

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 25

Blessed and Blessing

- I. Count Your Many Blessings
 - A. Refer to the song, "Count Your Blessings."
 - B. It is easy to become distracted by all of the negative things that happen in our world. We lose sight of our blessings.
 - C. We count our blessings individually and as a family.
 - D. Some people are undergoing calamity right now. He wrote the book after an awful storm that hit New Orleans. Refugees were leaving N.O. going to different parts of the country.
 - E. Obviously, blessings differ from family to family. Some of the things I list in this lesson may not be yours.
 - F. Proverbs 18:22 → this is a blessing.
 - G. Psalm 127:3-5 → If you have children, they are a blessing. They give you joy and happiness in your younger days and, if you train them up properly, security and care in your old age.
 - H. James 1:17 – think of all the good gifts you have received.
 - I. Are these things really blessings? We worked for all of them.
 - J. Acts 17:28 → You are able to go and do because God has blessed you. See also James 4:13-15.
 - K. Just reading this book is an indication of God's blessing in your life.
 - L. What about our spiritual blessings? Ephesians 1:1-14
 - M. Ephesians 2:1-10
 1. You were dead in your transgressions, God has breathed life into you.
 2. He has made you alive together with Christ and has raised you up and seated you with Christ in heavenly places.
 - N. Ephesians 2:18 → We have access to the Father.
 - O. Hebrews 10:19-22 → We are able to draw near to the throne of God.
 - P. 1 Peter 5:7 → We are able to lay our petitions and anxieties before Him, because He cares for us.
 - Q. 1 Corinthians 10:13 → God is holding your family in His hand.
 - R. Hebrews 13:5-6 → God has promised to never abandon His faithful servant.
 - S. Romans 8:33-39 → Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
 - T. 1 Peter 1:4-5 → He is reserving a home in heaven for us.
 - U. Our families are more blessed than we deserve or can truly fathom.
- II. Bestow Your Many Blessings
 - A. Blessing others
 1. "The Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay. Love isn't love till it's given away." This could also be said of our blessings.

2. Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3; Psalm 34:1-3
- B. Our families must be filled with praise, 1 Corinthians 1:31; 2 Corinthians 10:17
 1. We should recognize and declare that anything we have accomplished has been by the grace and strength of the Lord.
 2. Ephesians 3:20-21 → God can do amazing things through the power working in us.
 3. 1 Corinthians 3:5 → Paul is an example
- C. Our homes should be places of honor and reverence for God.
 1. Neither He nor His church should be taken lightly, mocked, or neglected.
 2. We should bless the Lord with our families at home and with our families in the congregation.
- D. Finally, we bless the Lord by obeying Him, Hebrews 11:16.
- E. As we become a blessing to others, we further bless God.
 1. Your family can be a team for the Lord to accomplish His work in and among our brethren.
 2. Galatians 6:9-10 → Do good to all... especially the brethren.
 3. Acts 9:36-43 → Tabitha made garments for the widows.
 4. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 → God comforts us → we comfort others.
 5. 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 → Our word must be a gift of grace and blessing to those who hear us.
 6. Ephesians 4:29
- F. We must first give ourselves and our families to the Lord and then to our brethren by the will of the Lord, 2 Corinthians 8:5, 13-14.
- G. Finally, our homes should be a place of blessing for others.
 1. Acts 16 → Paul and his company stayed with Lydia and the Philippian Jailer.
 2. Acts 12:12 → Mary the mother of John Mark opened her home to be a place of prayer.
 3. Acts 20:20 → The Ephesians open their homes to be places of teaching.
 4. Acts 2:46-47 → Our homes should be a place to simply spend time with other Christians, taking our meals with gladness and enjoying one another's company.

III. Today's Response

- A. Make a list of the ways God has blessed your family.
- B. Make a list of the ways your family can bless God and His children.
- C. How many of our blessings do we deserve? Why is it so hard for us to count our blessings?

IV. Conclusion to the book

- A. Psalm 127:1-2
- B. "All of the things we are willing to do to stabilize and functionalize our families are no more than wheel-spinning unless we are willing to allow God to come into our homes, building them and guarding them His way. Are we willing to allow that?" Via Edwin Crozier, Built by the Lord.