

*Blessed
To Be A Blessing*

A Teaching Outline

2 Cor. 9:6

**But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall
reap also sparingly; and he which soweth
bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Blessing others.

The Scripture makes it clear that God blesses us not so we can live with greed, but so we can bless others.

God loves a cheerful giver. When He sees that someone is giving freely out of love, God blesses them more.

We are blessed to be a blessing. God has given everyone different talents to be used for the benefit of others.

When God blesses you financially, don't raise your standard of living. Raise your standard of giving.

You can be a blessing to others by

1. Speaking kind words,
2. Volunteering in your community,
3. Giving to charity, and the ministry,
4. Sharing what you have,
5. Giving food to the needy
6. Sharing your testimony,
7. Praying for someone in need,
8. Listening to someone,

There is always an opportunity to bless someone. The more we seek to bless others, God will provide for us and open more doors to accomplish His will.

Quotes

“The greatest blessing the whole world is being a blessing.” Jack Hyles

“God didn’t add another day to your life because you needed it. He did it because someone out there needs you!”

The Bible gives promises for giving.

Proverbs 11:25

The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be

We become richer by being generous. The world says to hold on to as much as possible, but God blesses those who give freely of their possessions, time, and energy. When we give, God supplies us with more so that we can give more. In addition, giving helps us gain a right perspective on our possessions.

We realize they were never really ours to begin with, but they were given to us by God to be used to help others. What then do we gain by giving? Freedom from enslavement to our possessions, the joy of helping others, and God's approval.

God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you, so that in every situation you will always have all you need for any good work.

As it is written, “He scatters everywhere and gives to the poor; his righteousness lasts forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the farmer and bread to eat will also supply you with seed and multiply it and enlarge the harvest that results from your righteousness. In every way you will grow richer and become even more generous, and this will cause others to give thanks to God because of us.

He who sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthian 9:6

Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

People may hesitate to give generously to God because they worry about having enough money left over to meet their own needs.

Paul assured the Corinthians that God was able to meet their needs. The person who gives only a little will receive only a little in return. Don't let a lack of faith keep you from giving cheerfully and generously.

Seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:13

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Hospitality focuses on the guests' needs, such as a place to stay, nourishing food, a listening ear, or just acceptance.

Hospitality can happen in a messy home. It can happen around a dinner table where the main dish is canned soup. It can even happen while the host and the guest are doing chores together.

Don't hesitate to offer hospitality just because you are too tired, too busy, or not wealthy enough to entertain. And relationships for selfish ambition. They select those people who will help them climb the social ladder.

Christ demonstrated and taught that we should treat all people with respect—those of a different race, the handicapped, the poor, young and old, male and female.

We must never consider others as being beneath us. Paul says we need to live in harmony with others and not be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people.



Encouraging others.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

So encourage each other to build each other up, just as you are already doing.

As you near the end of a long race, your legs ache, your throat burns, and your whole body cries out for you to stop. This is when friends and fans are most valuable.

Their encouragement helps you push through the pain to the finish line. In the same way, Christians are to encourage one another. Be sensitive to others' need for encouragement, and offer supportive words or actions.

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

No Christian should ever think that he or she is totally independent and doesn't need help from others, and no one should feel excused from the task of helping others.

The body of Christ—the church—functions only when the members work together for the common good. Do you know someone who needs help? Is there a Christian brother or sister who needs correction or encouragement? Humbly and gently reach out to that person offering to lift his or her load.

Bear with the failings of the weak.

Romans 15:1

But we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not just please ourselves.

Jesus was never selfish but sought to strengthen the weak.

The knowledge of the Scriptures affects our attitude toward the present and the future. The more we know about what God has done in years past, the greater the confidence we have about what he will do in the days ahead. We need to diligently read our Bibles so we may have confidence that God's will is best for us.

Sharing with others

Hebrews 13:16

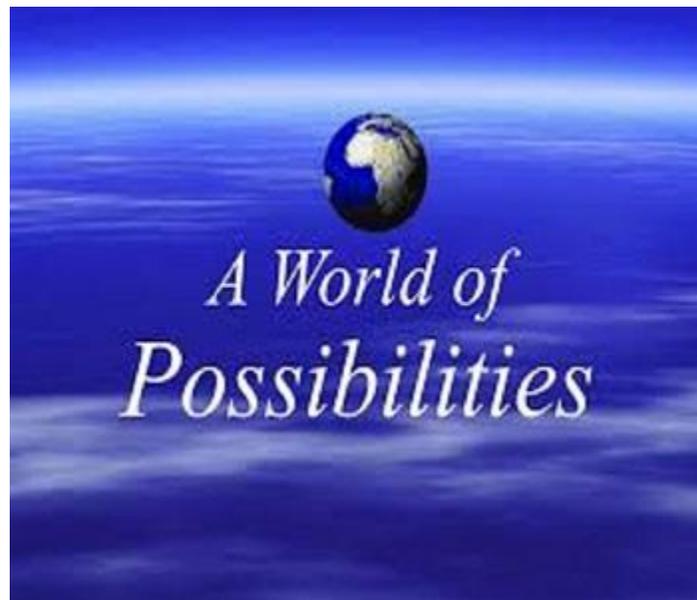
And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Since these Jewish Christians, because of their witness to the Messiah, no longer worshiped with other Jews, they should consider praise and acts of service their sacrifices—ones they could offer anywhere, anytime.

This must have reminded them of the prophet Hosea's words, "Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you our praises" (Hosea 14:2). A "sacrifice of praise" today would include thanking Christ for his sacrifice on the cross and telling others about it.

Acts of kindness and sharing are particularly pleasing to God, even when they go unnoticed by others.

The task of church leaders is to help people mature in Christ. Cooperative followers greatly ease the burden of leadership. Does your conduct give your leaders reason to report joyfully about you?



Spreading the Gospel

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' words affirm the reality of the Trinity. Some people accuse theologians of making up the concept of the Trinity and reading it into Scripture.

As we see here, the concept comes directly from Jesus himself. He did not say baptize them in the *names*, but in the *name* of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

God says that the feet of those who bring good news are "beautiful." It is a wonderful privilege to be able to share God's Good News with others, his news of redemption, salvation, and peace. To whom do you need to give the Good News?

Praying for others

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

To pray at all times is to order your life around God's desires and teachings so that your very life becomes a prayer.

You don't have to isolate yourself from other people and from daily work in order to pray constantly. You can make prayer your life and your life a prayer while living in a world that needs God's powerful influence.

We also should pray for all believers in Christ; so pray for the Christians you know and for the church around the world.

Pray for one another that you may be healed.

James 5:16

So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness.

Christ has made it possible for us to go directly to God for forgiveness. But confessing our sins to each other still has an important place in the life of the church. (1) If we have sinned against an individual, we must ask him or her to forgive us.

Pray for all people.

1 Timothy 2:1

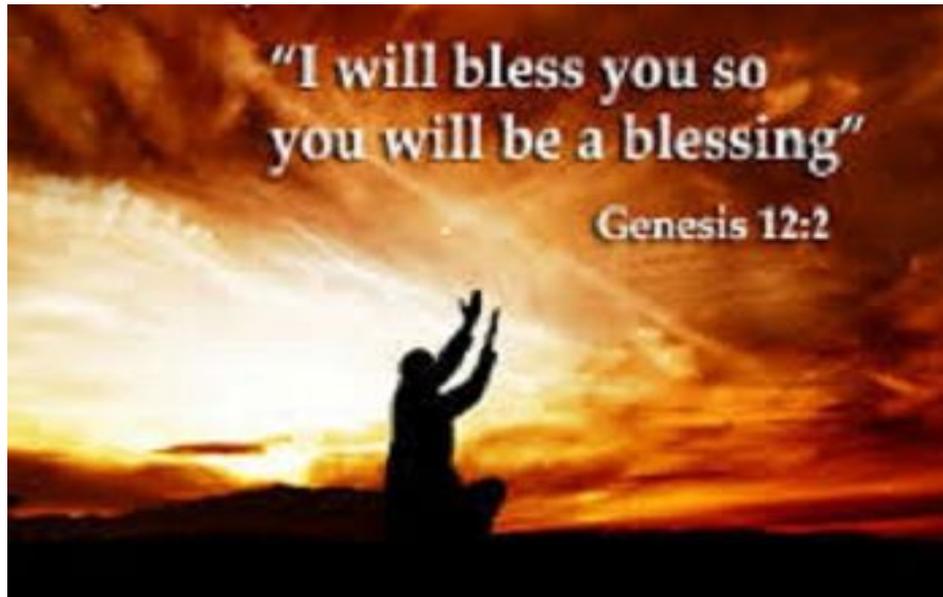
I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

Although God is all-powerful and all-knowing, he has chosen to let us help him change the world through our prayers.

How this works is a mystery to us because of our limited understanding, but it is a reality.

Paul based his instruction about prayer for *everyone* on his conviction that God's invitation for salvation extends equally to all people. The word *everyone* captures the nature of the gospel.

You are called to bless others.



Helping those who go astray.

James 5:20

Let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

16. Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Clearly this person who has wandered from the truth is a believer who has fallen into sin—one who is no longer living a life consistent with his or her beliefs.

Christians disagree over whether or not it is possible for people to lose their salvation, but all agree that those who fall away from their faith are in serious trouble and need to repent.

James urges Christians to help backsliders return to God. By taking the initiative, praying for the person, and acting in love, we can meet the person where he or she is and bring him or her back to God and his forgiveness.

Remembering God's Promises

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

We become Christians through God's unmerited favor, not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, and gentleness, and not merely to please ourselves.

While no action or work we do can help us obtain salvation, God's intention is that our salvation will result in acts of service. We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and build up the church (4:12).

We are God's masterpiece (work of art, workmanship). Our salvation is something only God can do. It is his powerful, creative work in us. If God considers us his masterpieces, we dare not treat ourselves or others with disrespect or as inferior work.

Let your light shine before others.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before people in such a way that they will see your good actions and glorify your Father in heaven.

Can you hide a city that is sitting on top of a mountain? Its light at night can be seen for miles. If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing others what Christ is like.

We hide our light by

- (1) Being quiet when we should speak,
- (2) Going along with the crowd,
- (3) Denying the light,
- (4) Letting sin dim our light,
- (5) Not explaining our light to others, or
- (6) Ignoring the needs of others.

Be a beacon of truth—don't shut your light off from the rest of the world.



Provoke others unto love.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

We have significant privileges associated with our new life in Christ:

- (1) We have personal access to God through Christ and can draw near to him without an elaborate system (10:22);

(2) We may grow in faith, overcome doubts and questions, and deepen our relationship with God (10:23);

(3) We may enjoy motivation from one another (10:24);

(4) We may worship together (10:25).

Kind words are like honey.

Proverbs 16:24

Kind words are like honey sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

When we live by God's Word, he washes away the deadly effects of sin (see Titus 3:4-8), and the hope of eternal life with him gives us a joyful perspective on our present life. The fountain of youth was only a dream, but the life-giving fountain is reality.

The ministry of Jesus

Matthew 20:28

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

A "ransom" was the price paid to release a slave from bondage. Jesus often told his disciples that he must die, but here he told them why—to redeem all people from the bondage of sin and death. The disciples thought that as long as Jesus was alive, he could save them. But Jesus revealed that only his death would save them and the world.

Jesus comes to give eternal life.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

In contrast to the thief who takes life, Jesus gives life. The life he gives right now is abundantly rich and full. It is eternal, yet it begins immediately. Life in Christ is lived on a higher plane because of his overflowing forgiveness, love, and guidance. Have you taken Christ's offer of life?

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

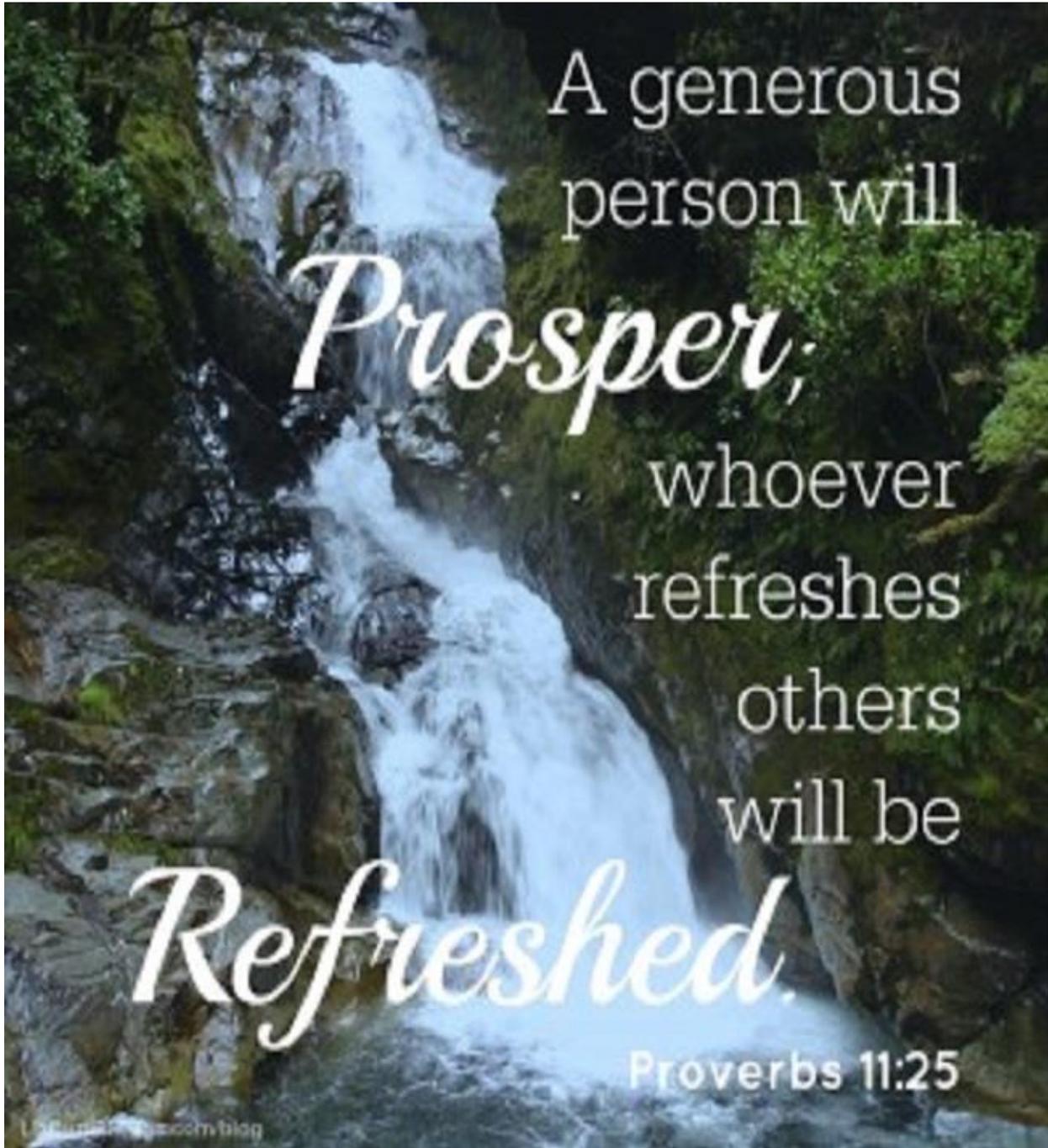
References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

The New Living Bible

New American Standard Bible

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print



A generous
person will

Prosper;

whoever
refreshes
others
will be

Refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25

Life in the Classroom Blog