



April 27-28 2013
Numbers 6
"The Lord's Blessing"
Pastor Gary Hamrick

Have you ever felt like people misjudged or misunderstood you? Have you ever misjudged or misunderstood someone else? Many people have misjudged or misunderstood God. Many have a wrong view of God, believing him to be an angry or unjust God, who is mean, vindictive and unfair.

If you're someone who has ever doubted God's love, grace, mercy, provision, and blessing, Pastor Gary's message will help you come to understand and personally know the richness of God's blessing in your life.

The Priestly Blessing

1. Commonly called "The Priestly Blessing" because it was the exclusive duty of the priests to pronounce God's blessing upon people.
2. The better title would be "The Lords' Blessing, because this is God's blessing.
3. The blessing only came through the priests, who were just the vessels God used.
4. **Numbers 6:27** - *"So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."* (Emphasis added)

Important Points

5. It was a continual blessing.
 - a. Originally, the Israelites heard this blessing pronounced over them every day when they went to the Tabernacle for the daily sacrifice, and sometimes more than once a day on special holy days.
 - b. The daily repetition was like God saying, "I want you to hear this over and over again until you get this down deep in your soul!"
 - c. God wants to make an indelible impression upon the hearts and minds of his people concerning his character and nature so that we would know God's good intentions toward us.

6. It was a favorable blessing.
 - a. It was an expression of God's good intentions toward us.
 - b. He's not dissatisfied with us, correcting, admonishing or warning us.
 - c. God wants us to know that cares for us, consoles us, and comforts us.
 - d. He wants to encourage us, loves us, and lifts us through these words.

7. It was a personal blessing.
 - a. In **Numbers 6:24-26**, the pronoun "you" appears six times, and each time it is singular.
 - b. This blessing was not recited over a large group of people, as is often the case today when it is spoken as a benediction, it was spoken by the priest directly to each person so they would understand that it was a personal blessing.

8. The Priestly Blessing is making three statements, which each have a corresponding result.
 - a. *"The Lord bless you..."*
 - b. *"The Lord make his face shine upon you..."*
 - c. *"The Lord turn his face toward you..."*

God Is A Blessing God

9. The words "*bless*," "*blessed*," and "*blessing*" are found more than 500 times in the Bible, and each word is used in a wide range of subjects.

10. God's blessing is his favor and his goodness lavished upon us, which can take many different forms.

11. The “health, wealth, and prosperity” teachers have hijacked the true meaning of God’s blessing, and they’ve made it all about materialism, while the evangelical community, attempting to avoid any association with these false teachers, has run in the opposite direction and failed to emphasize the true and profound promise that God desires to bless his people!
12. The first time the word “*bless*” is found in the Bible is when God pronounced it over Adam and Eve in [Genesis 1:22](#).
 - a. *“God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number...’ ”*
13. In [Genesis 9:1](#), after the flood, God pronounced a blessing over the human race.
 - a. *“Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.’ ”*
14. God’s blessing is the central aspect of his covenant with Abraham.
 - a. [Genesis 12:2–3](#) - *“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*
15. God’s blessing is seen many times in the Old Testament.
 - a. [Psalm 32:1](#) - *“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven...”*
 - b. [Psalm 32:2](#) - *“Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him...”*
 - c. [Psalm 40:4](#) - *“Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust...”*
 - d. [Psalm 84:5](#) - *“Blessed are those whose strength is in you...”*
 - e. [Psalm 94:12](#) - *“Blessed is the man you discipline, O Lord...”*
 - f. [Psalm 128:1](#) - *“Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.”*
16. God’s blessing is seen many times in the New Testament.
 - a. [Matthew 5:1–12](#) - The Beatitudes are 100% about God’s blessings!
 - i. *“Blessed are the poor in spirit...”*
 - ii. *“Blessed are those who mourn...”*
 - iii. *“Blessed are the meek...”*
 - iv. *“Blessed are the merciful...”*
 - v. *“Blessed are the pure in heart...”*
 - vi. *“Blessed are the peacemakers...”*
 - b. [Mark 10:16](#) - *“And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”*
 - c. [Luke 11:28](#) - *“[Jesus] replied, ‘Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.’ ”*

- d. **James 1:12** - *"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial..."*
 - e. **Ephesians 1:3** - *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."*
17. God blesses us in big ways and small ways, as well as obvious and unseen ways.
18. God blesses us materially, physically, spiritually, and emotionally.
19. In every way God showers his goodness on us.
- a. If you have good health, thank God!
 - b. If you have a nice home, thank God!
 - c. If you have a loving spouse, thank God!
 - d. If you have children, thank God for his blessing.
 - e. If you have peace of mind, thank God!
 - f. If you have seen loved ones come to know Christ, thank God!
 - g. If you have a successful career, thank God!
 - h. If you have talent, thank God!
 - i. If you have made a little or a lot of money, thank God!
 - j. If you have good friends, thank God!
 - k. If you have food, clothing, and a place to live, thank God!
20. **Psalm 150:6** - *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."*
21. **James 1:17** - *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."*
22. **Psalm 115:12-13** - *"The Lord remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron, he will bless those who fear the Lord - small and great alike."*
23. The key to understanding God's blessing is that we're to be a blessing to others.
- a. **Genesis 12:2** - *"... I will bless you... and you will be a blessing."*
 - b. God does not bless so we can keep his blessings in our bucket, he blesses us to be a funnel so we can share his blessings and be a blessing to others.
24. The supporting statement to the promise of God's blessing in **Numbers 6:24a** is the phrase: *"and keep you."*

- a. The Hebrew word shamar, means, to guard.
- b. This is actually a term used concerning shepherds, who are “to exercise great care over” or “to protect” their sheep.
- c. When shepherds tended their sheep in open fields, they would build a makeshift pen at night so they could enclose the sheep.
- d. The shepherd would lie across the entrance of the sheep pen to keep the sheep from wandering off, as well as protect them from predators.
- e. Jesus used this analogy in [John 10:7](#), when he said, “*I am the gate for the sheep,*” and [John 10:11](#), when Jesus declared, “*I am the good shepherd... [the] good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*”

25. [Proverbs 2:8](#) - “*He guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.*”

God's Face

26. [Numbers 6:25](#) - “*The Lord make his face shine upon you...*”

- a. One Jewish commentary says this means “to illuminate his face upon you... make his presence known.”

27. There is warmth and a closeness associated with this promise, because the implied meaning is that God is near and that he takes pleasure in us.

28. His face is not an angry, burning face, but a beaming face, because he loves us so much that his face lights up when he thinks about us.

God Is A Loving God

29. [1 John 3:1](#) - “*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*”

30. Because God loves us, the corresponding statement to [Numbers 6:25a](#) is: “*and be gracious to you.*”

31. God is a God of grace, and thankfully, he does not give us what we deserve, instead he gives us what we don't deserve!

32. [Psalm 145:8-9](#) - “*The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.*”

God Is An Accepting God

33. **Numbers 6:26** – “[The] Lord turn his face toward you, and give you peace.”
34. The Lord accepts us, but it doesn’t mean that he accepts our sin.
35. When God turns his face toward us, that’s the opposite of turning his face away from us, which is a sign of rejection.
36. **Psalms 27:9** – “Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.”
37. Because God accepts us, the corresponding statement to **Numbers 6:26a** is: “and give you peace...”
 - a. God is the God of peace (shalom).
 - b. The word shalom, is used interchangeably as “Hello” and “Goodbye.”
 - c. The Hebrew phrase “Ma Shlomka” means, “How are you doing?”
 - i. The literal meaning is: “How is your peace?”
38. **John 14:27** – “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
39. **Philippians 4:7** – “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read **Numbers 6:22-27** to provide an overview for this study.
3. Have you been at a church service when a pastor used this Scripture to speak a blessing over the congregation or other group of people?
4. How have you experienced the blessing of the Lord in your life?
5. Do you understand God’s blessing as being favorable, personal, and continual?
6. What is your understanding of the “health, wealth, and prosperity gospel”?

- a. What are some of the negative effects this false doctrine has made in your life or someone you know?
7. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's statement about the ways many evangelical churches have failed to emphasize the true and profound promise that God desires to bless his people.
8. Read and discuss the examples of blessing in the Old Testament. (See #15 above)
9. Read and discuss the examples of blessing in the New Testament. (See #16a-e above)
10. Do you intentionally choose to be a funnel through which the blessings of God go out to others?
11. Would you say you are a generous person?
12. How has the Lord changed you and made you into someone who desires to partner with him to be a blessing to others?
13. Allow the people in your group to share examples of the ways they've seen the Lord care for and protect them like the Good Shepherd in [John 10:1-16](#).
14. Read and discuss [Psalm 145:8-9](#).
15. Do you have the sense that God accepts you for who you are?
16. What are some of the causes that make you feel like the Lord has turned his face away from you?
 - a. Read and discuss [Psalm 27:9](#).
17. How is your peace?
 - a. Read and discuss [John 14:27](#).
 - b. Read and discuss [Philippians 4:7](#).
18. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: personally know the favorable, personal, and continual blessing of the Lord; count their blessings and thank God (allow time for silent prayer of thanksgiving); (have someone ready to read [Psalm 150:6](#)) pray the Scripture.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).