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The Spoken Blessing

All around I see God's people living under their potential. They do not know what they can do. All kinds of opportunities are missed because of this. They don't stand up. They don't step out. The world gets worse and they are none the wiser that they hold the answers. It is as if they are engaging the world with an empty gas tank. The tragedy is that this is all while having access to an endless supply of fuel. Furthermore, they are being subdued by the very ones that they have both the authority and mandate to subdue. They fall for traps they could easily get out of. They are held back by a power that truthfully has no authority over them. The declared victor has become the victim. This needs to change. One key to changing it is found in the ancient traditions of the Jewish people – the spoken blessing.

Numbers 6:22-27 ESV The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (23) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, (24) The LORD bless you and keep you; (25) the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; (26) the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (27) "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

This prayer, or rather, this declaration, was repeated over the people of Israel, the keepers of the old covenant, all of the time. God promised to bless them as a result of this being spoken over them. Jacob would connive and maneuver just to get the blessing of his father. He knew what he was gaining by receiving a spoken blessing: Proverbs 18:21 ESV Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. This concept is lost on much of the western world. When is the last time that you saw a father or elder taking a young person and declaring a blessing over them? Many cannot think of one instance. Perhaps you have never seen this. In spite of this, it needs to happen. It is time to reclaim it.

Some would argue, "Aaron and his descendants could do this because they were priests. It is not our place as saints of God, believers, to do such things. We are not priests." Well, yes, you are. 1 Peter 2:9 ESV But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. You are a royal priesthood. Part of your job description is releasing the spoken blessing.

This famous blessing found Numbers 6, called the Aaronic blessing, is a good place to start. Let' break it down. **1. Bless you** - that God would supernatural cause you to flourish and succeed in every area of your life. **2. Keep you** – that God would preserve your life, your calling, your righteousness and your blessing from Satan, sin and the corrupt world system. **3. Shine upon you** – that His manifest presence, His glory, would increase in your life. **4. Be gracious to you** – that God would give you His unmerited favor, to forgive you and empower you to live for Him. **5. Lift up His countenance** – that God would transform you into His image, making you more like Him in holiness and power. **6. Give you peace** – that you would be in a constant state of tranquility knowing that everything will go well with you because God is in control of your life.

Reclaim the power of the spoken blessing. Speak this over your own life. Declare it over your children, your spouse and other loved ones. Then the blessing will come and they will reach their potential.

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