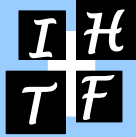


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THE POWER OF BLESSING

1 – Significance of Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27 (NIV)

22 The Lord said to Moses, **23** “Tell Aaron and his sons, “This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: **24** “The Lord bless you and keep you; **25** the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; **26** the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” **27** “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

The Lord commanded Moses to teach the priests how to bless His people (Aaronic blessing). The blessings pronounced by the patriarchs often carried prophetic weight, as seen in the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob over their sons. These blessings not only conveyed God's favor but also revealed His plans for the future of the tribes of Israel. We as believers have also been touched by these blessings. Blessings are based on the belief that God the Creator spoke things into being with the spoken word, and thus we too, being made in His image, can partake in this process by speaking blessings over others. When you bless others, you will their good under the invocation of God.

2 – Blessed To Bless

1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Mark 10:16 (NLT)

16 Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

When we bless others we reflect the transformative power of God's grace and affirm the new nature it has imparted on us, having been made the conduits of God's love and unmerited favor. When we bless others through words, actions, or prayer, it shows a vital aspect of Christian discipleship and love. We do this to love our neighbor as Christ has loved us and to seek the welfare of others. In doing so, we participate in God's redemptive mission, and extend His kingdom on earth. Through blessings, we experience God grace, favor and provision, and we also pass this on to others. Jesus blessed children, showing us an example of a divine practice.

3 - Take Away

Blessing others is a way to will their good under the invocation of God. Jesus Himself is a blessing, a gift from God to us, offering salvation and a path to a beautiful relationship with God. Just as we have received this awesome blessing, we too must bless others through words, actions, or prayers. We do this to love our neighbor as Christ has loved us and to seek their welfare. Parents, bless your children. Children, bless your parents. Friends, bless your friends. Spouses, bless each other. We must bless our neighbors. We must even bless those who do not wish us well that they too may come to experience God's grace and love. May we all experience the power of blessing! Amen.