

**Pastor's Weekly Devotional- October 30, 2014**

***"The Blessing of God"***

Ask a dozen people what the word "blessing" means and you would probably get a dozen different answers. For many people, it means financial security. For some, it means good health. For others, it means having a wonderful family...and so on...!

It is true that the aforementioned facts are part of being a blessed person. But "true blessing" is not simply the equivalent of prosperity, possessions or success. In the New Testament, the expression "to bless" literally means "to speak well of" or "to express praise."

In the Beatitudes of Matthew 5, the blessings Jesus promised are basically spiritual, not material. The real rewards of blessing are found in one's relationship with God and in serving Him.

The most powerful picture of the heart of blessing comes in the Word which God commanded the priest to bless His people. Here it is in Numbers 6:24-26:

*The Lord bless and keep you;  
the Lord makes His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.*

- This blessing given by God expresses His willingness and ability to perform it towards you.
- The content of God's blessing is described by the concepts of Protection, Grace and – most comprehensively – your Well-Being!

So, to be a blessed person is to know, feel, and relish God's affirmation and assurance, acceptance and approval. It is the experience of knowing that you are chosen by God, cherished by God, valued by God and enjoyed by God.

Here's a Prayer for you to pray:

***Lord, thank You for not withholding Your blessing until I deserve it.  
Thank You that the heart of Your blessing is the assurance that I belong to You in Christ.  
Thank You for Your favor – for turning towards me.  
Help me not to seek Your blessing in the wrong places.  
I want my life to meet Your approval.  
Create in me a daily passion for your blessing through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.***

Have a blessed week! See you in church Sunday!  
Pastor Sewdin