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*to be Overtaken and Overcome by the Blessings of God!*

**Frances Hunter**

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**By Frances Hunter**

## INTRODUCTION

Christians are blessed! We are blessed today as much as at any time since Adam and Eve walked with God in the garden. How can we say that, when there are troubles throughout the world, disasters in our nation, and personal challenges every day at home or on the job?

We can be blessed every single day of our lives because God has provided His own supernatural power and peace and provision for every one of His children. Sometimes we forget how much God has done for us. Sometimes we are struggling so hard in the natural that we are not really praising God and thanking Him for who He is and all the blessings that are ours.

God intended for us to be blessed right from the very start! He has never taken away any one of the wonderful blessings that He planned for us. In the Old Testament, when Adam sinned, and when others sinned, God still loved them and still wanted to bless them. He gave them a plan that through blood sacrifice they could repent and be forgiven and blessed. The sacrificial blood of animals pointed to the perfect blood of Jesus, which provides everything we need. Every blessing God ever promised is still ours!

In these pages, I want you to show you just what God has said about your blessings! In searching through the Bible for all of God's blessing promises, I do not know when I have ever been as excited over any subject in my entire life. If you are

not hanging onto the ceiling by the final pages of this book, I'll be surprised!

I want this to be a spiritual feast for you! I want you to grow so spiritually fat on the Word of God that your spirit and your soul will be able to take care of any situation that comes along. I believe with all my heart and soul that the more you read and hear the word of God, the more you are going to be aware of what God really has for you in His fabulous promises throughout the Bible. You will be convinced that His blessings really are for you, and your faith will bring those blessings right into your life.

Frances Hunter

## **I Am Blessed, How Are YOU?**

How many times have you greeted someone, “How are you?” How many times have you gotten a response that made you sorry you asked the question? Sometimes, I have just wanted to reach out and pray for that poor downhearted soul and command a spirit of joy to overtake them!

I received a wonderful perspective from a church in Dallas, Texas. The very first time I walked into that church, a lady I had never met came over to me, put her arms around me and proclaimed, “I am blessed; how are you?”

Never in any church has anything ever made a greater impression on me than greeters who were welcoming people in such an incredible way, with a big hug while saying, “I am blessed; how are you?” It really changed the way Charles and I began greeting people. Now instead of asking them how they are and hoping for a positive response, we are so full of the consciousness of God’s blessings that we say, like that wonderful lady, “We are blessed! How are you?”

We as Christians have more reasons to say “We are blessed” than any people on the face of the earth! Our God is not just a Creative Force; He is a Father who, even more than the best earthly

father, wants to heap blessing upon blessing all over us!

Psalm 103:1-5 is one of the most beautiful passages of blessings in the Bible because it covers so many of our basic needs in this life.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

What does every single human being need most? Forgiveness. God forgives every one of our sins, great or small.

Next, it says that God heals all of our diseases; that means every type, no matter how serious. Whatever may come against us, God redeems our life from destruction. We are blessed with love from a good God. We are blessed with overflowing kindness and mercy whenever we need it. We are so blessed with good food that most of us need to stop eating too much of it. God is generous to us in every way.

Let me show you how and why you are blessed.

Psalm 1:1-3 says, *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

Think of how blessed a tree is when it's planted by a stream of water. It never has to worry about any of its needs being met! It will bear fruit year after year. Because of the abundance of fresh water

taking all the nutrients it needs to every branch, it won't get sick or dry up and wither and die. That is *how* God has promised to bless every one of us — with a healthy, prosperous and fruitful life!

Do you know *why* you are blessed? You are blessed because your delight is in the law of the Lord (you put God first in your life) and because you meditate in the law of the Lord (God's word) day and night. Your commitment to live rightly before God opens the doors for you to go to the word of God and discover and claim all of God's wonderful promises to you.

I heard a story of a young man whose distant relative died and left him an incredible inheritance because there were no other heirs. The young man was unaware of any of this inheritance and lived in poverty for many years, until he was located. Can you imagine the joy of this man in finding out that all of his needs would be met for the rest of his life? That is the joy we, as believers, are supposed to experience right now, every single day.

Psalm 1 in the Amplified really explains what the blessing of God means:

*BLESSED (Happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.*

*But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually*

*meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night. And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].*

To be blessed means that you are happy. You are fortunate — the right doors open for you. People who don't understand God's favor on you might think that you are "lucky" because good things keep happening to you. You are prosperous, and you are enviable.

Blessings surround you because you have chosen not to follow the advice of the ungodly, or live the lifestyle of sinners, or cater to companions who scoff at righteousness. What a great salvation tool - to have people ask you why you are so blessed, and you get to tell them all that God has done for you and how they can be saved and experience the blessings of God in their life.

## **The Blessing Psalm**

All of us need to be reminded occasionally just how much we are blessed. I cannot think of any more beautiful blessing scripture than the 23rd Psalm. This one is so special, and so important in my life, because the night that God revealed Himself to me for the first time, I had thought I was being really spiritual when I opened my Bible and read the first verse of the 23rd Psalm.

I was scheduled for surgery and had dusted off my Bible and taken it to the hospital. I opened it,



and that was all I read - just one verse - and then closed my Bible. That is the night that God chose to reveal Himself personally to me, and I have never, ever been the same again!

As we read each of these beautiful blessings, I want you apply every blessing to yourself and speak a blessing confession.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

We do not ever have to want for anything. The Lord is likened to a shepherd, which means He has made himself absolutely responsible to provide everything we need for our entire life.

*He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul;*

Every once in a while, God gets my attention and He says, "I want you to lie down in the green pastures. You have been rushing around too much." Rest is one of God's blessings. Still waters represent a quiet place. While we are normally right in the middle of the stream of God's power and action, I praise the Lord that He also leads us beside the still waters where we can rest and recuperate. Rest can restore the soul.

*He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

We don't have to be confused when we come to a temptation or test; all we have to do is allow the Shepherd to lead us.

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me;*

I have been told by doctors not once but several times in my life that I was going to die. God's word prevailed in every instance. At 92, I am still excited about every single day of being able to do more for Jesus. But when I faced those reports, God took me through the valley of the shadow of death and proved that He was with me. When you are conscious of God's presence, you cannot be afraid!

*Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

The shepherd uses his rod to drive off wild, devouring beasts and his staff to gently guide his sheep along the right path. Using the word of God is like a shepherd using his weapon to drive away the enemy. God's word comforted me and energized my faith to drive off those devouring attacks on my body.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

We won't have any enemies in heaven. We are in the earth, where enemies can attack us. God said He will deliver us from every kind of enemy to our spirit, soul or body, plus He will provide a banquet of blessings right in front of those enemies!

*You anoint my head with oil;*

A chosen one was anointed with oil. We are God-chosen.

*My cup runs over.*

We are blessed because God doesn't just give us enough to barely get along in this life; He gives us more than enough, so we can be a blessing to others.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;*

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

The Amplified Bible states so beautifully what this Blessing Psalm provides that I want you to read it all the way through out loud.

Before each verse, say “I am blessed because...”

*The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack.*

*He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters.*

*He refreshes and restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him - not for my earning it, but] for His name’s sake.*

*Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my [brimming] cup runs over.*

*Surely (or) only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place.*

Glory to God! What other “religion” in the entire world can proclaim, as we do, every word of blessing in those verses? I have never understood how precious, lost souls can believe that a little fat idol or a cow or a monkey can bless them. Our God is a blessing God, and He is willing and more than able to bless us!

## **I Am Blessed Because I Am Forgiven!**

Psalm 103:3 in the Amplified states that we are blessed because God ...*forgives [every one of] all your iniquities*. God is a forgiving Father. In verse 12 it says, *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us*. There is only one thing that God can forget. ..and that is your sins.

Psalm 32:1, 2 says, *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit*. God doesn't keep a record of our sins or our failures.

In The Living Bible, Psalm 32 expresses the blessing of being forgiven and really brings that blessing to a personal level: *What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record*.

Have you ever experienced guilt? Guilt absolutely blocks your faith, because when you feel God always sees that ugly sin you committed, you feel ashamed, and you don't think you are worthy for Him to do anything for you. But when you go to God's word, you find out that the very moment you repented, God cleared your record!

Isaiah 1:18 can really liberate you, because it says, *though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be*

as *white as snow*. God will never hold any sin against you, no matter what it was.

What *happiness*, what *joy*, what *relief* to learn that in God's eyes you are not guilty!

## **Intimately and Overwhelmingly Blessed**

There is a psalm which never fails to minister to the innermost part of my being. Psalm 139:1-10 describes the passionate love God has for every single man, woman or child who belongs to Him:

*O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.*

*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.*

You are blessed because God has laid His hand upon you. In Bible times, when a father or a priest laid their hands on someone, that was a significant, lifelong blessing conveyed to that person. God has laid His own hand upon you to bless you.

There is no place you can go that you can flee from the presence of God. Even if you had wings to fly to the farthest shore of the farthest sea, you could not get away from God's watchful eye over you. His right hand will always be stretched out to you, to lead you, to draw you, to pull you into the sweetness of His presence. He will never let you get away from Him.

There is something else that is precious in that scripture. God knows you so intimately and is so personally involved in your life that not only does He know where you are and what you're doing, and where you are going to be tomorrow, but He understands you. He knows your innermost thoughts, your deepest concerns. He knows your hurts, your confusion, your goals and your victories. People pay fortunes to psychiatrists who really know nothing at all, compared to God's understanding of you. The difference is, along with His perfect understanding, God loves you!

What an incredible blessing for each of us to be able to say:

"The Creator of the universe knows me personally."

"God understands me, even my innermost thoughts."

"God knows where I've been and where I'm going."

"God has laid His hand upon me."

"God never lets me out of His sight."

"God always holds out His hand to lead me."

"God's right hand holds me."

Read the same verses in the Living Bible out loud, because this is your personal blessing from God:

*O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away, you know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say before I even say it. You both precede and follow me, and place your hand of blessing on my head.*

*This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe! I can never be lost to your Spirit! I can never get away from my God! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the place of the dead, you are there. If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, your strength will support me.*

As I am writing this, I am sitting here thinking about how blessed I am, and I am so overwhelmed with the incredible love of God that I can hardly stand it! I am blessed! You are blessed! What relationship, what fellowship can compare to what is offered to us by our loving heavenly Father? We are blessed!

## **Blessed With Strength for Battle**

Psalm 144 is a warring psalm. Life isn't always calm. To every believer there comes times of battle, whether it is from the enemy or sudden upheavals in our lives. God is all we need. He blesses us in those times with special power and strength.

*Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle - my loving kindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and the One in whom I take refuge.* Thank the Lord for his promises for trying times:

God is our immovable rock.

God gives us strength and skill in battle.

God is our fortress.

God is our tower of strength.

God is our safety.

God is our deliverer.

The Lord God stands before us as a shield.

In 2005, Charles and I were in the midst of planning for a glorious Healing Explosion which God had told us many years before would take place in the Astrodome. We never had so many things come against us at once in our entire life. At one point we were both in the hospital, flat on our backs. Even though we led doctors and nurses to Jesus and prayed for healing for lots of people, we wanted to get back home and back in the office. But instead of going home, we both were moved into a rehabilitation hospital to regain our strength.

We could have called the Healing Explosion off and said, "Well, we're just getting old, and I guess God can't use us anymore; let someone else do it." But God has shown us over and over that He is much bigger than our needs! We just had to press in and stand on the word of God. When we don't have the strength, the word of God promises that He is our tower of strength! He is our immovable rock! He is our deliverer!



We were both on the stage at that phenomenal Astrodome Healing Explosion, along with all our family, guest ministries from all over the world, and an auditorium filled with believers who swarmed out to lay hands on the sick like bees swarm to honey. God had given us a prophetic word, and when we needed help from heaven, He provided all the power we needed to stand firm until the manifestation of our victory! Miracles took place! Lives were changed! Ministries were birthed!

Psalm 18:1-2, 31-32 is another blessing for strength and power:

*I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

*For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect.”*

Proclaim your blessing!

## **Praise and Magnify God for His Incredible Love**

The blessings of God touch every part of our life and every need we could possibly have. Every blessing is simply an expression of His love. As we saw in Psalm 139, there is the intimate, gentle, cherishing love of God that makes us know we are valuable to Him. We read in Psalms and Isaiah about the complete forgiveness and wiping away of all of our sins that shows His compassion. Then, for those really challenging times in our life, there is

the authoritative, powerful, protective love which makes us ready for battle. Our hearts should be overflowing with praise for such immeasurable love and kindness and provision.

Psalm 145 is an example of an attitude of heartfelt thanksgiving and gratitude. In the Amplified, it says,

*I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever [with grateful, affectionate praise]. Every day [with its new reasons] will I bless You [affectionately and gratefully praise You]; yes, I will praise Your name forever and ever.*

Did you ever send someone a gift - a relative or a friend or someone in need — and they never bothered to respond? Did you keep wondering if they received their package, or if they appreciated what you had sent? Would you agree that a lack of response could rob you of some of the joy you had in blessing them, or even make you feel reluctant to bless them anymore?

On the other hand, did you ever do something nice for someone and they responded with such a sincere expression of gratitude that you couldn't wait to bless them again? I believe that God's nature is so generous and so giving that He would do absolutely anything in His power to bless someone who recognizes what He has done and is thankful.

There are new reasons every day to praise God! Psalm 145, in the Amplified, continues to speak of the kind and merciful nature of our loving God. Let

each verse prompt a real confession of thanksgiving!

8 *The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and loving-kindness.* Praise God because He is not mad at us!

9 *The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works [the entirety of things created].* Sometimes I just meditate on the fact that God is a good God and how blessed we are that He is so willing to cover us with unfailing tenderness and mercy.

14 *The Lord upholds all those [of His own] who are falling and raises up all those who are bowed down.* What a joy that when we are weak, God reaches out to help us and lifts us up out of our failures.

15 *The eyes of all wait for You [looking, watching, and expecting] and You give them their food in due season.* Praise God that we have plenty to eat and do not have to go hungry.

16 *You open Your hand and satisfy every living thing with favor.* God is not tight-fisted; He is generous! What a joy that He extends special favor not just to us but to all our household, and He desires to fill the entire world with his blessings.

17 *The Lord is [rigidly] righteous in all His ways and gracious and merciful in all His works.* We can trust and depend on a God who is perfectly righteous. We can be confident that He will never lie or disappoint us.

18 *The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him sincerely and in truth.* We

are never alone! God never fails to hear us when we call on Him!

19 *He will fulfill the desires of those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him; He also will hear their cry and will save them.* God is faithful to bless us when we worship Him.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus said, “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled*” (Matthew 5:6). One of the promises of God is that He will fulfill the hunger and thirst that you have for Him and His righteousness. That is exactly what God is going to do to you through this book. You are going to grow in faith, you are going to grow in your knowledge of the nature of God, and You are going to grow in gratitude and praise to Him for all of His blessings.

Psalm 146:1, in the Living Bible, says: *Praise the Lord! Yes, really praise him! I will praise him as long as I live, yes, even with my dying breath.* Let that be your lifelong confession!

It continues, *But happy is the man who has the God of Jacob as his helper, whose hope is in the Lord his God... He is the God who keeps every promise, and gives justice to the poor and oppressed, and food to the hungry. He frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind; he lifts the burdens from those bent down beneath their loads. For the Lord loves good men. He protects the immigrants, and cares for the orphans and widows. But he turns topsy-turvy the plans of the wicked.*

## Blessed With Spiritual Blessings

God made us with a body, a soul and a spirit. The previous pages concentrate on many of the blessings He has provided for our body and our soul, which is our thinking, our attitudes and our emotions. But we are spiritual beings, as well.

Once Jesus ascended into heaven, and the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, a whole new dimension of spiritual awakening took place. We are spiritually blessed beyond anything Adam or Isaiah or David could ever have imagined.

The book of Ephesians is what I often refer to as the *wild* book of the Bible. The promises in Ephesians are really earth shaking and almost beyond the scope of the human mind to understand.

Ephesians 1:3 says, *He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.* In the Living Bible, it says, *How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every blessing in heaven because we belong to Christ.* I love the Amplified, which points out the ministry of the Holy Spirit, saying, *Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual (Holy Spirit given) blessing in the heavenly realm!*

When I began to think about those words and what they promise, I couldn't wait to get every single one of those Holy Spirit blessings!

Verses 4-8 in the Living Bible are beautiful and life changing:

*Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in*

*his eyes, without a single fault - we who stand before him covered with his love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!*

*Now all praise to God for his wonderful kindness to us and his favor that he has poured out upon us, because we belong to his dearly loved Son. So overflowing is his kindness towards us that he took away all our sins through the blood of his Son, by whom we are saved; and he has showered down upon us the richness of his grace*

*- for how well he understands us and knows what is best for us at all times.*

It has always been amazing to me that God chose to make us faultless and holy by taking His sinless Son and transferring all of our sins onto Him, and then taking all of Jesus' virtue and transferring it to us. If you cannot visualize that in your head, picture two little test tubes, or two vials like you would see in a chemistry laboratory. One represents Jesus and the other represents you. One vial is absolutely pure and sinless. The other is murky and contaminated with all your sins. God took the sinless vial, which is Christ, and He dumped all of your nasty sins right into that vial. Then He filled you with the spotless purity of Christ. How we should always praise and glorify Him for such kindness and mercy.

One thing I love to do is make every promise in Ephesians personal, because it is so powerful. As we digest these verses, put your name in every

phrase and see what it does to you when you read your blessing out loud!

*Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose (put your name) to be his very own, through what Christ would do for (your name); he decided then to make (your name) holy in his eyes, without a single fault. I (your name) stand before God covered with His love. Just stop there for a moment and let the Spirit of God make that a living reality inside of you. If that were the only blessing in the entire Bible, it would be enough to praise God throughout all eternity!*

It is almost beyond the capabilities of my finite mind to understand that God in His love and His grace and His mercy was willing to choose me, and to make me holy in His eyes without a single fault. Today I stand before Him covered with His love. You are chosen; you are holy in His eyes without a single fault; you are standing before Him covered with His love. Doesn't this knowledge thrill you beyond the ability to express it in words?

*Verse 5 says, His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!*

Just think, God let Jesus die for us because He wanted to. Not because He had to, but because He wanted to.

## **A New Birth Certificate**

Verse 5 in the Amplified says, *For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for*

*us) to be adopted [revealed] as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will - because it pleased Him and was His kind intent.*

Whenever I think about anybody adopting somebody, or I think about us being adopted into the family of God, I probably understand it as well as anybody does, because of what happened in my marriage to Charles. When I married Charles, I had a sixteen-year-old daughter. The first thing that Charles said to me was, "I want to adopt Joan."

I said, "Well, you will have to ask Joan," because I felt the decision had to rest with her.

One of the most exciting things that ever happened in Joan's life was when Charles Hunter said to her, "I want to adopt you." He did not have to adopt her, but he said, "I want to adopt you."

Joan came to Houston about a month after Charles and I were married, because she wanted to finish her term of school in Miami where we lived at that time. She then arrived in Houston; and Charles wanted so badly for Joan to be his own daughter that we immediately made an appointment with a judge in the Courthouse downtown. Before Joan ever got to see or meet anybody in the Houston area, we stood before a judge, and her name was changed to Joan Hunter.

Even though that happened forty years ago, I still cannot share that story without remembering the love that Charles felt. He said, "I do not want Joan ever to be known as anybody except my very own."



In the state of Texas, you have to be a resident for six months before an adoption can go through; and at the end of six months, we went to Court again. The Court had investigated us and decided that Charles was a proper father for Joan, so the adoption was granted. Once adopted into Charles' family, by Texas law, she has every right and every privilege and every honor of being Charles' daughter; and everything that belongs to Charles Hunter also belongs to Joan.

In Texas, once they finalize the adoption, the original birth certificate, which shows the name of Joan's natural father, is buried. It is under lock and key, and the only person who can ever get that certificate out is Joan, herself. Even I cannot get her original birth certificate. Her legal birth certificate shows: Mother — Frances Hunter; Father — Charles Hunter. I think that is really incredible, because I did not even know Charles when Joan was born; but her birth certificate has as her natural father, Charles Edward Hunter.

Charles is now Joan's father. Everything he has belongs to Joan, because he chose to make her his very own. He did not have to; he chose because he wanted to. Now you can understand the love of God when He chose to adopt you. God did not have to choose me, and God did not have to choose you. God chose us because He wanted to.

However, there was another condition to the adoption process of God adopting each of us - He had to allow Jesus to die, so that precious blood would make the adoption complete. *Overflowing in his kindness towards us that he took away all our*

*sins through the blood of his Son, by whom we are saved (Ephesians 1: 7).*

Did you ever try to total up all the things that have ever been sin in your life, and then consider the fact that God took them all away. I would never want to try and list everything that He has forgiven me for - the list would be so long it would be depressing.

How can we possibly understand the fullness of such love and such kindness toward us, that God removed all of our sins through the blood of his own Son, so we could be His. The blood of Jesus wrote us a new Birth Certificate.

## **Showers of Blessings**

The first chapter of Ephesians has such revelation of the love of God for us that it is beyond one's ability to describe. What confidence we can have in such a Father. God never intended to be distant and impersonal. His desire was intimacy with his family. From the very beginning, knowing man would be unable to live a sinless life, He planned for the blood of Jesus to make that intimate fellowship once again possible.

Verse 8 says, *And he has showered down upon us the richness of his grace - for how well he understands us and knows what is best for us at all times.*

Grace can be likened to God's kindness, good will, or favor. Isn't it wonderful to have the good will of God to help you through every situation in your life?

God doesn't measure out his grace with a teaspoon. Ephesians says that He showers upon us the *richness* of his grace. Rich means plenty, doesn't it? When God showers down his grace upon you, you are completely saturated!

As a child walking home from school, sometimes the sky, which in the morning was bright and sunny, would darken with clouds in the afternoon. Then the thunder would roll, and there I would be, caught without my raincoat or umbrella. I would arrive home drenched to the bone - socks shoes, everything! The showers of grace that God pours upon us are intended to soak us! His grace will lift you above the things of this world.

Verse 8 continues, *For how well he understands us and knows what is best for us at all times*. Isn't it exciting to know how well God understands you? Isn't this a beautiful picture of someone who really cares deeply about you? Only someone who is genuinely interested in and who is capable of understanding every single facet of your life, can know exactly what is best for you.

Haven't you wondered at times, in this situation or that situation, what would be the best thing for you? And then you dilly-dallied back and forth trying to make up your mind. I am blessed, and you are blessed, because God knows what is the very best of all options for everything that concerns us. All we have got to do is walk with Him moment by moment, and the best will become reality.

The apostle Paul had to be totally in the Holy Spirit when he wrote to the Ephesians, because no

human mind could have expressed so fully the heart of God towards his children.

Did you ever wonder what God's reason was for sending Christ? We know that the blood of Jesus was shed to provide forgiveness of our sins. We know God wanted to adopt us into His family because of His great love for us. But that wasn't the end of God's plan! Verses 9 and 10 tell us even more:

*God has told us his secret reason for sending Christ, a plan he decided on in mercy long ago; and this was his purpose: that when the time is ripe he will gather us all together from wherever we are - in heaven or on earth - to be with him in Christ, forever.*

No more night or day! No more time pressures to worry about! No cares! What a joy to look forward to - the privilege of being with Him in heaven for eternity!

Verse 11 says, *Moreover, because of what Christ has done we have become gifts to God that he delights in, for as part of God's sovereign plan we were chosen from the beginning to be his, and all things happen just as he decided long ago.*

I will have to be honest with you. I cannot think of anything about me that God might want as a gift. Yet, His word says that, because of what Christ has done, Frances Hunter has become a gift to God that He delights in. Put your name in there! Since God's word says that you became a gift to God, this is a wonderful promise you can claim.

If that promise doesn't blow your mind, just look at what verse 18 says (TLB):

*I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share. I want you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ's have been given to him!*

This is a blessing of God that is totally beyond my comprehension. But, you don't have to understand it; just accept it. God has been made rich because you belong to Christ and you have been given to Him. When I first considered that verse, all I could think of was, "God, how could You be made rich because of me?" What incredible love that, when we were living in sin, God missed us so much, and He wanted us so much, that once we accepted Jesus and were adopted into God's family, He felt that He became rich. I feel that it is we who became rich. But God says that He became rich! Even though we are not capable of understanding such mercy, we can joyfully accept it!

Glory to God for His spiritual blessings. Adoption into the family of God with all rights and privileges is just the beginning. Showers of grace which make us gifts to God is almost beyond comprehension. The depth of God's understanding for each of us and His desire to work out for us his very best plan are far beyond human ability. Our entrance into God's family making the Creator of the entire universe rich — all I can do is thank and praise God for all He has considered and prepared for each one of us.

## **Raised Up From Spiritual Death**

Once in a while we tend to forget what we were before we met Jesus. Not everyone has the same background, but we all have been sinners of one kind or another. I do not believe that, in God's eyes, one sin is worse than another. While some people are wicked in the world's eyes through drinking, drugs and carousing around, others are equally wicked in God's eyes because of their critical attitude, their inability to tell the truth, or many other "little Christian sins." The Bible says that we all started out the same - separated from God by our sinful nature.

Ephesians 2:4-6 in the Living Bible says, *But God is so rich in mercy; he loved us so much that even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, he gave us back our lives again when he raised Christ from the dead - only by his undeserved favor have we ever been saved - and lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ where we sit with him in the heavenly realms - all because of what Christ Jesus did.*

The Amplified says that *we were dead [slain] by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses.* You see, sin is sin, whether we regard it as murder, lying, or shortcomings — any failure to live a life of godly perfection. We can never forget where we came from because, no matter how saintly we thought we were, until we were covered by the blood of Jesus, we were dead in our sin. There was not hope for us. And then, to think that God saw us in our spiritually dead state, and the moment we were saved, He lifted us right up to sit alongside of Him and Jesus! Even though we are in this world,

we are not of this world. We sit in the heavenly realm day by day. Whoever thought life could be this fabulous!

## His Power Within You

There are so many glorious blessing promises of God that we could just go for days and days on a spiritual feast and forget all about physical food, couldn't we? These spiritual blessings are so exciting that I want you to meditate on them over and over, because they really will explode in your spirit when you get to truly understand what God has done for you.

Ephesians 3:17-21 is so exciting that the first time I ever read this passage, I wrote "WOW" alongside of it. That is how I felt then; and today this is still a "WOW" scripture for me. One of the first things that God said to me through His Holy Word was that He wanted to live in and through me. I often wondered how God could want to live in and through such an imperfect vessel as I am, but His word says so, and I believe it because He said it. The Living Bible says:

*And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. Colossians 1:27 refers to Christ in you, the hope of glory. Jesus is in you. You don't have to struggle. The Lord lives in you.*

*May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it.*



Say this amazing blessing!

“I am blessed because God’s presence is not just with me — He is present within me! I am blessed because my spiritual roots are growing right down into the soil of God’s marvelous love. I am blessed that God’s love for me is so great it can’t be measured. I am blessed that I will never see the end of God’s love for me!”

Ephesians 3:19 gives us the incredible promise: *And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.*

Put your name right into that promise. *And so at last, (your name) will be filled up with God himself.*

The first time I put my name in that scripture, I found it impossible to comprehend that the God who created the universe, the God who hung the stars in place, the God who was and is all in all, promised Frances Hunter that one day I would be filled up all the way to the top with God Himself! Who would dare to ask for such a thing? But it was God’s own idea. You don’t have to understand why, or how. God has a desire to fill each one of us up and He will one day do it!

*Now glory be to God who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of - in finitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes. May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the church through Jesus Christ.*

WOW! I cannot imagine the full implications of this promise. God’s presence within you means

God's power is within you! Put your name in that scripture:

*Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within (your name) is able to do far more than (your name) would ever dare to ask or even dream of.* God is able to do through each and every one of us more than our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes!

We are limited in our natural self; our own natural abilities are insufficient to do much good for the Lord. But God chose us to do great and mighty things. He provides supernatural power working through us, so that He can accomplish, through his very own children, far more than our limited desires and hopes and abilities could ever accomplish.

There was a little boy brought to our service who was so severely crippled with cerebral palsy that he had never walked in his life. There was absolutely nothing that Charles or Frances Hunter could do for that little boy. But I held him in my arms and asked the power of God to go through me into his body to heal him and make him totally well.

I have to be honest with you. The day I held Jeffie in my arms in Louisville, Kentucky, I knew it would have to be God, because this was far beyond what I could have dared to dream of. When I asked God to send His power through me into this child's body, I put him down on his feet and said, "Jeffie, run in Jesus' name!" Jeffie's legs began to move, and he ran all the way to the end of the church as fast as he could. Not only did he receive the power to run, but he also began to grow normally, and

even his shoe size increased 3 sizes in the next year!  
Glory to God!

The book of Colossians is one of the most exciting books in the Bible, because many of the truths — the real nitty-gritty secrets — of Christian living are provided for us, so that we can apply those truths to our lives. Colossians 1:9-10 is a passage that is an insightful prayer for believers. In the Living Bible, it says:

*So ever since we first heard about you we have kept on praying and asking God to help you understand what he wants you to do; asking him to make you wise about spiritual things; and asking that the way you live will always please the Lord and honor him, so that you will always be doing good, kind things for others, while all the time you are learning to know God better and better.*

Do you believe God is able to answer that prayer for you? I do! If you are willing to soak up

His word and apply what you learn to your life, say this:

“I am blessed because God helps me understand what He wants me to do.

“I am blessed because God makes me wise about spiritual things.

“I am blessed because my heart’s desire is to please and honor the Lord.

“I am blessed because God gives me opportunities to bless others.

“I am blessed because I am learning to know God better and better.”

## At Peace With God

People in the world who are not Christians are trying constantly to appease whatever god they believe in. They are taught that they are like worms in the dirt, and their god is out to get them, unless they do things to make him, or it, happy. They go through ritual after ritual, but they never arrive at true peace.

Colossians 1:20-23 in the Living Bible is especially clear on the perfect peace that Jesus' shed blood provides for us:

*It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to come to him - all things in heaven and on earth - for Christ's death on the cross has made peace with God for all by his blood. This includes you who were once so far away from God.*

Isn't it incredible to think that, in spite of all our fumbling around and messing up over and over in our lives, God Himself cleared a path for everything, for everyone, to come to Him? We, who once ran from God, now have peace with God.

*You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through the death on the cross of his own human body, and now as a result Christ has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are standing there before him with nothing left against you - nothing left that he could even chide you for; this is the wonderful news that came to each of you and is now spreading all over the world.*

Just picture in your mind that, because of Jesus offering his own human body, regardless of what you have done, He has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are standing there with nothing left against you that He could even chide you for. No one likes to get chided, do they? Even when we deserve it, and we think we are going to get reprimanded, we shrink down and want to disappear, don't we? Isn't it a relief to know that, no matter what, God holds absolutely nothing against you and He's not going to scold you!

There is a condition, however. All of God's blessings have conditions, and this one is a strict but exciting one. Verse 23 says,

*The only condition is that you fully believe the Truth, standing in it steadfast and firm, strong in the Lord, convinced of the Good News that Jesus died for you, and never shifting from trusting him to save you.*

The secret of becoming a friend of God, standing in His presence, unafraid of punishment, is that you fully believe His word, that you remain steadfast in your faith in Him, and that you don't shift or vary from your commitment to Him. Sand shifts. You have seen it blown in the wind and completely disappear. Jesus said that a Christian is to be founded so firmly in the word of God that he never shifts; he builds his life on the rock of God's word and does not waver.

Paul then says, *And I, Paul, have the joy of telling it to others.* You are blessed because you have the joy of sharing this Good News of Jesus.

Your peace with God enables you to share that peace with those who have no peace.

## Secrets for No More Struggling

So often, I have been surprised to find out that many people who have walked the Christian road for years and years have struggled for victory. They have never discovered the very simple secret to a successful Christian life — that Christ lives in you, not around you, not up in heaven, but actually lives in and through you, as He does His work today in a body called Charles, Frances, Mary, James, Joan and *you*.

Colossians 1:26, 27 (TLB) says, *He has kept this secret for centuries and generations past, but now at last it has pleased him to tell it to those who love him and live for him, and the riches and glory of his plan are for you Gentiles too. And this is the secret: that Christ in your hearts is your only hope of glory.* The New King James says, *...Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

The secret of being born again is to know that you know that you know that Jesus Christ is living in you. The minute that you are totally and completely aware and sold on the fact that Jesus lives *in you*, then you are going to be blessed, blessed, blessed, because you will believe that He can also work *through you*.

Verse 28 and 29 tell what we are to do with this wondrous knowledge that Christ lives in us, and how we can do it. The Living Bible says, *So everywhere we go we talk about Christ to all who*

*will listen, warning them and teaching them as well as we know how. We want to be able to present each one to God, perfect because of what Christ has done for each of them. This is my work, and I can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within me.*

This mighty energy will work to give supernatural refreshing to your body when you are using your body to glorify Christ. Wherever Charles and I go, we talk about Christ to everybody who will listen, and we can do it only because of the marvelous energy of Jesus working within us. Many times, we have come close to being totally exhausted, but then we are blessed when we minister to someone, and the mighty energy of Jesus flows through us again.

The mighty energy of Jesus works in you physically, and it works in you spiritually. His energy is in you to help you live the Christian life without struggling, up one day and down the next, sinning one day, repenting the next. He lives in you so that the life you live will be a witness to everyone all around you who doesn't know Christ yet. His mighty energy working within you is what will cause people to listen to the Gospel message you are sharing with them.

Colossians 2:6, in the Living Bible, tells us another secret for our daily walk with Him: *And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and*

*vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done.*

The Bible speaks of plants and roots many times. It is so simple to understand what a plant needs in order to grow strong and productive: good soil, pure water, and absence of weeds which would draw away its strength. Jesus said that He is living water. He is the vine, and we are the branches. If we are in vital union with him, we don't struggle; we just receive His strength flowing into us. If our roots grow into the rich soil of His word, we draw up the spiritual nutrition that we need for each day's problems. Weeds are the cares of the world. If we live in vital union with Him, the cares of the world don't overwhelm us.

Verse 7 ended with: *Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done.* This is one of the most powerful secrets to a life of victory.

Have you ever noticed that the Christians you want most to be around are those who have a spirit of joy and thanksgiving? I believe every Christian should be overflowing with joy. In reading through these pages and proclaiming all the blessing promises, your heart and your mouth should literally be bursting with joy and thanksgiving.

A victorious Christian life does not mean a life without problems. But, what a difference it makes when you have the answer before you have the problems!

When I was in school, I made tremendous grades in math. I never cared how many problems



there were on the math test because I always had the answer. However, when the test was in history, I didn't do as well, because history was not one of my best subjects, and I did not always have the answers in history.

I heard someone once say, "Jesus is the answer; what is your problem?" You are not in such deep trouble if you have the answer before you ever get the problem. Problems come. But they will not get you down as long as you remember that you really have the answer.

Another secret to a solid, joyful Christian life is avoiding the confusion of others who do not get their answers from the word of God. Colossians 2:8 (TLB) says, *Don't let others spoil your faith and joy with their philosophies, their wrong and shallow answers built on men's thoughts and ideas, instead of on what Christ has said.*

In the beginning stages of my Christian life, there were many who said, "Oh, I was that enthused when I first got saved, but you will get over it." They did not understand what happened to me. When I got saved, I knew that I knew I was a new creature in Christ. Many people thought the tremendous enthusiasm I had when I met Jesus would pass away before long or wear off. But, I fall more deeply in love with Him every year, and I am far more enthusiastic today than when I accepted Christ as my Savior. Today I know much more than I did yesterday. No wonder I love Him so much more today.

People told me I was too happy. Someone actually said to me, "You can't be a real Christian,

and it can't be genuine, because you are too happy.” However, the more I got into the word of God, the more I discovered to be happy about! There is joy, joy, joy and there are blessings, blessings, and more blessings in the Christian life. Over and over, Jesus mentions the fact that He wants our cup of joy to overflow. As a matter of fact, the word *joy* appears in the Bible one hundred sixty-four times!

Don't let anyone rob you.

## **Filled With God**

God wants us to really get hold of the fact that when we are born again, something beyond human explanation happens. It's all God, and it's all about us. Colossians 2:10, in the Living Bible, says, *So you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power.*

Do you truly believe that you have everything when you have Christ? If you really believe the Bible is true, how could you help but stay on a mountain top with this type of information, which is given to you directly by God Himself. If you ever took a course on logic, you would go right through the ceiling when you grasp the fullness of this passage. First, Christ is in you. Then, you are filled with God. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power.

Thus, you are filled with authority over every other power. Glory to God! The devil can't touch you. The devil can't make you sin. The devil can't

control your life. Christ, the highest Ruler over every other power lives in you, abides in you, and God fills you. All the devil can do is run, run, run away from you.

Philippians 1:6 is a glorious promise that every one of us should just shout praise and thanks to God for putting it in the Bible: *Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.* The Amplified adds: - *right up to the time of His return - developing [that good work] and perfecting it and bringing it to full completion.*

Are we not blessed to have such reassurance that God knows we are going to need His help right up until His plan for us is finished. He is not going to let us go out and flounder in the world again. He is absolutely committed to us, to help us grow until His work in us is completed or until Jesus returns, and then we will be perfected.

Philippians 2:13 goes right along with God's promise to complete His work in you. *For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

Praise God that He knows we can't really obey Him without the "want to," and He even helps us by putting the "want to" inside us!

Philippians 4:6 is another blessing promise that will absolutely save a lot of people from an early grave, if they will apply what the word of God says.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of*

*God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

The number one health problem today is anxiety. Stress. Worry. People develop heart problems, digestive problems, immune problems, cancer, arthritis, and we could go on and on, because of stress. The Living Bible says, *Don't worry about anything...pray...and thank him for his answers.* I wonder how many people would be living physically healthy lives today if they took this prescription daily before they worried themselves into ulcers or high blood pressure or many other problems. Don't worry. Pray. Thank Him now.

Philippians 4:13 says, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* The Amplified says, *I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me - I am ready for anything and equal to anything...*

There have been many times when I felt so tired that I thought I could not possibly go on any longer. There have been many times when Charles' and my schedule was so grueling that I felt, in the natural, there was no way I could stay on my feet for another service. Yet, the minute we stood up in front of a congregation, the anointing of God fell, and there was no doubt whatsoever that we could do everything God asked us to do. Why? Because of the help of Christ who gives us the strength and power we need for the task before us. God never asks you to do more than He will give you the strength and the power to do.

## **Provision for Us to Receive Our Blessings**

Isn't it incredible that when God provided for our salvation, He also planned for all the spiritual gifts and power that we would need for the rest of our lives? You and I have so many blessings that we really need to keep the word of God before us, so that we don't miss out on anything. The devil takes advantage of spiritual ignorance. We have to know and claim our blessing promises, and then we have to resist the devil, because his worst nightmare is a Holy Spirit-filled Christian who knows who they are in Christ Jesus and who knows how to apply all the authority and power available through Jesus living in them.

I Corinthians 1:7 says, *So that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.* God has provided all we need to not fall short or lacking of anything we need to live victoriously until Jesus returns. The Living Bible says, *Now you have every grace and blessing; every spiritual gift and power for doing His will are yours during this time of waiting for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Doing the will of God is what releases the blessings in our life. Just think what love He has bestowed on us, for God has provided every spiritual gift and power so that we can do His will, and so we will not fail to receive everything He has for us. There is a divine grace which operates in your soul by the Holy Spirit. That divine grace is

like a little antenna in your soul, constantly receiving signals through the Holy Spirit, to quicken and alert you and keep you fully capable of obeying God. Not just a little power is promised, but ever-present spiritual power and every spiritual gift that you need are yours. For everything God plans to give you, and for everything He will ever ask you to do, He has already made provision for you to succeed and not fail.

## **Escaping Temptation's Power**

Have you ever had something happen to you and you think, "Oh! I am the only one in the world who ever gets plagued like this; I am the only Christian in the world who ever has wrong desires in my heart. Why can't I quit having those desires?"

Many others have faced exactly the same problems that you are facing. Christians are not immune from temptations. But no temptation is irresistible. You have a choice, and you can choose to trust God to provide the way of escape for you. In some cases, He gives you power within yourself from the Holy Spirit. In other cases, He may actually tell you to get away from the influence that is hounding you, to simply run in the other direction and close the door behind you. The key is, you have to want to be free of that problem. Then God can help you, and He promised that He would do it.

I Corinthians 10:13 says, *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the*

*temptation will also make the way of escape, that you maybe able to bear it.*

The Amplified explains more specifically that when you go through a temptation, *He will [always] also provide the way out - the means of escape to a landing place - that you may be capable and strong and powerful patiently to bear up under it.*

To *bear up under it* does not mean to “put up with it.” To *bear up* in this context means to “not give in.” When you are plagued with a wrong thought or desire, God is faithful to help you to resist the power of that desire, if you run *to* Him and not *from* Him. You are blessed because you can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong within you that you cannot stand up against it.

Remember who lives inside of you. Christ lives in you. It is not Jesus who is tempted; it is your flesh. Your flesh has to do what you tell it to, in Jesus’ name. You have the ability to command your thoughts to line up with the word of God that you feed on and put into your heart. That is why it is so important to soak up the word of God, because the word has power for you to overcome every type of situation you will ever encounter.

God is faithful. He knows what you need to overcome in order to grow stronger spiritually. He will show you what to do to escape temptation’s power. You can relax.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

When you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are immediately a brand new person in God's eyes. It doesn't take six months or five years, or even until the day you are baptized. You are transformed instantly. Your dead spirit is made alive. The blood of Christ has washed you clean. Jesus has begun to make His abode in your heart.

The Amplified says, *Therefore if any person is (ingrafted) in Christ, the Messiah, he is (a new creature altogether,) a new creation; the old (previous moral and spiritual condition) has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!*

Did you ever see a tree that has had a little twig grafted into it? That little twig is fitted into a slit in the trunk of a strong, adult tree. As time passes, the twig grows into a little limb, and then into a branch, and you cannot tell that it was ever grafted into the older tree — it has become a part of it. We have been grafted into Christ, the Messiah. Oh, praise the Lord. That's how we are a new creation. We have been grafted into the Lord Jesus Christ, and as we grow into Him and become a part of Him, the day will come when no one will remember that we were ever not a part of Him.

Those old plaguing thoughts, those wrongful desires, will pass away. We are grafted into one who is stronger than we are, and He is faithful to provide all we need so that all things become new. Instead of irritation and frustration, there will be peace; instead of hate, there will be love; instead of misery, there will be joy; instead of impatience, there will be patience and understanding. While we are overcoming the negative forces of our flesh, we



are growing in the positive forces of the nature of Christ in us.

## **That Old Sinful Nature is Dead**

When you accept the Truth, the Truth sets you free. Your life is a new creation. Old things are passed away. This miracle happens to your dead, sinful spirit immediately when you accept Jesus and turn your life over to Him. But your flesh is a different matter. Your flesh, over the course of time, grew accustomed to that old sinful nature, and this is why soaking yourself in the word of God - reading, hearing, and speaking — is vital to retraining the flesh and getting total freedom in that area.

I Peter 2:16 says, (You are) *...free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God*. In those days, there were thousands of laws put upon the Jews. The Ten Commandments were God's original laws, but the Pharisees interpreted the Law in such a way that there were so many restrictions and requirements and consequences that it was impossible for anyone to keep all of them. Peter had to guide them with sound advice and let them know that, although they were free from the worrisome burden of all those laws, they were not free to continue in sin.

Some people really get confused when they are born again. They think, "Oh, I am saved now, I can just keep on sinning." No! God has forgiven the sinful nature, and covered you with the blood of Jesus. But that does not mean you are free to do

wrong. As we stressed earlier, you are free from bondage, and you are free from the power of sin over you.

The Bible says that in the end times, even the elect (those who are saved) are going to be deceived and succumb to the enticement of Satan. The same spirit which made you free, also keeps you from wanting to do wrong. We do not have to bow down to our old, sinful nature and do what Satan wants us to. When the devil comes around and reminds you of some of the things that you used to do, and he makes it so enticing, you do not have to bow to Satan. You do not have to bow to that old sinful nature ever again.

In Galatians 5:1 & 13, Paul realized the people needed to know they were free from the bondage of the Law, but to be careful to not use that liberty as an excuse to start sinning again. It says, *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

If you obey Jesus by loving God first and then loving your neighbor as you love yourself, you are not going to sin against anyone. If you serve one another in love, you are not going to want to do anything to hurt them. You want to be a blessing to them.

If you are having trouble with your flesh, speak the authority of God's word over it. Your flesh will obey the word of God when you speak it and mean it.

## Calling and Promotion

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 tells why God has made us new creatures and why He is willing to help us to overcome all of the old life as we begin our new life in Him.

*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

God's plan for us is far beyond what we could think or imagine. Not only does He want our lives to become brand new, fruitful and prosperous, but He has an important assignment for us. He needs ambassadors. What a promotion - from sinner to ambassador!

An ambassador is a representative. A United States ambassador represents the United States of America wherever they go throughout the world. They are chosen carefully, because what they say and how they conduct themselves could mean blessing or disaster for our nation.

You and I are representatives of Jesus Christ. We are ambassadors for Him to the world. It is important that we deal with our flesh, overcome those former temptations, and learn to trust and obey the Lord for every detail of our lives so that we represent Jesus with honor wherever we go. The first impression someone has of us is what will remain with them. The lost person will judge Christians by the way we conduct ourselves.

Let's be conscientious of our promotion. Thank God that He is confident in you enough to make you an ambassador for Jesus. You are blessed to be able to represent Jesus honorably wherever you go, to whomever you meet.

## **The Rewards Are Yours**

One of the most beautiful of all the blessing scriptures is Matthew 6:33. Jesus' followers had many concerns just like our own concerns. The Lord answered them,

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

What does it mean to seek the kingdom of God? Are we to go around wandering aimlessly, hoping we will run into the kingdom of God somewhere? The Amplified Bible gives a little more interpretation that helps us to understand what Jesus said.

*But seek for (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom, and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right], and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.*

We will successfully seek and find the kingdom of God if we obey His Word. I keep going back to the necessity of spending times of spiritual feasting on the word of God, because the more of His word that you put into your heart, the easier your Christian life will become, and the better ambassador you will be for Him.

When you seek God's righteousness, that is learning His way of doing things, He is going to be pleased; and when parents are pleased, they reward their children, don't they? God is no different in his attitude towards His children than an earthly parent, except that He is faultless and much more compassionate and merciful than any of us could ever be. I believe He is always looking for ways to reward His children, because He loves us so much.

When I first became a Christian, I started ministering right away, and God kept me busy. I started a home fellowship, wrote a book, and soon had speaking dates all over the place because I wanted to tell everyone on the planet about Jesus. I was so totally committed to the Lord, and I was so sold out, that I felt God had really called me to remain single and to be an evangelist and to travel all over the world.

Then I met Charles Hunter. Charles and I were brought together by the Holy Spirit, and we both knew it beyond a shadow of a doubt. But I did not understand at all how God could possibly give me a husband. The first scripture God put in my heart was Matthew 6:33. He said, "Because you have sought first My kingdom and My righteousness, all these things, including Charles, are going to be added unto you."

God not only gave me the most wonderful, exciting and loving husband in the entire world, but gave us a ministry together that was beyond our wildest dreams. Because both Charles and I were completely sold out to God, He multiplied our power and effectiveness in ministering to people all

over the world. He gave me more than I could have asked or hoped for.

Do you want a husband? Put God first in your life. Do you want a promotion in your job? Put God first in your life. Do you want friends? Seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness. God will meet all of your needs on any level, because He can't wait to reward his children for learning His way of doing things and then putting it into action.

Everybody has financial responsibilities. Sometimes they can seem to get overwhelming, and that is when we really need to learn how God can bless us. When I was born again, the first place that God "got me" was my pocketbook, because He told me that the devil had controlled my money long enough and now He wanted it. I had not been taught the word of God on giving, and I did not understand the principles of God at all. I gave because I wanted to and because I wanted to be obedient to Him. I had fallen so in love with God that I did not want anything for myself. I wanted everything for Him.

I gave and gave and gave. Giving was an expression of love and praise for all God had done for me. Unknowingly, I tapped into one of the greatest truths in the Bible. God gave back to me so generously that I had to turn around and give it back to Him, and then He gave back to me, in accordance with His word. We have had a running battle all of the years I have been a Christian, and I have never been able to out-give Him!

In Luke 6:38 Jesus says, *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your*

*bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

God returns to us using the same measure that we use to give to Him. If we are generous, then He, by His word, has to be generous with us. This not only applies to money; it applies to your whole self. If you give yourself to God, then He, by His word, has to give Himself back to you. He gives you His nature, His presence, His power, plus His bounty, with the measure that you give yourself to Him. I feel that I certainly have the best end of that trade. How about you? Claim your reward now.

There is a tremendous reward for giving yourself — your time, your will, your trust, your obedience - to God. God doesn't just look at your checkbook; He is touched by all of your giving in any way, when it is from your heart and soul.

Jesus says in Matthew 19:29, *"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."*

Notice that it says "or" and not "and" between each of the things that are given up, or made to be less in importance than God in your life. The scripture doesn't say everyone needs to give up all of these things; it just means you have to be willing to.

Many people think the hundredfold is just referring to money. I have personally heard many testimonies of the hundredfold return of a love offering coming back in the form of money. But there could also be a hundredfold return in many

other ways that God will determine with His divine wisdom. Also, notice, the promise is for *everyone*, not just a few here and there. God cherishes your desire to put Him above all others, and He is going to be faithful to reward you. I believe He has angels on assignment going here and there to do amazing things on your behalf.

## **The Blessing of Authority**

Jesus said to the disciples in Luke 10:19, “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

What does the enemy do? Jesus said that “*the thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy*” (John 10:10). Once you are aware of the authority that Jesus has given to you, and you exercise that authority in His Name, no longer does the enemy have any power over you. He can’t steal from you; he can’t kill you; he can’t destroy you. Tell the devil who you are in Christ. Put your authority into action.

## **Prosperity of the Soul**

The Word of God is the only thing that can feed your soul. Physical food won’t do a thing for your soul. Money won’t do a thing for your soul. You can be busy with all kinds of activities — singing in the choir, praying with others, going out witnessing



- and these activities, as good as they are, will not feed your soul. Nothing replaces getting into the Word of God. Romans 10:17 says, *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.* The more you get to know God's Word, and the more you say God's Word aloud and confess your blessings in Him, the more faith you are going to have.

John 7:37-38 says, *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

I want you to notice something in the Amplified. It says, *Now on the final and most important day of the feast, Jesus stood forth and He cried in a loud voice, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!"*

Most people think of Jesus as being a quiet, soft-spoken man. He was both gentle and compassionate. But there were times when he made a loud noise with strong authority, so that people would pay attention. Jesus saw throngs of spiritually thirsty people at that feast who didn't know they could receive everything they needed if they would just turn to the One who offered living water. Jesus loved them. He cried out, calling them, yearning for them to pay attention and believe on Him, to trust Him and to rely on Him.

Jesus said that rivers, ever fresh springs of living water, are going to flow through those who are thirsty and will believe on Him. That doesn't mean just a drop or two, or a little in the beginning and no more ever again, but a constant flow of

living water which is the life of God in man. Stay thirsty! Don't go through a desert in your life and forget that rivers of living water are available for you to draw from. Feast on the word of God and those springs of water will keep you refreshed and able to go through every circumstance with a flood of supernatural power.

Jesus loved the people who were wandering about as if they were in a daze, looking for something, they knew not what. He likened them to sheep without a shepherd. He wanted so much to become their shepherd that His heart ached with longing.

John 8:12 says, *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

Have you ever felt you were stumbling around in the darkness? You don't have to anymore. Jesus will light your way before you. You don't have to do it on your own. He will guide you with living light.

One year, Charles and I used this scripture on our Christmas cards, because it gives such a hopeful promise to the world. Jesus is ready and anticipating flooding the entire world with His glorious light. Claim His light and walk in it now.

## **Blessed to be Jesus' Disciple**

Do you know it is a blessing to live as Jesus instructed? John 8:31-32 says, *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My*

*word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

The Living Bible says, “*You are truly my disciples if you live as I tell you to...*”

What an honor to be Jesus’ disciple! He makes no distinction between John, Peter, and James, Frances, Charles, Tom, and *You*. He only makes a distinction between those who are truly His disciples, and those who are not. The condition is what Jesus emphasized: *Abide in My word; live as I tell you to*. When we do those things, the truth will set us free from every single doubt, every single fear, every type of bondage, and every temptation to sin.

I love verse 36 in the Amplified: *So if the Son liberates you - makes you free men - then you are really and unquestionably free*. It is only when you know the truth about Jesus and obey Him that you are completely, totally and positively and unquestionably free.

When the truth sets you completely free, you are also free from death! Jesus said in John 8:51, “*Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.*” This is the greatest hope of the Christian life. This is the hope that everyone on this planet needs to hear! The Amplified is absolutely beautiful in stating this promise: *I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if any one observes My teaching - lives in accordance with My message, keeps My word - he will by no means ever see and experience death.*

Every believer is a three part being — you are a spirit, you have a soul, you live in a body. The real

you is your spirit and your soul. Jesus is speaking of the real you, which will never die. What a completely satisfying promise. What fear does death hold when we know that all it takes is obedience to have eternal life?

Praise God for our future! We are blessed because we will never die. We are blessed because when our body is no longer needful, we will leap out of it, and our spirit and soul will be immediately with Jesus. Praise God for eternal life!

## **Perfect Peace**

One of the most beautiful blessings that is so needful and so powerful in the modern day world with all of its pressures is in John 14:27. Jesus said, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.”*

I remember learning, as a student in school, the words of Patrick Henry who said, “Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace - but there is no peace.” In other words, people, even world leaders, will say there is going to be peace: Peace between nations. Peace in our homes. Peace in our schools. Men can only make human promises. Human promises fail, because not all humans agree. But Jesus gives to every single believer His peace, not the false peace that anyone or anything in the world may offer.

Perfect peace of mind and heart is a precious treasure. We can live without frustration and fear. We can live without worry about tomorrow.

The Amplified translates this verse so beautifully: *Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid - stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.*

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

Fear and stress and worry will cause a sound mind to become unsound. The body will also become affected and weaken the immune system that God gave us. Stop allowing those negative forces of fear and agitation and anxiety to rob you. Right now, accept the blessing that Jesus bequeathed to you! When someone mentions you in a will and bequeaths something to you, that means what they left to you is yours permanently. It belongs to you. Nothing can take it away unless you willingly give it up. You own peace because Jesus gave it to you permanently.

1 Peter 5:7 says, *Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.* In the Amplified, it says, *Casting the whole of your care - all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all - on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.*

God's word is so good. How could we ever get enough of it? Just think about the magnitude of this promise. Jesus wants all your worries! Not just some of them, ALL of them, once and for all. Since

He wants them, they do not belong to you any longer.

He cares about you watchfully. That means He has His eyes on you every minute. Jesus is always thinking about you, watching all that concerns you; and He doesn't want you to bear any burdens.

Isn't that almost incomprehensible to the mind? With all the millions of other people He has to think about, the God of all Creation, the great I AM, is always thinking about each one of us in spite of His busy schedule. He cares not only about our spirit but our body and our soul. Why would we want to grieve Him by worrying? Praise God for your peace.

## **Anything Else You Want**

God thinks of everything. As if He didn't already fill up our blessing containers to overflowing, Jesus adds one more that covers anything that could possibly have been left out! In John 15:5, 7, Jesus says *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."*

You may request anything and it will be granted, when you abide in Him. What an honor and privilege it is to abide in Jesus! How blessed we are, of all people, to be invited to abide in our Lord and to have Him abide in us.

The Amplified says, "*Apart from Me - cut off from vital union with Me - you can do nothing.*" Are you vitally united to Jesus? If you are, you will know what to ask and when to ask it. You will not have to try and try and try to get your request accomplished by yourself, because you will have His help in receiving the desires of your heart.

Have you noticed how there is always a condition to be met in attaining the blessing promises? *Obey, abide, keep My word, do as I tell you.* Over and over, the word of God tells you exactly how to be blessed. You cannot do anything apart from Him, and you cannot really receive very much apart from Him.

In John 16:23-24, Jesus says, "*And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*"

## **The Blessing of the Covenant**

Now is a good time to have a spiritual dessert right in the midst of this spiritual feast of blessings. Did you ever sit down to a banquet table where the table is prepared with a nice tablecloth and flowers and a beautiful place setting, and there are your salad and dessert right there in front of you? You eat your salad while eyeing that dessert. You begin your meal, and as you are eating, you know that dessert is going to be delicious, and you want to taste it right in the middle of your meal. In the Old

Testament book of Deuteronomy, there is a beautiful and delicious dessert that I want you to enjoy right now in the midst of this feast.

Covenants are special agreements. There are many degrees of covenant, but in Bible days, when a covenant was made, a lifelong union took place between two persons, and it was sealed with the shedding of blood. As a sign of their eternal commitment to each other, each party making the covenant gave the other party a gift — something of utmost value, their most prized possession.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 is the Covenant Blessing. It outlines the covenant gift that God has promised to all who are washed in the blood of Jesus and who are obedient.

*Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:*

*Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.*

*Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

*\The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they*



*shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*

*The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*

*The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you.*

*And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.*

*And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

Just praise God right now for letting you know and letting every Christian know in such loving detail what the Lord wants to give you as His symbol of union with you. He wants to bless you so

much that people in the world will take notice and they will wonder how in the world you can be so blessed. This is the incredible part...all He wants in return is your heart — your love. If you love God, you want to obey Him. In exchange for just your loving obedience, God wants you to be overtaken with every single portion of this covenant blessing.

This is a lengthy blessing, but I want you to go back to the beginning, start at the top and say every single part of the blessing and make it personal for yourself. Put the words, “I am blessed,” at the beginning of each sentence. Or just say “I” at the beginning of each sentence. Make this confession personal. Read it many times; say it every single day, until, when you are riding in the car, you can speak these words over yourself; or when you’re taking a walk, or when you’re going through some challenge in your life, this blessing is so familiar to you that it rises up in your spirit and out your mouth without even thinking.

There is a world out there that does not understand the promises of God and the blessings of God. They will take notice of you when you have unexplained miracles happen to you. They will wonder why you don’t break down under pressure or crash along with the economy. God wants your life of obedience to be a testimony to His ability to bless you beyond your wildest dreams.

One of my favorite blessings in that passage is, *Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.* From the moment I got saved, I began to travel. Once we were married, Charles and I were ministering somewhere away

from home much of the time. On one of those occasions, we were driving our car and suddenly another car came speeding toward us, crossed over into our lane, and in the blink of an eye, we realized we were going to be in a head on collision. We called out “JESUS” and watched as that oncoming car drove right into our front end, right into our engine, and right up to the windshield, without ever having any impact. Something like that cannot be explained in the natural; it was a supernatural act of God on our behalf. God sent His angel to protect us so that we would be blessed coming and going. Claim that blessing for your travels right now.

Just think that God is going to bless all the work of your hand. If you keep His commands and walk in His ways, He is going to bless your household, your job, your projects, your fellowship with others, your church activities, your family time. Everything you put your hands to means anything you are involved in. God will be involved in it along with you, and He will bless it.

## **The Call**

A beautiful two-part promise of God begins in I Peter 1:14-15. It says, *As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.*

This verse makes me bubble over with excitement, love, joy, peace, every emotion you can think of. We do not have to obey God because He is up there in heaven looking down at us with one big

eye turned on us like a searchlight, just waiting to catch us doing something wrong. No, God isn't looking for a reason to condemn us; He is watching over us to help us to avoid painful experiences and painful consequences. It is a priceless privilege to obey Him because we are His very own children. He chose us. He loves us. It is a joy to choose to obey him.

The second part of this blessing promise is absolutely beyond our imagination. It is the reason God asks us to walk holy in all our conduct.

I Peter 2:9 & 11 says, *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (so) Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.*

Can you imagine anything that would make your heart sing more than to know that you have been chosen by Almighty God to be a royal priesthood, a holy and special people, sent into the world to lead the lost out of darkness. The Living Bible relays this so beautifully, I want you to drink it into your soul:

*But you are not like that (those who are hard hearted and disobedient) for you have been chosen by God himself - you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God's very own - all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Dear brothers, you are only visitors here. Since your real home is in heaven I beg you to keep away from the*

*evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls.*

Would you ever want to return to darkness now that you are in the light? Never, never, never! Not for one second would anyone who truly began a new life washed in the blood of Jesus, pure and holy before God, ever want to return to the former life of slavery to sin.

The life we now live is glorious. We are God's very own. We have a mission and a calling to reach the world with His love. We are not even citizens of this world any longer because our real home is in heaven.

“Hallelujah, Father, I am blessed to be called into a holy life. I am blessed with a glorious mission to those in darkness. I am blessed to be a citizen of heaven.”

## **Grow Into Your Blessings**

Throughout God's word, He makes it so clear what He wants to give you, and just as clearly points out your part, the condition to be met. But, let me add something. We are all in a growing process. Sometimes when a person is just born again, they take baby steps in their faith. Do you recall when your child took his or her first step? You were excited! You didn't get upset when they fell on their bottom. As they grew stronger, they fell less. Each step of maturity they took, all their life, caused your heart to swell with pride. You praised them, you hugged them, and you rewarded them. When they were truly conscientious but

occasionally faltered, you corrected them and forgave them. You made stronger requirements of them as they got older, so they would have a fruitful life. You expected them to obey for their own good, and because you loved them.

Many times throughout this book, God is described as a parent. Go back and read over and over again all of the compassion, the understanding, the hopes and dreams and rewards He has for you. He is not going to condemn you as you learn to walk with Him. He covers you with grace. He blots out your mistakes with love. He will hear you when you truly determine to put Him first, and He will reward you as you make progress.

I believe with all my heart that the progress you make and the blessings you will receive are going to be absolutely incredible, because you are going to feast on His word, and apply His word, and confess His word until your cup of joy begins to overflow. You will be soaked with blessings to the full. You will have to run out and share your blessings with everyone you see.

That is why God wants you to receive all of His best. You are His disciple. You are a fruit bearer and a blessing carrier. You are His ambassador. There is a world out there that you are going to bless.

## **The Genesis Blessing**

God is a blessing God from Genesis to Revelation! No matter who you are, where you've been or what you've done, what you have read in

the pages of this book will turn your life right side up if you put it in your mouth and put it into practice.

Genesis 12:1-3 says, *Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

I love the faith that Abraham had, because he was willing to go where God indicated he should go, and he packed up and left, not having any idea where he was going. Have you done that? Are you willing to leave behind everything comfortable and familiar in obedience to God? I believe for everyone who is willing to give up their home and all their familiar surroundings in order to obey the Lord, God will reward them far above what they could ask or think.

God didn't limit Abraham's blessing to just him and Sarah. He said that Abraham would be a blessing to many. God blesses us so that we can bless others. When you bless someone, God is going to give back, and you are going to be on the receiving end of a great big blessing of God.

God then said He would bless everyone who blessed Abraham. God decided right then and there that if this man, who was really then called Abram, was going to have faith and obedience to go out into the unknown, willing to just rely on God's guidance, He was going to provide for him,

multiply him, make him rich so that he could be a blessing to many others; and He would even extend His blessing to everybody who did anything to bless Abraham and his family. That is an exciting blessing because there is no end to it; it just keeps going and going.

If there is someone with you right now, I want you to do something. I want you to go hug them; I want you to give them a blessing right now. The word of God says that you are blessed, and then you are to bless others. If no one is with you, you can pick up the phone or write a letter, or think of someone in the neighborhood that has a need and go and bless them. You are blessed to be a blessing, and then that blessing is going to come right back to you. You are on the blessing end, and then you are on the receiving end. That is the blessing life.

I want you to remember that the blessing of Abraham will even affect you in this day and time. God said whoever blessed Abraham (who became the father of the nation of Israel) would be blessed. Pray for Israel and for the move of God throughout all of the Holy Land. Speak peace and blessing upon the descendants of Abraham, and you will be blessed.

## **The Revelation Blessing**

There is a unique blessing in Revelation which is found nowhere else in the Bible. It is very simply stated in Revelation 1:3.



*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

There is a lot about the book of Revelation that I do not understand, but I love to pick up my Bible and turn to Revelation when I just want to quickly read something inspiring. Somehow I always feel the awesome power of God and the glory of God that is reflected in this book. Revelation begins with the promise that whoever reads or hears this book is going to be blessed. I have never failed to receive a special Holy Ghost surge of God's presence when I read from Revelation.

I believe faith is increased when you read Revelation. I believe that if the devil is on the attack, and you pick up the book of Revelation and just read a little bit of it aloud to the devil, he will turn and run away from you as fast as he can. I believe this book contains more intimacy into the presence and promises of God than any other book.

Part of the blessing of reading Revelation is that it paints vivid pictures of what you can expect in the future. One of my favorite pictures is in Revelation 2:7.

*“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”*

All of the redeemed are going to eat heavenly fruit from the tree of life in the midst of Paradise. We will not be injured or affected in any way by the second death.

Verse 17 says, *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”*

That promise is so precious because Jesus is going to give individually, to every single one of us a beautifully prepared white stone, with a brand new name written on it. We are going to be renamed by the Lord himself, just like a newborn baby receives its name from its mama and daddy. That is a beautiful and special promise that I am looking forward to.

Revelation 3:5 gives another intimate promise. *“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

We will be clothed in heavenly white garments. Jesus will not blot out our names from the Book of Life. He will call out our names before God and all the angels.

Just visualize this incredible ceremony, where Jesus will personally honor each and every believer who has overcome the devil and has remained loyal to Christ.

Revelation 3:12 speaks of another personal gift of God to every believer who stands before His throne: *“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New*

*Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*”

I don't understand what being a pillar in the temple of God means, but I don't have to understand; I just know it will be some type of glorious honor that God bestows on those who are over comers. For over 2,000 years, God has been anticipating this occasion where He bestows heavenly rewards on His children. It is going to be far more glorious than we can imagine. Thank Him right now.

“Thank You, Father for your plans to bless me and honor me. Thank You for the new name You are going to give me and that You are going to write Your very own name on me. I am blessed forever and forever.”

Verse 21 promises still more: *“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”*

We are going to be blessed beyond imagination. We will sit with Jesus on His throne, just as Jesus was honored when He returned from His mission on earth, and was granted to sit down on His Father's throne. Glory to God!

If you want to be really blessed, read all of the book of Revelation. You may not understand all of it, but you will be blessed. Chapter 21 describes a new heaven and a new earth with all things made perfect and no more death or sorrow. It describes the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, with Jesus, the lamb of God, as its light. Chapter 22 describes the river of life gushing out of the throne of God

and previews the glories of heaven. To think that God had each one of us in mind when He prepared all of this beauty and honor and eternal reward is beyond comprehension.

Genesis is the beginning of God's promises, and they are so numerous throughout the word of God that this blessing book only scratches the surface. Revelation is the last book of the Bible, but it is not the end of God's promises. They go on for eternity.

## **The Legacy of the Righteous**

As you complete this book, I don't want you to stop as though it were finished; I want you to turn right back to the beginning. Go back through every page you have read, and meditate on these blessing promises. Say them over and over. When you read your Bible, highlight or underline the blessings of God. Many you will learn by heart; and when some conflict jumps into your life out of nowhere, your spirit man will rise to the occasion. You will be able to relax. You will be confident. You will have peace.

The way you exemplify your faith will affect everyone around you. Your overcoming life, overtaken with blessings, will set the example for many others.

Proverbs 10:7 says, *The memory of the righteous is blessed.* I used to think this meant the mind of the righteous and how well we remember things like our grocery list. God will surely bless your natural memory and give quickening to your mind. But this scripture is referring to the memory

you leave behind when you leave earth to go to heaven. It is saying, when your children and grandchildren and friends and associates during your lifetime on earth think about you - what they remember about you will be a blessing. Your memory - your legacy of obedience and faith and love for God - will bless people long after you are with Jesus.

Proverbs 20:7 says, *The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.* Many of us have a parent or grandparent, or a spiritual parent or mentor, whom we remember as a man or woman of prayer, a servant of God, someone with a humble spirit, a forgiver, or a person of great faith. No matter what has been in your past, what you apply throughout this book will build your future. You can leave a legacy of blessings which will influence many generations to come.

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HERE ARE SOME  
GENERAL SCRIPTURES  
THAT WILL HELP YOU  
BE OVERTAKEN AND  
OVERCOME  
BY THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

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But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” *Matthew 4:4*

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. *Revelation 12:11*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ... *Luke 4:18*

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. *Philippians 4:8*

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. *Jeremiah 33:3*

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. *Ephesians 4:29*

So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. *Isaiah 51:11*

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. *Isaiah 26:3*

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and

not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Isaiah 40:31*

God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect. *2 Samuel 22:33*

So, dear brothers, you have no obligations whatever to your old sinful nature to do what it begs you to do.

*Romans 8:12 TLB*

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. *Matthew 11:28,29*

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Mediate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. *1 Timothy 4:14,15*

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and



prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

*John 14:1-3*

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days,” says the Lord: “I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

*Hebrews 10:16,17*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

*Ephesians 1:3*

But truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.

*Numbers*

*14:21*

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

*2 Corinthians*

*10:4,5*

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. *Romans 4:20,21*

I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them. *Isaiah 42:16*

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. *Psalms 37:23*

And since we are his children, we will share his treasures – for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. *Romans 8:17 TLB*

In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing, so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are

crooked and stubborn. Shine out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life.

*Philippians 2:14-16 TLB*

He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.

*Isaiah 40:29*

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

*Psalms 34:17*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

*1 John 4:7*

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

*Isaiah 60:1*

one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

*Ephesians*

*4:6*

He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, but trouble will come to him who seeks evil.

*Proverbs*

*11:27*

“As for Me,” says the Lord, “this is My covenant with them; My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the Lord, “from this time and forevermore.”

*Isaiah 59:21*

In you, **O** Lord, I put my trust; let me never be put to shame.

*Psalms*

*71:1*

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.

*Romans 6:6,7*

but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

*John 4:14*

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

*Philippians 4:13*

A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of wicked intentions He will condemn. *Proverbs 12:2*

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. *1 John 4:18*

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. *Galatians 5:16*

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. *Ephesians 5:16*

All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast. *Proverbs 15:15*

A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. *Proverbs 28:20*

I neither learned wisdom nor have knowledge of the Holy One. *Proverbs 30:3*

... because of the truth which abides in us  
and will be with us forever... *2 John 2:2*

For God has not given us a spirit of fear,  
but of power and of love and of a sound  
mind. *2 Timothy 1:7*

Then you will understand the fear of the  
LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For  
the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding; He  
stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He  
is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He  
guards the paths of justice, and preserves the  
way of His saints. Then you will understand  
righteousness and justice, equity and every  
good path when wisdom enters your heart,  
and knowledge is pleasant to your soul  
*Proverbs 2:5-10*

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for  
by so doing some have unwittingly  
entertained angels. *Hebrews 13:2*

He who calls you is faithful, who also  
will do it. *1 Thessalonians  
5:24*

bearing with one another, and forgiving  
one another, if anyone has a complaint  
against another; even as Christ forgave you,

so you also must do.  
3:13

*Colossians*

Let this mind be in you which was also in  
Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 2:5*