How to Find the Miracle of God in Everyday Life Numbers 6:22-27 Pastor Guy Gray

God's Blessing: Same Power—Different Kind of Miracle

When the Israelites left Egypt, it was all about crisis and intervention. It was the miracle of redemption—bloody, dramatic and monumental! This is the rescuing power of our God. We see this miracle power of God at work in the death and resurrection of Christ on our behalf. We see this kind of rescue when God rescues us in the deepest darkest moments of need in our life. What happens after that? We don't live everyday of our lives in a state of crisis (hopefully!). So where is God in the day to day living that we most often experience? Numbers 6:22-27 teaches us that there is another kind of miracle we can experience in our lives everyday. It is the miracle of God's blessing and it is no less a miracle than the parting of the Red Sea! We should pray and trust God for this blessing upon our lives. We should also pray this way for all those we care about. We can pray in faith because it is the heart of God to answer this prayer.

The Three Dimensions of God's Blessing

In our passage, the priest of God is to pronounce a "blessing" upon God's people. To "bless" literally means to grant that which is needed for success. Remember, this is "success" as God defines it not as our fallen culture defines it! Success in Egypt was to have a pyramid named after you, but God has a purpose and a plan for His people. Success for God's people means that they continue to move forward day by day into God's purpose and plan for their lives. That is exactly what God's blessing is going to enable them to do—day by day. There are three dimensions of God's blessing which are revealed.

- 1) **Protection:** "May the Lord keep you!" This is the protection of God for our lives. This first part assumes that we are living in a dangerous world in which we have an enemy who wants to see us fail. The miracle of God is that every day, every step of our lives, He is watching over us to protect us.
- 2) Resources: "May the Lord be gracious to you!" This part assumes that we need strength and resources beyond our own in life. God's grace is a limitless source of all that we could ever need. The miracle of God is that His grace is upon us without measure through Christ.
- 3) Fulfillment: "May the Lord give you peace." The word "peace" is the Hebrew word "shalom." It is a very important word in the Bible. It means more than just peace, it means "fulfillment!" This is the ultimate goal! It means reaching the fullness of God's good purpose for your life. Do you see how these three dimensions of God's blessing all build on one another?

The Face of God, the Name of God, and You

Throughout the blessing, there is the repeated theme of relationship with God. It is the face of God turned to us and shining on us. It is the name of God put upon us. This is the heart of the blessing. It is more than just protection, or resources or fulfillment. It is all of that, but ONLY and ALWAYS through our relationship with God! The heart of all of God's blessings is God himself drawing us close to Him. It goes back to Exodus—freedom, IDENTITY, and purpose! At the center of it all is our new identity in relationship with God through Christ.

Who Prays This Prayer?

Finally, we need to see that these words were given to the priest to pronounce upon the people. In a way it wasn't a prayer at all, it was a declaration! We need to live NOW in faith for God's blessing in our everyday life. The reason for this is simple—Jesus our high heavenly priest is even now seated at the right hand of God in heaven. He is there for US. He lives to save us completely (Hebrews 7:25). He sends the power of God to us everyday, to protect us, to empower us and to guide us to the fulfillment of His perfect plan. Believe it. Walk in confidence and in the Love and Grace of God every single day. By doing this, every single day of your life will be lived in the miracle of God through Jesus Christ!

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

Read again the Priestly Blessing in Numbers 6: 22-27 What struck you from this passage or from the message?

Christian Success

We learned this week that to "bless" another means to grant them what is needed for success. But, success can be tricky for the Christian. What did you learn this week about what success looks like for a follower of Christ?

How does this definition fit with **your** definition of success, your lifestyle, and/or your pursuits?

Blessing and Relationship

Look again at Numbers 6:27. What is the significance and meaning of this verse? What does it teach us about blessing from God's perspective?

Do you feel "blessed" in your life today? Why or why not?

As we understand what the bible teaches about the truth of Jesus Christ, we begin to see that the blessing is not a hope or a prayer, but a reality that we have in Christ. How can you walk in this reality today?

TODAY

All Church Barbeque

Farewell to the Alexander's, 11:30am-1:30pm @ RWLG

Shape Seminar 4-8:00pm @ RWCC

SATURDAY 7/7

20 Somethings River Day @ The Hamiltons Contact Adam for Details

MONDAY 7/9-FRIDAY 7/13

Vacation Bible School 9:00am-noon @ RWGT See Lindsie for Details

SATURDAY 7/15

Night Out...an Evening of River West Stories, 7-8:30pm @ RWLG See Adam for Details.

MONDAY 7/16-FRIDAY 7/20

Jr. High Summer Camp @ Camp Bradley See Josh for Details

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