

the
**FAMILY
BLESSING**
guidebook



*Everything you need to know
to have a blessed family*

BY TERRY & MELISSA BONE

the
**FAMILY
BLESSING**
guidebook

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ISBN 978-0-9783947-1-4 (ebook)

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CONTENTS

<u>About the Authors</u>	6
<u>Acknowledgements</u>	7
<u>Introduction</u>	8
<u>PART ONE</u>	10
Understanding the Power	
<u>Chapter 1 The Cry of Every Heart</u>	11
<u>Chapter 2 Living Without the Blessing</u>	18
Chapter Three Border Crossings	26
Chapter 4 How Blessing Works	33
<u>PART TWO</u>	42
Restoring the Foundations	
Chapter 5 Why Look Back?	43
Chapter 6 Conception	50
Chapter 7 Pregnancy	58
Chapter 8 Birth	64
Chapter 9 Early Childhood	73
Chapter 10 Teen Years	83
Chapter 11 Adulthood	94
Chapter 12 Senior Year	105

PART THREE	113
Giving The Blessing	
Chapter 13 Learning from the Pros	114
Chapter 14 How to Craft a Blessing	119
Chapter 15 Rites of Passage at Teen Years	125
Chapter 16 Blessing a Person's Name	132
Chapter 17 What Single Parent Families Need	136
Chapter 18 Creative Ideas that Work	142
<u>Appendix A</u>	148
Appendix B Sample Blessings Milestones, Ceremonies & Special Occasions	155



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Melissa and Terry met at a youth group in Toronto. After their wedding in 1979 they focused upon building their family and their careers, Terry as a computer systems analyst and Melissa in teaching. Their lives took a dramatic turn a few years later when they were called into full time pastoral ministry.

In 1994 a remarkable period of Holy Spirit renewal began in their church that transformed their lives and their ministry. Many people were healed both physically and emotionally. During this time, Terry and Melissa developed a teaching about the powerful role that ‘Family Blessing’ plays in the development of healthy relationships. In 2003 they resigned their Pastoral role at their church and founded “Identity & Destiny Ministries”

Soon they were traveling to many locations in order to share this life-changing message. Their first two books, on the topic of Family Blessing have been featured on the major Christian TV stations in Canada and distributed world wide in several languages.

From their home base in the Niagara Peninsula (Grimsby, Ontario), Terry & Melissa continue to reach out to families, and church leaders on several continents, through seminars, consulting and practical family resources. The Bone family is completed by three adult children, one son-in-law and two very blessed grandchildren.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rolf Garborg

Our friend and mentor in publishing. Rolf is also the author of a book called The Family Blessing, a book with a similar title to this one. It contains a captivating message of how family blessing was woven into the fabric of Rolf's family over many years. Available from Summerside Press

www.summersidepress.com

Alf Davis

An amazing counselor whose insight and personal assistance have proven invaluable to the formation and communication of our message. Alf's insights on personal wholeness and transformation are freely available at

www.lovehealstv.com

Craig Hill

Founder of Family Foundations International whose book The Ancient Paths contains the initial inspiration for our teaching on the seven crucial stages for family blessing.

www.familyfoundations.com

INTRODUCTION

This is not a self-help book.

This is a book that unlocks a forgotten talent that you can use in every one of your important relationships.

The practice of Family Blessing has been proven over centuries especially in many cultures.

Today it has largely been lost or never learned.

We have devoted many years to learning and applying the power of blessing in our relationships with children, family, friends and even in our business life. We have tested this teaching in many different countries, cultures and languages on five separate continents. We know it works.

The Bible has been our guidebook in principle and in practice, yet at the same time, we have seen that Family Blessing is applicable to people of all faiths.

While this book does not contain everything we teach, it does contain everything we think you need to know in order to give and receive family blessings at every stage of life. Our goal is not to merely teach concepts, but to assist you to recover your missed blessings and to learn how to give blessings to others. It's divided into three sections which offer you something for your HEAD, your HEART and your HAND.

PART One gets straight to the point. It explains what Family Blessing is and why it matters in your life.

PART Two goes for the heart. It uses the power of stories to paint a clear picture of what Family Blessing looks like at every stage of life and how to recover the blessings you have missed along the way.

PART Three shows you how to apply blessing to your important relationships. The Appendices put the tools in your hands.

We encourage you to not skip the first two sections for this reason: You can't give what you haven't received!

By taking the time to absorb the foundational concepts then read through the seven stages, you will discover which blessings may still be missing from your life. Learning how to receive blessings you have missed, will increase your effectiveness when you bless others.

May the eyes of your heart be enlightened as you read these pages.

May you receive every blessing that you need and desire.

May you be inspired to bless others with deliberate words and actions.

Terry & Melissa Bone

PART ONE
UNDERSTANDING THE POWER

CHAPTER 1

THE CRY OF EVERY HEART

“When Esau heard his father’s words , he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, Bless me – me too, my father...Then Esau wept aloud”

Genesis 27:34,38b

BLESSING! What an overused word!

When we are in good health we call it a blessing.

When an unexpected cheque comes in the mail, we call it a blessing.

When we drive our car too fast and the person ahead of us gets caught for speeding instead of us, we call it a blessing.

Whenever life is pleasing us in any way we call it a blessing.

So, you may ask, what is a real blessing?

And what difference does it make in a person's life?

Blessing Defined

There are several different kinds of blessings. Some are rewards for obedience like the ones listed in Deuteronomy chapter 28. Some are material blessings. However, these are not the focus of this book. When we use the term 'blessing' we are referring to what we call 'Family Blessing'.

These blessings are not rewards for obedience, they are rewards for being born! They are not earned, but rather they are gifts from God.

They are spiritual not material.

They do not immediately increase your bank account, but they do deposit spiritual riches into your heart.

In simple terms, Family Blessings can be understood as God's favor being poured into your life.

This kind of blessing empowers you to prosper so that you can have a satisfying life journey.

You were Designed to Be Blessed

We all need this blessing regardless of our age, gender, or family circumstance. Our extensive travels have offered us first hand evidence that this heart cry is inherent in every human being. People everywhere respond to this message with hunger and passion. Whether they be the poorest of the poor in a rural Asian village or the upper middle class in urban California, the need for family blessing is readily evident in every language and in every culture.

*the very first act of God
upon the very first people on earth
was a spoken blessing*

Somewhere deep within, we all have an intense longing to receive spiritual blessing. It may be covered over by many other desires and pleasures, but it cannot be eradicated from our inner being. It is embedded in the spiritual DNA of every living person.

Why is this so? Because God designed us this way.

It is essential to understand that God does not intend for any person to live without His blessing! In fact the very first act of God upon the very first people on earth was a spoken blessing (Genesis 1:28). These words were not merely words of encouragement. They were far more than a verbal ‘pat on the back’ as Adam and Eve began their life. On the contrary, the blessing they received contained a spiritual power which enabled Adam and Eve to begin fulfilling their destiny as overseers of the earth and its inhabitants. And it was not something they had to earn, it was a free gift! A gift that enabled the very first husband and wife team to love each other freely and to govern the earth effectively.

Adam and Eve forfeited this free gift (and much more) through their sinful disobedience. However God already had a plan, not only for the redemption of individuals. but also for the restoration of families.¹ He inaugurated this plan with a man called Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).

The remaining 38 chapters of Genesis are entirely devoted to the story of how Abraham’s blessing impacted four generations of his family and set the stage for future generations.

A quick reading of these chapters reveals a recurring theme:

Spoken blessing, from parents to children, played an important role in *empowering the next generation* to fulfill their life purpose.

This family blessing became so coveted that Abraham's grandson Esau cried out in anguish when his father Isaac withheld it!

*Words of Blessing
carry the weight and authority
of heaven.*

The specific blessing that was passed on between the generations of Abraham's descendents was unique. However the spiritual and relational dynamics associated with blessing still exists within families today. This is powerfully illustrated in the life of a man who never knew what he was missing until he found it! When we met Doug, he was a happily married man secure in his God-given purpose in life. Yet there was a time when Doug's destiny was in question because of a missed blessing. In his own words:

“My Father died in [the] Vietnam [war] when I was five years old. The last thing I expected was to receive a letter from him 17 years later. But that is what happened one winter day when I was 22 years old.

It was the day my fiancée and I announced our engagement. I remember being in the kitchen alone that evening. My mother walked in and handed me a letter copied onto old mimeograph paper. The seven pages were still folded, evidence of an envelope since discarded.

‘What’s this?’ I asked. ‘It’s something I should have given you years ago,’ my mother said. ‘It’s a letter from your father. He wrote it to you from Vietnam soon after he arrived there, just in case something was to happen to him. He said that if he were not to return from the war, I was to give it to you when you became a man.... I realize that I should have given it to you a long time ago. I’m sorry.’

It is hard to describe how jolting her words were. I sat there stunned. Finally, after a few minutes, I managed to unfold the pages. They were hand written. It felt like a privilege to see his handwriting. I had not seen it before.

Part of me was afraid to read it . . . afraid that – with one quarter of my life behind me – I would find it would not have pleased him...that I would not have his blessing.... I had adjusted to not having to take into account my father’s approval or disapproval. Now, all of a sudden, I might have to. At the same time, I felt humbled that I was even getting the chance to know my father’s thoughts.

When I finished reading the letter, it was as if the weight of the world had been lifted from my shoulders. I was not faced with trying to rebuild my life, after all. Instead, my dad had affirmed me, citing traits he had seen in me even when I was a little boy. His words were encouraging and motivating, not scolding or dogmatic. He did not lecture or warn me, but simply shared his thoughts. Instead of trying to persuade me to follow in his footsteps (which I had begun to do – even applying to West Point [Military Academy], only to withdraw my application), he held up virtues for which I could strive no matter what career I chose. It felt good that, after all those years, I had some basis for thinking my dad would have been proud of me.

His letter had filled a place in my heart which I had only been semi-aware of and had no idea was so large. I had received my father’s blessing... This man was a virtual stranger to me, even though I shared his genes. Yet, because he was my father, his attention and affirmation in a letter mailed a week before his death profoundly impacted the course of my life as an adult. He gave me permission to proceed in a direction I would have gone anyway, but now could go with greater confidence.”²

The Power of Blessing will Impact Your Life

Doug’s response perfectly describes the benefits of parental blessing upon a young adult:

- confidence in his own character,
- confirmation of life calling
- the lifting of an emotional weight from upon his soul.

The cry in Doug’s heart had been answered through a written blessing, received years after his father’s death. Today it still impacts his life.

Your Family Blessing will impact your life as well!

As we will demonstrate in later chapters, words of Blessing carry the weight and authority of heaven. They impart life and hope, and change the way we

think about ourselves. A blessing conveys heaven's perspective on who we are, and where we are meant to go in life – we call that identity and destiny.

Words of blessing give us the insight and the spiritual ability to walk in the light of God's revealed will for our lives. God has delegated His authority to people to speak blessings on His behalf. This is especially true with respect to parents blessing children.

The unfortunate truth is that an increasing number of children do not grow up in a family with both parents. In addition to that, the majority of parents today are not fully aware of how vital a blessing can be, nor do they understand how to give this gift to their children. We haven't been schooled in this subject, nor do we have living examples to give us a picture of how it's done.

As a result, many of us are limping through life without the family blessings we were meant to receive.

Unfortunately very few of us have a parent like Doug's father who was careful to plan ahead. So what happens if our parents are unable or unwilling to give us this blessing?

The good news is that you can recover the blessings you missed earlier in life.

Ephesians 1:3 asserts that God HAS blessed us already in the heavenly places. It's as if there are countless packages stored in heaven's warehouse. Among them is a neatly arranged stack of packages with your name on them. Lovingly prepared by the Heavenly Father with you in mind, they sit there waiting to be delivered to the door of your heart.

*It is never too late
to recover your missed blessings!*

If the people who were supposed to deliver those packages to the door of your heart are unable or unwilling, God can bring someone else into your life to get the job done!

If you were able to wander through that warehouse in heaven, you would notice that there is no expiry date on the packages. That's because it is never too late to recover your missed blessings!

It is amazing to watch how quickly a person can move from merely surviving in life to thriving in life once these missed blessings are recovered. We have seen this happen countless times in the lives of people to whom we have ministered, whether it be one on one or in a group seminar setting.

In the chapters that follow we will use many Bible stories and personal testimonies to help unfold the secrets to effective blessing. You will learn the seven crucial stages when everyone needs blessing, how to recover the blessings you have missed earlier in life and how to give a blessing to anyone who needs one. We will take the time to clearly demonstrate how a blessing works.

But this we can assure you - it DOES work.

And it is one of the keys for fulfilling your destiny – your highest calling in life.

ENDNOTE 1: Expressed cryptically in Genesis 3:15 is the idea and plan of redemption – victory over the ‘serpent’ i.e. Satan through the ‘seed’ of the woman i.e. Jesus Christ. We believe that the story of sin and eternal redemption is the foundation for all scripture but we are limiting our discussion of the scriptures to the theme of family blessing and how it impacts our lives here on earth.

ENDNOTE 2: Copyright J. Doug Burford. Used with permission. The unedited version of this story can be found in Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen's book *Chicken Soup for the Christian Family Soul*. Health Communications Inc. Deerfield Beach, Florida, 2000 , pg. 89

CHAPTER 2

LIVING WITHOUT THE BLESSING

“Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the [missed] blessing...”

Genesis 27:41a

Esau was more than 40 years old. He was a married man with children of his own, yet he wept like a little child because his father would not lay his hands on his head and bless him.

Esau knew the stories of God's promise to Abraham, his grandfather. He was aware of how God had appeared to his grandfather and to his father, and he longed for the day that the family blessing God imparted to them could be passed on to him.

Esau was grief stricken at the thought of trying to live the rest of his adult life without it. He knew that without that blessing he would have no access to the rich storehouse of promises made to his grandfather Abraham.

He knew that without the blessing, he would not prosper in spite of his talents.

He also knew that with the blessing, his brother Jacob would prosper in spite of his faults.

And so he wept. He wept for what could have been but now was beyond his reach.

The denial of this blessing affected Esau's behavior for decades and his family for generations.

It 'bent' his relationships with family members - he turned away from his brother Jacob in hatred (Genesis 27:41) and toward his parents with vain attempts to win their approval (Genesis 26:34, 28:8-9).

Compensation is not a Cure

Few of us today value parental blessing as much as these two brothers did, however we cannot escape the effect of its absence. Whether we realize it or not, when a parent's blessing is withheld, the vast majority of us will tend to adopt certain relationship patterns in an attempt to compensate for missed blessings. Our personalities become 'bent'; shaped by unsuccessful attempts to fill a 'void' that we feel but can't define.

Three of the most common ways in which people 'bend' to achieve the missed blessing are 'agreement', 'aggression' and 'performance orientation'. These are illustrated by the family experience of a woman we encountered at a retreat. Our teaching helped her understand why she and her two sisters

were so different from each other even though they had experienced the same family misfortune. In her own words:

“Our father was very conniving. Always wanting a boy, he basically undermined us as growing women. I got angry. My tendency now is violent anger toward any hurt or injustice. The second child is still so in agreement with the identity put on her, that to this day she has bouts of depression requiring her to take a few days off at a time just for restoration. The youngest went a different direction. She has read all the books (on self-improvement) and has determined to be the nicest person out there.”

*when a parent's blessing is withheld,
the majority of us will tend to adopt certain
relationship patterns
in an attempt to compensate*

Let's take a closer look at these three patterns and how they block our pathway to emotional wholeness.

Agreement: Persons who come into agreement with the lack of blessing will hear themselves thinking thoughts of inferiority and failure. They might also suffer from anxiety and low self esteem. You can recognize this kind of person by the way they constantly put themselves down with their own words. The people who are in agreement with a false and negative identity are prone to constant comparisons of themselves with other people. Inevitably these comparisons leave them ever more convinced of their lack of talent and worth.

You can also recognize these people by their inability to receive a compliment. They cannot just say 'thank you' when someone praises them. They will always feel the need to respond with a reminder of how they are flawed in some other way. This behavior pattern masquerades as humility but it's not. True humility comes from an accurate assessment of your own limits. A truly humble person possesses a quiet confidence that makes no demand for personal attention.

Aggression: Persons become aggressive when they develop a pattern of attempting to reject the rejection that they have experienced. They may become defiant, stubborn, cynical, and critical of others, and they may rebel against authority or refuse comfort. One saying that seems applicable here is ‘they are trying to fight fire with fire’. This refers to the tactic of stopping an advancing forest fire by lighting a fire moving towards it in the opposite direction. Too often the unintended result is merely to create a bigger fire! The angry person often believes that his or her best defense against the approaching ‘fire’ of criticism or rejection is to speak aggressively towards others. The fact of the matter is that you cannot solve criticism with a critical attitude. You cannot cure the pain of cursing by cursing others.

Not everyone in this category is outwardly angry. Aggression is not always overt. Some people use ‘the silent treatment’ as a weapon of control or revenge. This is called being ‘passive aggressive’. This kind of aggression is harder to recognize but it has the same root of anger and ultimately produces the same bad fruit in a person’s character.

Performance Orientation: A common way to compensate for the lack of blessing is to become performance oriented; constantly striving, compulsive, self-centered or self-absorbed.

Many adopt this pattern of compensation for missed blessings because people affirm them in their good works! The doers of good works believe that their drivenness is a sign of character and moral strength. The attention and praise they receive from others (especially those in authority) strengthens this belief. Often these people become over-achievers in their careers, setting sales records or rising to the top positions in their corporation. Their achievements do no more to fill the blessing gap in their soul than wallpapering over a hole in the wall fixes the wall. It looks good on the surface until you apply a little pressure!

In spite of great achievements these kind of people often exhibit signs of emotionally immaturity.

*any kind of performance orientation
will consign you to live inside the borders
of a land called ‘Never Enough’*

It needs to be stated here that religious homes are especially vulnerable to a special kind of performance orientation that can block the blessing – striving for good behavior in the name of serving God. Children with a strong religious upbringing may remain fiercely loyal to their parents who strive for moral perfection. The parents may look like a shining example of good works. They may engage in tireless efforts for a noteworthy cause. Yet their applaudable actions are actually driven by an unseen and unmet need for affirmation. Though very religious, these kind of people usually fail to grasp the all important distinction between love and approval. Expressions of love and affirmation are limited to occasions when their child performs to a high standard. As a result, the intended family blessing is blocked. These children are inhibited from experiencing the true joy of being loved for who they are and not just for what they do. Consequentially, they may become adults who falsely believe that God’s love is conditional upon good performance.

Religion-based or not, any kind of performance orientation will consign you to live inside the borders of a land called ‘Never Enough’. You will constantly strive, but the elusive blessing will remain just beyond your reach - just like the donkey that keeps moving forward trying to reach the carrot dangling from a stick!

A False Sense of Success

Sometimes the lack of Family Blessing is ignored or minimized when a person achieves great success. When aggression is combined with performance orientation it produces a mix that is ‘high octane’ but toxic to the soul.

The Tour de France is considered by many to be the toughest endurance race in any sport. Covering more than 3,600 kilometers in 21 days over all kinds of terrain, this race requires an unparalleled level of mental and physical toughness. American Lance Armstrong won this most prestigious race a record-setting seven times in a row! Armstrong’s ability to accelerate away from competitors on excruciating hill climbs was legendary among his peers as well as fans. (Notwithstanding the allegations of widespread use of performance-enhancing drugs in this sport, Armstrong’s achievements, especially as a cancer survivor, distinguish him among all professional Tour Riders)

As a teenager, Lance won almost every race he entered. In addition to natural gifting and excellent training, he credits his early successes to the fact that he was an angry young man: “I would win on adrenaline and anger,

chopping off my competitors one by one. I could push myself to a threshold of pain no one else was willing to match, and I would bite somebody's head off to win a race.”²

Lance revealed that the source of the anger that motivated him to succeed was connected to emotional pain from his past. Lance never knew his biological father. And the man that his mom welcomed into their home as husband and stepfather abused both of them. Candidly he admits:

“Athletes don't have much use for poking around in their childhood, because introspection doesn't get you anywhere in a race. You don't want to think about your adolescent resentments when you're trying to make a 6,500-foot climb... But that said, it's all stoked down in there, fuel for the fire... the old wounds and long-ago slights become the stuff of competitive energy.”³

Lance had learned how to channel his anger into a furious motivation that produced phenomenal achievements and earned him fame and fortune. Incredibly, during this time he also overcame a near deadly bout with cancer. His story has inspired millions and helped many to overcome adversity and achieve great goals.

But don't mistake great achievements for a happy and blessed life. In spite of all his professional accomplishments, Armstrong's personal problems did not magically disappear. After his second Tour de France victory, Lance wrote a book in which he wrote glowingly about his (first) wife who had stood by him through all his trials. The book concludes with Lance saying “...we celebrated the fact that there would be other races ...And then we went home to Austin as a family, happily”⁴

Unfortunately, this 'happily ever after' scenario was short lived. Six years later, after a divorce and three subsequent break-ups with other women, Lance appeared to be still searching for the keys to happy and successful relationships.

You can also see this same dynamic at work in the life of some well-known Christian leaders who create huge ministries and seem to have boundless energy for non-stop growth in their organizations. Yet in spite of being touted as models for us to follow, they often pay a personal price for their drivenness that includes marital and family breakdowns.

*don't mistake great achievements
for a happy and blessed life.*

We don't share these thoughts to be critical of anyone. Every person has faults and, for most of us, they remain hidden from public view. But don't be fooled by the apparent success of anyone who denies the need to address the pain from their past. No amount of accomplishment in life can overcome an emotional deficit in your soul. Family Blessings are always a required element in the process of becoming whole.

A False Sense of Failure

A far more common result of performance orientation than a world record cycling record, is the scenario of the 'failed perfectionist'. We are referring to persons who set themselves up for failure through trying to achieve unrealistic expectations. Typically these are the kind of people who have sensitive hearts. They want to do what is best but become caught in a 'no-win' situation due to the lack of affirmation and blessing.

A poignant illustration of this came in the form of an email from someone we will call 'Laura' (for most of the stories in this book we have changed the names but kept the story line accurate) who told us she had waited all her life for a blessing from her father. From her earliest years she had tried to please him to no avail. Carrying his tools to the construction site at the tender age of eight didn't win his approval. Nothing she did worked. And to make matters worse, each time she failed to measure up to her father's expectations, he responded with verbal abuse.

Throughout her teen years, Laura was an average student. However she made heroic efforts in order to win her parents' approval. Having scored 97 percent on a high school exam, she proudly presented her paper to her father. "Where are the other three marks?" he demanded. From that moment, everything changed.

Totally defeated, Laura gave up. Something within her died. For the next seven years she was caught in a downward spiral of alcohol and broken

relationships. She became pregnant and aborted the child. In her mid-twenties Laura found forgiveness peace and hope in Jesus Christ. When she became a Christian, her behavior changed, but she confessed that 25 years later she still had a longing deep inside to hear the words “well done” from her father.

Laura was rescued from harmful addictions through the power of God’s Spirit. However the Father’s Blessing she so desperately craved still eluded her.

Laura experienced more personal pain when her husband died suddenly. For the next year she managed to keep her household running as a single mom. In a sudden shift of behavior, Laura’s 82-year-old father surprised her with a phone call to tell her that he was proud of how she had taken care of everything in the past year.

Rather than being resentful, Laura was thankful. She had finally received a small taste of what she had longed for all her life. She told us that the phone call from dad “was like a cool breeze on a hot summer day, or a sip of water when I’m parched. I waited so long to hear those words, and I am so thankful they were spoken before he died.”

“Walking Wounded”

Without blessing we are like the “walking wounded” carrying with us pain from the past while we try to get on with our lives. But unlike Esau, you do not have to spend the rest of your life in remorse over what could have been. Unlike Lance, you do not need to become a world champion in a vain attempt to overcome a painful past. Unlike Laura you do not have to be satisfied with one small drop of approval after a lifetime of longing. That’s because your blessings are still waiting for you!

God has designed you to be blessed at every stage of your life journey. There are seven times when receiving a family blessing is crucial to shape identity and download destiny. Let’s find out what they are and how the blessing is imparted at each stage.

ENDNOTE 2: Page 65 Lance Armstrong, *It’s Not About the Bike*, copyright 2000, Berkley Books New York NY

ENDNOTE 3: Page 20-21 Lance Armstrong, *It’s Not About the Bike*, copyright 2000, Berkley Books, New York N.Y.

ENDNOTE 4: Page 289 Lance Armstrong, *It’s Not About the Bike*, copyright 2000, Berkley Books, New York N.Y.

APPENDIX A

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How To Craft a Blessing for Someone You Know

A Blessing has the ability to convey God's favor upon a person when it is crafted with understanding and received with an open heart. Whether spoken or written, the purpose is to recognize and verbalize the noteworthy characteristics of the person, and to articulate what you see God may desire to do in their life and through their life in the future.

To help you get started try following these steps:

Prayerfully choose a scripture that conveys a positive message suitable to the person you wish to bless.

Write a sentence or two describing something noteworthy that you have observed about this person's actions or character.

Record words that describe this person's value in your eyes and in the sight of God.

Add any good thing that you perceive God to be doing in their life right now.

Describe the ways in which you believe this person can be used by God to encourage and bless others in the future.

If appropriate, state how you are willing to assist this person to achieve the future you have pictured for them.

OPTIONAL: Find the meaning of this person's name and incorporate that into the blessing.

How to Prepare a Name Blessing

Pray – ask the Lord to reveal His purpose and meaning in the person's name.

Research – look in different sources such as *The Name Book* by Dorothy Astoria. The internet has a plethora of websites that give meanings for names. Research the history of the family name, if desired.

Interview the person to discover a possible "God story" connected to the manner in which they received their name.

Select a Scripture that is compatible with the meaning of the name once you have discovered that meaning. Write a Scriptural connotation in one sentence that links the name with a biblical truth.

Prepare a card or plaque that summarizes the information that you have gleaned.

Perform a small Name Blessing ceremony that includes presenting the person with their card or plaque (and use the five elements of a Blessing).

Conclude the ceremony with a prayer to “set the seal” of God’s love upon their heart through the meaning of their name.

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www.powerofblessing.com