



FAMILY  
DREAM INSTITUTE

**Family Fun & Blessing Day Promotion Sermon  
The Power of a Parent's Blessing  
Deuteronomy 30:19**

*“I call heaven and earth to witness that I have set before you a choice. Life or death. The blessing or the curse. So choose life. You and your descendants...” Deut. 30:19*

**1. The Power of Blessing is a Choice! Deut. 30:19**

What we see as we look at this verse is that God the Father always gives us choices with consequences. He gives us the choice of life through his Son, Jesus Christ, and He gives us the choice of death – eternally separation from Him. When we think about it we know that no one actually chooses death, rather the majority choose not to accept life in Christ and the default is therefore death. The same is true with blessing and cursing. When we don't choose the blessing for our children the default is that we actually curse the identity of our sons and daughters. We will take a look at the consequences of blessing our children at the critical times in their lives but first let us look at a survey that was done in Canada by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada called Hemorrhaging Faith. These shocking results show us how many young people in their 20's and 30's are still attending church and walking actively in their faith.

**Why They're Leaving the Church? Faith Today 2012**

**•Engagers (23%)**

Almost all engagers report having experienced God's Love and answers to prayer....  
The Hemorrhaging Faith Survey of 2049 Young Adults said we lose more young people in the transition from Sunday School to Youth Group. Also, when a youth pastor or leader leaves many youth get lost in the transition.

**•Fence Sitters (36%)**

Do not attend church on regular basis. If they do attend a congregation, they want to do it on the on their own terms.

Many have made choices that conflict with the moral teaching of the church.

They feel they would be hypocrites to attend church.

**•Wanderers (26%)**

God is not for me!

Dropped out and not interested in going to church.

They find the moral teachings of the church in conflict with their lifestyle

### •Rejecters (15%)

God is Bad!

Cut all ties and just not interested in faith or going to church.

Rejecters are cynical about the motivations of the church and find Christians judgmental. They reject God and the morals of the bible.

**The # 1 factor that determines faith in young people is... a parent's blessing!**

“Parent's probably don't feel they are influential...there is no greater predictor for spiritual perseverance than the family that you were brought up in. The church probably needs to spend time thinking about how we can assist parents in nurturing of kids and some dimension of spiritual formation.” Don Posterski

## **2. The Ancient Path of Blessing    Genesis 1:28**

The first mention of the word bless in the bible is found in Genesis 1:28 when God the Father blessed them with a prophetic word to be fruitful and multiply. With that decree mankind has multiplied to over 7 billion people on the planet, every one of them belonging to a family. Is it any wonder that satan wants to destroy families and rob people of their destiny to have dominion over the earth?

**Definition of Blessing:** The Hebrew word for blessing is Baruch which means, "To empower to prosper". God designed that empowerment to prosper would come from his heart – through parents – towards all of His children. This empowerment to prosper answers two questions - 'Who Am I?' and 'Why Am I here?'

## **7 Critical Times of Blessing**

### **1. Blessing at Conception answers the question: “Am I welcome in the world?” Luke 1:28**

Today we will take a few moments to look at the life of Jesus and how He was blessed at each of these critical times. Blessing at conception answers the question "Am I welcome in the world". God wanted to ensure that Mary was informed that she would soon be with child so He sent the angel to prepare her for that moment of conception.

### **2. Blessing at Pregnancy answers the question: “Is there a safe place for me?” Luke 1:41-42**

As Jesus began to grow in Mary's womb I am sure the town began to talk... So Mary's parents sent her to visit her older cousin Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear." Luke 1:41-42

At the early stages of pregnancy young Mary goes to stay with her older cousin Elizabeth and upon meeting the baby (John) leaps in his mother's womb and she proclaims a blessing upon Mary and her unborn child.

**3. Blessing at Birth answers the question: "Will my needs be met in the world?"  
Luke 2:11**

Only God could orchestrate this blessing for his son. He sends out the angels of heaven and they announce his birth. The shepherds arrive praising God - Luke 2:8-20. The angels proclaimed his identity - Christ the Lord and his destiny- to become the Saviour of the world.

**4. Blessing at Early Childhood answers the question: "Who can I trust in the world?"  
Matthew 2:11**

The kings from the east, contrary to urban legend, did not show up at the stable but rather showed up 2 years later in Nazareth to bring gifts of provision for his family. This provision supplied their escape to Egypt.

"On coming to the house (the Magi), they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and of myrrh. Matt. 2:11

**5. Blessing at the Puberty or the Teen years answers the question: "Do I have what it takes?" Luke 2:41-42, 5**

You know the story, Jesus was hanging out with the teachers and amazing them with his knowledge even as a child protégé. Everyone including his Mother, others and God affirmed the gift of wisdom in this young man's life. Just a quick word, sometimes we, as parents, are quick to judge independence as rebellion. Often, they are starting to spread their wings and discover who they are as a young man or woman. This is a key time to bless your son or daughter into manhood or womanhood. How does a young son know when he is a man? It is when his father affirms him as a man. How does a young girl know she is a woman? When her father affirms her as a woman worth fighting for!

**6. Blessing at Adulthood answers the question: "What am I called to do in this world?" John 1:29**

I believe that God has a destiny and a calling for every young man and woman in their life. In order to know that calling they must first know that they are sons and daughters of their Heavenly Father. They need to know that they are loved and valuable not for what they do but for who they are. We see this in the life of Jesus as he comes down to the river to be baptized, John the Baptist declares his identity "Behold the Lamb of God ..." and his Destiny - "to take away the sins of the world."

God the Father, Himself, answers the question of Identity: "This is my beloved Son whom I love..." This affirmation of love was declared before Jesus began his ministry on earth. Interesting these are the same words that a Jewish father declares over his son at his Bar mitzvah. Parents, how much more do we need to affirm our love for our children as they go off to college or university and bless their dreams and destiny? It is an affirmation of who they are – not what they do.

#### **7. Blessing in Senior Years answers the question: "Am I still needed in this world?" Romans 8:34**

The 7th critical time of blessing is old age and answers the identity question "Am I still needed in this world?" Now of course Jesus doesn't need to know this because He is God. But the scriptures tell us that He is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us as believers (Romans 8:34). The 7<sup>th</sup> critical time of blessing is for those who are in their senior years and it answers the question "Am I still needed in this world?" That question is answered as we bless and honour our parents affirming their value and importance to the family.

#### **What about Single Parents and those who do not have families?**

He is "a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing" **Psalm 68:4-6**

Many people ask what about single parents? The scriptures tell us that God is a father and he puts the lonely in families where others can bless them as part of God's family.

### **Five Elements of the Blessing**

- 1. Appropriate meaningful touch**
- 2. A spoken word**
- 3. Attach high value to the one being blessed**
- 4. Picture a special future for the one being blessed**
- 5. Express an active commitment to fulfil the blessing**

### **How to Write a Blessing**

How to Capture the Blessing: In three short paragraphs you can capture four of the five elements of the blessing you've just heard about!

#### **Step 1: Capture the Blessing in 3 Paragraphs**

Paragraph #1: Write one or two things about this person you are THANKFUL FOR: Those would include character qualities and things that you admire in that person.

For example: If you have a daughter who is full of joy and loves life. Make reference to that in the first paragraph. Mention the things that are in your heart towards that child.

Paragraph #2: ONE CHALLENGE they are facing this year and have done well:

Again, like you're writing out a prayer, you capture words that can help them "see" (or in this case, to hear) your "spoken words" that "attach high value." You want them to see "beyond" this challenge as you're also helping them see a "special future"

Use words like - I see how you have handled this situation and I admire how you faced that challenge... and you inspire me...

Paragraph #3: Statement of GENUINE COMMITMENT

Do you know what the best thing you can do for your child is? To stay committed to each other and stay committed to blessing them daily.

Now you're ready to go to STEP TWO and create a special way in which these words (with your appropriate touch added in) can give your child or loved one Your Blessing!

## **Step 2: Create a Special Occasion**

You've done the hard work of "writing" your blessing -- here comes the fun part for many!

Think about your unique child and come up with a setting or experience that allows you to give your blessing in a way that is memorable to them and you.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you when and how to present your blessing.

## **Step 3 Once you give the blessing to someone in your family: Prayerfully consider another child/person in your circle of influence you can give a blessing.**

There are so many kids who are simply NOT going to get the blessing in their homes, and your words of love and blessing and "high value" and a special future can be a tremendous gift for that child from your family! A family that says, "We choose you!"

Join us in launching a new generation of sons and daughters and creating a culture of blessing in your home, in your church and in your community. If you want to join this blessing revolution we would encourage you to start today. Think of one person you can bless and create a special occasion to bless that person.

Prayer: Father we bless each person here today and those watching by video. We bless them to be a blessing and create a culture of blessing in their homes.

**Promotion for Tonight's Family Fun and Blessing Night!**

We would like to challenge you to choose to join us for a Family Night of blessing and fun. Now that you know how to write a blessing why not join us for a Family Fun and Blessing Night!

We will start the night with a time of family worship and a short explanation of what a blessing is for the children. Afterwards we will break into family groups for a time of blessing. We will wrap up the evening with ice cream and a time of fun and games.