

God's Will to Bless

Thy Will Be Done - Week 15 (9-06-23)

2 Peter 1:2-3

I. When You can't see the blessing

A. 1 Kings 17:8-16

1. I can't imagine the darkness and heaviness that this woman was feeling in her life at this point. Instead of being influenced by how she felt, she was obedient to what the Lord was asking her to do.
2. In a moment of desperate need, God asks her to give. It was through her giving that God was able to then bless her and her family. In her obedience to the Blessor she found the flow of the blessing.
3. We can allow our challenges to drive us closer to God or farther away from Him.
 - a) If we keep our attention on how we feel and what we don't understand during hard times we will surely be driven away from God.
4. Don't be so distracted by your own troubles that you can't focus on God or other people.
 - a) If the enemy can keep you focused on you and the things that are wrong in your life he can block your flow of God's blessings.
 - (1) An ungrateful heart is closed off to the blessings surrounding it.
 - (a) Adam and Eve were convinced to look at the one thing they were not suppose to have instead of all that they did have.
 - (b) James 1:12-17
 - i) We are "drawn away" by our own lusts. Drawn away from what?
From the presence of God!
 - (1) We are tempted to be drawn to the things that we don't have; the things that are not right; the things that are broken; the things that we can't do.
 - (a) All of these things are distrust in God, and they pull us away from Him. They are temptations to doubt God's goodness and His willingness to bless us.
 - b) "... we make detours in disgust around countless good things we could enjoy, if we only changed our attitude."
 - c) "Discontented people live in self-made darkness." Bob Schultz - Boyhood and Beyond
 - (1) Psalm 42:5 - "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance."
 5. Philippians 4:6-7 - We are not pretending there is nothing to cause us to be anxious or nothing for us to be asking for, but that we bring those things to God **with thanksgiving** and His peace will guard us.

II. When all you can see is the blessing

A. John 14:6

1. He does not show them the way or tell them about the way, He simply says that He IS the way.
 - a) This speaks deeply to relationship. To know Jesus is to know the way. It's not some end destination or mark that we are trying to get to. We just need to continuously and intimately know Jesus.
- (1) Out of this comes the blessing. He Is The Blessing!

B. Duet. 30:14-20

1. Vs. 16 - The blessing is the result of loving God and being obedient to Him. - Abiding in The Vine (John 15).
 - a) The branch does not live off of the fruit, it lives off of the sap!
2. Vs. 17 - If we allow ourselves to be drawn away from God we cut Him off and He cannot bless us.
 - a) Many times its the very blessings of God that temps us to turn away from God.
 - b) What blessings in your life have been distracting you from God's presence lately?

III. Why the blessing

A. It's God's nature to give and bless - God is love and He so loved the world that He gave.

1. He enjoys blessing us - Jeremiah 32:41 - "I will rejoice in doing them good..."
2. He blesses us even when we don't deserve it - John 1:16 - "For out of His fullness [the superabundance of His grace and truth] we have all received grace upon grace [spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, favor upon favor, and gift heaped upon gift]." (AMP)

B. He has promised to bless us when we obey Him.

1. We are not waiting on God to bless us, He is waiting for us to choose Him; the blesser. - Duet. 30:14-24

C. He blesses us so that we can bless others.

1. Genesis 12:2-3