

## Living on Mission- Part 8: Bless

**Question:** What has been your Greatest Blessing?

The Term “To Bless” Can have various Meanings.

**Blessing Seems to be Something EVERYONE WANTS**

**Habit # 1: BLESS OTHERS- BLESS 3 PEOPLE THIS WEEK, at least 1 of whom is not a part of this church-**

**Matthew 5:3-10** Today we will Answer the questions of WHY, WHO & HOW we Bless

**WHY:** At the heart of God’s Blessing is GOD’S PRESENCE (**Gen 12:1-3**) Context of Calling Abram and God’s Peace being with Him & His Family

NT Greek: Eulogeo means to Bless & Praise, Thank

Bless most often also Means the SHALOM (Presence of God’s Peace) - The Peace of God to others.

**Philippians 4:6-7 – Peace the STANDS GUARD over us**

**WHO: ALL People Need to Know TRUE Peace that only comes from THE PRINCE OF PEACE (Jesus) more than Ever! Broken & Burdened World**

YOU (CHRIST-FOLLOWER) EACH HAVE OWNERSHIP IN BLESSING OR CURSING YOUR COMMUNITY! GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE A BLESSING! (circles of influence) to ACT WITH BLESSING INSTEAD OF REACT WITH OFFENSE!

WHAT IF YOU CAN SHOW A BETTER WAY? WHAT IF YOU ARE CHALLENGED TO BRING THE KINGDOM THRU BLESSING!!!!

Let Us Catch People off Guard with Kindness & Blessing (Example)- A SOFT ANSWER TURNS AWAY WRATH! **PROVERBS 15:1 NLT : A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.**

**HOW**

BLESSING OTHERS USUALLY TAKES 3 DIFFERENT FORMS:

### 1. **Words of Affirmation:**

-This is the Simplest way to Bless Someone: Say it in Person (Preferred) , Send a Text, Write an email, Send them a Note. “I can live for 2 months on 1 Compliment”- Mark Twain

A word of Encouragement is like Oxygen to the Soul. It helps our souls breathe more easily.

Dr. Gary Chapman uses “Words of Affirmation” as 1 of the 5 Love Languages we Speak & Need. Described as: Verbal Support to Communicate Love

**2. Acts of Kindness:** Who does not feel blessed when someone does them a favor or provide some kind of practical support?

-Helping a Neighbor, Babysitting an Exhausted Couples Kids, Etc.

Acts of Kindness can literally ADD STRENGTH to their Arm. They lighten the Recipient’s load.

### **3. Gifts**

The recipient of a gift thrives on the love, thoughtfulness, & effort behind the gift. A gift can show the recipient that he or she is known, cared for, & valued.

-We are not talking about Random Gift giving.

- Not talking about Buying someone’s love. An authentic gift as a symbol or Peace/Encouragement
- Gifts come in all sizes, colors, & shapes. Some are expensive, some are free. Some are more intentional based on a specific need, some are an expression of the recipient.

#### **A few words of caution...**

- We must NOT be generous friends merely to convert them. People can smell a Bait & Switch a Mile away. AUTHENTIC IN OUR BLESSING!
- The recipient must Feel blessed. If people feel manipulated or used by our blessings, they can no longer be considered a blessing.

#### **Philippians 2:3-4** Consider Others higher than Ourselves

Even if no one asks about our motivations, we resolve to live out a habitual rhythm of gift giving, time spending, and affirmation sharing.

We will be humble, gentle, loving, & consistent. Ancient world did not consider Humility a Virtue. Desire to boast & have pride is still a very distinct part of our human nature.

**Proverb 27:14** All of this Implies: Blessers (You) must become students of whom they bless. Being attentive to the needs, fears, hopes, & yearnings of our neighbors, our community.

#### **1 Peter 3:15-16** ARE YOU ATTENTIVE TO OTHERS?

**Bless 3 people this week. At least 1 of whom is NOT a part of this church**

