

INTRODUCTION

I begged and pleaded and threw some fits - hoping to sway God's will on my message subject - please let me just give a nice message on this wonderful Mother's Day / Child Dedication...

- all I got was 'No, people need help & your dad spent 3 weeks on a tuff subject. now get going...'

pastor Jerry has spent the last 3 weekends teaching on the spirits and forces that are outside of our physical perception that work against us as human beings - stealing, killing and destroying

space invaders - demons, evil spirits, devils, powers of darkness

today we are going to springboard off these messages to identify areas that they are actively working in our lives - then we can break their power and go toward the blessing

hopefully from the past 3 messages you can see we have an enemy

transition: we have established that there is a very real and very powerful spirit realm - full of intelligent beings that seek to work out plans and futures according to their boss - Jehovah God or Satan

SPIRIT WORLD ROLES

there are two opposing forces on this earth today

to put this in very simple terms we can say that:

- GOD wants to bring you toward an **abundant life** and
- SATAN wants to bring you **death and destruction** - on every level
- YOU are stuck here **in the middle** - following truth or error

two opposing spirits:

1 John 4:6 NASB

We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. [By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.](#)

**you would be better off to see 'spirit' as an intelligent entity - not an abstract idea

POINT: you need to understand that there are **spirits of error** and **the spirit of truth** - they are both speaking to you at different times, both trying to lead you the goal of each one of these 'voices' is to bring you toward either the blessing or a curse

TEXT: Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and cursing**; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

the hook: will you stop for a minute and be honest with yourself right now?

do you ever feel **disenchanted** with your life as a Christian?

do you hear the promises of God and feel like your life must be from **another solar system** - way far away from what you know is promised in scripture?

are you **SO disassociated from your reality** that you can answer the chant "God is good" with "All the Time" and you don't even stop and question anymore that you don't even see that yourself - its just part of the mantra

Excerpt: Blessing or Curse

Across the scene two men may start out walking side by side. Similar in background and ability, they are headed in the same direction. Yet one walks almost always in the light of success and fulfillment. The other, close by him, scarcely sees the light. He is continually overshadowed by failure and frustration, and his life is snuffed out at an untimely age.

Let us look closer, for a moment, at the man under the shadows. He does all the right things: changes his job or place of residence; acquires further vocational skills; studies all the latest literature on positive thinking. Perhaps he even takes a course on how to release some mysterious "potential" within himself.

Yet success eludes him. His children are rebellious, his marriage under strain, accidents and illnesses routine. His cherished goals slip through his fingers like water through the fingers of a drowning man. He is "haunted" by a sense of inevitable failure, which he can perhaps postpone, but never overcome.

All his life he has the sense of struggling against something he cannot identify—something amorphous and elusive. He feels at times as if he is wrestling with a shadow. No matter how hard he struggles, he cannot pinpoint the cause of his problem or get a grip on it. Often he feels like giving up.

"What's the use?" he exclaims. "Nothing ever goes right for me! My father had the same problems. He was a failure, too!"

The person under the shadows could just as well be a woman, of course. She has married young and started out with all sorts of plans for a successful marriage and a happy home. She finds herself, however, on an invisible teeter-totter—"up" one day and "down" the next. Physically, she goes from one problem to another, always on the verge of health, but never quite achieving it. Her son begins to abuse drugs and

then her husband leaves her. One day she wakes up to the shocking realization that she herself has become an alcoholic.

Like the man under the shadows, this woman, too, did all the right things. She studied books on nutrition and child psychology. In her pursuit of success, she goaded herself on from one effort to the next— each one demanding all the strength that she could muster. Yet she watched other women, with less motivation or qualifications, achieve the goals she herself could never attain.

Sound Familiar?

- as you hear that do you feel like you can see your own life like a movie set before you?
- if not you, possibly a spouse or friend over the years
- can you look back to life events that just didn't seem to make sense?

BLESSING & CURSES

over 640 times the Bible speaks of blessings or curses

supernatural vehicles of power in your life - they are present for every human in different amounts and mixes

Definitions:

blessing: speeding up of a benefit provided

curse: vilification of a benefit

vilification: slander, criticize, malign, defame

Contrasting Objectives:

Jesus came to give us life abundantly

Satan came to kill, steal and destroy

his name means: accuser, slanderer

POINT: you are on this earth to represent God and be a light - your enemy wants to blow out your light and ruin your reputation - vilify, slander, defame

this is where we can see the opposing objectives and forces in a blessing and a curse

the Holy Spirit wants to bring you a place to receive The Blessing - speeding up of a benefit

the Enemy and evil spirits want to bring you to decisions and actions that bring The Curse into your life - vilification of a benefit

trans: as we look into what a curse looks like you may ask, 'why all this focus on a curse, let's just talk about what Jesus did.'

while that sounds awesome it can be easier to grasp The Blessing by the overwhelming evidence of The Curse as seen in the following list

rembr: a curse is simply the vilification of a benefit - the opposite of The Blessing and the Blessing is supernatural power to bring a benefit to you

**one of the testimonies Melanie gives in the GetWhole.org class is that you can't ever understand when someone tells you about the peace that is available to you - but once you experience this Peace there's no denying it

INDICATIONS OF A CURSE - seen in the Bible

1. mental and/or emotional breakdown
2. repeated or chronic sickness (especially hereditary & 'incurable')
3. barrenness or a tendency to miscarry or other related female problems
4. marriage & family breakdown or family alienation
5. continuing financial insufficiency
6. history of suicides or unnatural or untimely deaths - accident-prone

WEIRDNESS in the air: I know as soon as we start with that list or maybe when you first heard me say we were talking about curses many feel uncomfortable

- decide right now to get over that - are you more interested in living with some **rotting food or nuclear waste** as long as its not disturbed??
- many have the affects written all over their lives - would you like to look at this and do something about it?
- EX: Ava with marker & bandaid / man with shrapnel and probe then bandage

here's the deal:

you can work, toil, learn, grow & struggle thru life, getting further along, accomplishing, getting degrees, working up the ladder - these are good natural things but if that 'LONG ARM' is working against you, that that DARK MIST is over a specific area: health, money, relationships, business ventures, mental ability - you will spend your years shadow boxing something you don't have enough guts to look at.

II Corinthians 4:18

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are **seen are temporal**; but the things which are **not seen are eternal**.

everything in the physical world is guided by and influenced by the spiritual world that we can't see

this basic understanding will explain the things in life that just don't make sense

is there something working against you? CURSE

is there something working for you? BLESSING



CURSES SEEN

like we said earlier - sometimes its hard to understand fully a blessing from God such as His Peace, until we have tasted it ourselves

The Blessing from God is simply the supernatural power to bring a promised benefit into your life

Malachi 3:7-12

7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are **gone away from mine ordinances**, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 **Ye are cursed with a curse**: for ye have robbed me, even this **whole nation**.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the **windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing**, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will **rebuke the devourer** for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

12 And all nations **shall call you blessed**: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

- gone away from ordinances or commands
- disobedience brought a curse - it even extended over a people group or nation
 - anyone ever noticed entire nations or people groups that seem to have a curse of poverty - no matter what they do?
- pour out a Blessing - we always envision this as pouring out money from heaven that our bank account is too small to store it

- this is stupidity: the Blessing is the spiritual power to bring the promised benefit
- notice - the devourer (*Haggai 1:5-6 eat and aren't filled, drink and are thirsty, earn wages to put in pockets with holes*)
 - you have crops growing that should be making you money - but things keep getting destroyed and you never fully enjoy your harvest
- All people will see you and call you BLESSED!

POINT: in this single example of poverty what you need to see is that getting a better job, making more money, having the right color skin, a college degree - none of that is the answer - rather having The Blessing rather than a Curse.

I personally have experienced this - I've had 6 figure years with nothing to show and I've also had leaner times with more evidence of a Blessing

NEW TESTAMENT BLESSING

some have been so confused by improper ideas of New Testament and Old Testament

they only see The Blessing and never a possibility of a Curse

they improperly apply Jesus' blood and resurrection to things as if its a blanket, automatic cash card - get out of jail free, pass Go and collect \$200

Our fav \$\$ verse:

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

what we fail to take into account is the obedience shown in the prior verses

- Paul said they gave to him and helped financially to support his ministry
- Paul said in verse 17 that in their giving that fruit would abound to their accounts



look at this example:

II Corinthians 9:6

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

what is this dark cloud over my finances and business ventures?

are you a giver or a hoarder?

the Holy Spirit will lead you to be liberal in your giving - bringing The Blessing

the Space Invaders will plant ideas of lack to teach you how to walk in The Curse

CURSES STILL ALIVE TODAY

we listed many curses earlier - we will break these down into more detail online this week at getWhole.org

- mental issues - disorders, unable to focus, emotional problems - we put fancy names on these things but the truth is a Curse is involved
- chronic sickness - there is a reason when you pray for healing it doesn't come
 - there is a reason why you can see things happen to the generations of your family and it passes down for no apparent reason
- family strain - Deut 28:41 talks of having children that will not be yours but will go into captivity
- untimely death & accident-prone living
- chronic financial strain & issues with conception / carrying to term

POINT: rembr one of the key phrases of what a Curse brings is 'Frustration'

Ephesians 6:2-3

2 Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

3 That **it may be well with you**, and thou **may live long** on the earth.

term: 'that it may be well with you'

does that sound like the speeding up of a benefit?

this is a Blessing given with a condition of obedience tied to it - In the NT!

in fact according to this verse our ability to live long on the earth is tied to our honoring our parents

I don't even see Jesus' blood or Faith even mentioned here - I see obedience that brings a blessing of 'it will be well for you'

Confusion for the Grace Mistake: this verse takes the IF & THEN that is clear and brings it right on in to our time - New Testament

"I feel like you are telling me that what I experience in life is tied to obedience"

yes I am telling you that - would you rather me lie to you so you can stay in the Dark Mist and not know why?

THE FIGHT OF SALVATION

there has been an unintended consequence of the Salvation message

this has not been our goal but many see it as a one time event - simply say the prayer and you are set - to a point this is true

did you realize no where in scripture are we told to get people "saved"?

we are called to make disciples - that means disciplined followers of Christ

I'm not in any way disparaging the act of leading people to raise their hands and repeat a prayer - this is a major key and can be the 1st step

how many have become disillusioned as things don't change for them??

- its a dead religion - church is a waste of time
- what's the point
- I did it and saw no difference in my life

POINT: getting saved does not take care of a Curse in your life - just like it does not automatically bring the Blessing - **it simply is the start down the right path**

**I believe the Holy Spirit wants to give you your HOPE back in THIS life

healing of pain, disorders, syndromes, heart probs, mental anguish, broken homes,

Salvation / Saved -- Greek 'Sozo'

- forgiveness of sins
- physical healing
- deliverance from evil spirits
- raising from the dead
- protection from evil

salvation is all encompassing: spirit, soul and body - however, generally we only appropriate the first part - forgiveness of sin

the question now should become, "if salvation includes that list, why am I not experiencing it?"

answer: legally everything was made complete in Jesus - experientially you have to lay hold of these things

PICTURE OF SALVATION

the salvation we have today is received by faith - legally its yours but to experience all of what it entails is part of your daily choices and battle

- are you listening to the spirit of truth
- or are you passively going along with the spirit of error
- a Curse or the Blessing are NOT automatic based on your prayer accepting Jesus - its a battle

Joshua & Jesus

- in the OT we have the story of Joshua leading the people of God into the promise land - a foreshadow of salvation & deliverance
- in the NT we have the story of Jesus (english for the hebrew name Joshua) leading the people of God into a land of promises

God told Joshua: I am giving & I have given you the land - legally its yours and experientially you must fight and receive it

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he **power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name

- legally we all are children of God
- power = authority
 - authority is only useful when its put into action

CONCLUSION

many have put the first part of salvation into action by accepting Jesus and stopping there

REALIZE: there is a spirit of error that wants to bring you to destruction

don't just stop at the first part of salvation - destroy the curse

your choices to listen to the spirit of truth or the spirit of error will affect what you have - a Blessing or a Curse

Satan is a slanderer and vilifier of the benefit

Jesus has provided salvation & deliverance from every curse in your life

RISE UP AND RECEIVE the resurrection power today - apply it to every curse that has entered due to not following God

PRAYER OF BLESSING - stand and put your hands out to receive from God
Father God I repent for areas that I have not followed you please forgive me now

I speak the blessing over each person here - By the power of the Holy Spirit & the resurrection power of Jesus Christ I break every single curse that has been operating in our lives

Holy Spirit we look to you for guidance in every area of our lives

We thank you for your love and mercy