

Blessing the City

An overview of why and why you

In this brief overview I will show you why I started this ministry and some background information from the Bible as to what the Blessing is and why we need to release it.

First, I want to honor and give thanks to some people.

1) Honor those before us.

Honor those who have gone before us.

It is important to realize that when we begin to engage in a prayer assignment there is a bigger picture than just what we are doing.

I like the example of a relay race. In such a race there are usually four members to a team. Each member runs a part of the race. It takes all four running to complete the race.

When we are praying for a city or other project, it is important to realize that there have been others who have prayed before us. They ran their part of the race. Now it is our turn to run our part of the race. It may be we are the last member of the team or if Jesus does not come back in our life time then there will be others to come after us. It takes all of us to complete the race.

So when we begin I find it important to take time to honor those who have gone before us. Seeing God move in our city will not be only because of our prayers. It will be the prayers of those who have gone before us and our prayers combined. So as we begin our “Blessing the City” assignment, we honor and respect those who have prayed and stood in faith and been faithful. We thank you, whoever you are.

2) Why I started

Proverbs 11:11

“By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.”

One day as I was reading through Proverbs, I came across this verse and Holy Spirit made this verse come alive in me. I could see that in the days we live in now, there were many mouths of the ungodly speaking. At the same time the voice of the upright or righteous was not very loud. I am not suggesting that there was no voice from the upright, but saying that voice was not as noticed. I also saw within this verse the Lord has given us a key to seeing our cities become places where the influence of God’s kingdom is prevalent.

It is known in 1 Corinthians 3:9 that we are to co-labor with the Lord. This truth is seen in this verse as well. We have a part to play. We are to be actively engaged in blessing our cities.

For me I felt the charge, the commission, the assignment from the Lord to get involved in this process.

So the main point of this verse on our part is to “bless” the city. Blessing the city is vital. When we bless the city we are not just uttering a wish. We are not just having a good thought of something nice happening. We are to release The Blessing on the city. The Blessing of God is a powerful force that has an impact on people and places.

It is important for us to understand what “blessing” the city means, why the “upright” are given this assignment, and what to expect when we do bless the city.

3) What is the blessing

The first mention of blessing is in Genesis when God created Adam and Eve. (Reference)

The first thing God did after creating Adam and Eve was to “Bless Them.” The blessing of the Lord was an empowering of Adam and Eve to be able to do the assignment God had given them. It was not just God communicating a nice thought to Adam

and Eve, God was equipping them with the Blessing so they could do what God commissioned them to do. They were commissioned to be fruitful, to multiply and to increase, to subdue the earth. All of these things were a result of the blessing of the Lord.

From the story of Jacob and Esau we see that the blessing is a real and distinct thing. When Israel gave the blessing to Jacob and Esau found out about it. He came in crying and asking if there was not a blessing for him. Israel did prophecy over Esau but it was not the same as the blessing given to Jacob. This shows us that the blessing is real and tangible force.

The blessing of the Lord is a life giving, uplifting and empowering force.

4) Why the Upright

It is given to the upright, the righteous to declare and release this blessing. It was God's original plan to give the blessing to Adam and Eve and they were to in turn to release that blessing upon the earth causing it to be fruitful, increase and to allow them to subdue the earth.

We can still participate in this process because as believers in Jesus Christ, we are made righteous.

We are made upright. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us of the great miracle that happens because of what Jesus did. Jesus who knew no sin, became sin for us that we were made the righteousness of God in Christ.

5) We are blessed and able to give the blessing

In Ephesians 1 the apostle Paul reveals to us that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.

In Gal 3:14 we read, “that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. “

From these we come to understand that God has in Jesus given us the blessing. We are blessed. We are carriers of His blessing. All spiritual blessings in heavenly places we have access to it all.

Why...to be a blessing. We are blessed to be a blessing.

It is through our words that we can release that blessing. This is what Proverbs 11:11 is instructing us to do.

We are to be agents of blessing that go about releasing the blessing in and upon our cities. We are qualified to bless the city, not in our own selves but because Jesus had given to us all the blessings in heavenly places.

6) What does the blessing do?

Going back to Gen 1:26-28 we see that the blessing empowered Adam and Eve to be fruitful, to multiply and to increase. It also empowered them to subdue the earth and govern over every creature.

As we release the blessing we can expect that there will be a work of God in our cities to cause them to be fruitful, multiply and increase. This pertains to the people that live in the cities, the family units, the government, the educational systems, the media outlets, the arts and entertainment outlets and the business community.

We can see the Blessing subduing all the works of darkness in our cities and causing an awakening and rising up of His Kingdom in our cities.

In Deuteronomy 28:8 we see that the blessing has an impact on the barns and everything that people

set their hands to. There was seen in the work of people's hands a visible difference because of God's blessing.

In Gen 22:17 we read,
That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

The blessing of the Lord causes increase, multiplication and the ability to take territory.

As we engage in Blessing our cities, we are expecting to see an increase and multiplication of the Kingdom of God in our cities. We are expecting to see a subduing and taking over territory where the kingdom of darkness has been.