speaking negatively attracts cursing.
 - What is the atmosphere around you? Your home? Your business? Your workplace? Your children?
 - Read Numbers 6:24-26. What kind of atmosphere do these words create when you speak them? To bless can mean “to shine the face, brighten the countenance, invite favor.” Have you been “shining the face” of those around you?

3) Words Can Be Reinforced or Renounced—Genesis 27:33

- Our words can be reinforced—when we believe them and restate them often, they are reinforced. This is true for negative words and positive words.
- Our words can be renounced—when we realize we were in error and we choose to change and renounce our words, we extend the grace of the gospel.
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-2 and Matthew 12:34. Cursing from our mouth flows easily, often without even thinking about it. Yet blessing often requires an active decision to do what doesn’t come naturally.
- We often curse the ground we have been called to bless. What negative words have you spoken over your own life that you need to renounce? What about over your spouse, or your children, or your family?
- When we realize that we have been cursing the ground we are called to bless, we can:
 - Repent—a complete change of heart, asking for forgiveness for what we have said that has hindered, hurt, handicapped anyone in any way (including ourselves).
 - Renounce—to cast away, reject, or disavow, intentionally taking back what was spoken.
 - Restate—to state again, as should have been said, speaking words of blessing on that which you previously cursed.

Application:

- **Key Takeaway: There is power in blessing.**
- Take time to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any person, place, or thing that you have cursed with your words. Make a conscious decision to repent followed by asking for forgiveness as you renounce those words. Then restate your intentions with words of blessing.
- Take time to ask God to search your heart and reveal words that others have spoken over you and have given you identity that is not in line with what God says about you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you renounce those words and purposefully speak words of blessing that carry such power that they set a healthy identity within you, create a positive atmosphere around you, and reinforce favor upon you.