

Pastor Jason Huffman
Sunday, August 10th

Teaching Notes:

Last week, Peter touched on our calling of being & inheriting a blessing & today we will go a little deeper in that topic.

9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

Big Idea: Our choices & actions impact the life & blessing of God we enjoy.

Title: A Blessed Life

Peter's quotes Ps. 34 to further his point that inheriting God's blessing happens by following God's direction.

10 For "He who would love life and see good days,
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,
and his lips from speaking deceit.

Proverbs 13:3 NLT

Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.

1. Control your communication.

Refrain from the communication of evil and deceit.

Evil: that which is immoral, wicked, harmful, or foul.

Deceit is concealing/misrepresenting the truth (usually selfishly)

Even if you say a 100 good things, like a fly in your food, a little comment or lie can ruin it all.

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good;
Let him seek peace and pursue it.

2. Take positive, proactive action.

Don't just refrain from evil...retrain yourself to DO good.

5 Ways to Seek & Pursue Peace

1. Seek to understand before being understood.
2. Be the first to admit & confess whatever you can own.
3. Don't push & pressure people.
4. Let go of things that won't matter in 5 hrs/5 years/5 decades.
5. Look for common ground instead of differences.

12 For the eyes of the Lord *are* on the righteous,
And His ears *are open* to their prayers;
But the face of the Lord *is* against those who do evil.”

God is facing the righteous- paying attention, attentive & aware.
He hears their prayers in a way He desires to act.

3. Live in right relationship with God.

Psalms 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

13 And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, *you are* blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”

Sometimes you do suffer, sometimes you are persecuted.
Sometimes people don’t like it when you are good or blessed.

4. Focus beyond present suffering.

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. **17** For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Some people might need a verse or fact, but others may just need to know there is hope.

Sermon Recap

Are you yearning for a life overflowing with blessing and joy? In his inspiring sermon, Jason dives deep into the biblical theme of living a blessed life. Drawing from Peter's teachings, he emphasizes that our choices—especially in how we speak and treat others—are crucial for inheriting, enjoying, and sharing God’s blessings

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to 'inherit a blessing' according to the sermon, and how can we ensure we are part of God's family to receive this blessing?

- The sermon talks about inheriting a blessing and emphasizes that it starts with being family but is also connected to faithfulness.
- How can you demonstrate your faithfulness to God in your daily actions to stay closer to Him?

In what ways can controlling our words and communication relate to enjoying the blessings of God in our lives?

- The pastor shares that our words have power and that controlling our communication can lead to God's blessings.
- Reflect on a time when your words affected a situation positively or negatively. How did that impact your relationships?

How can proactively doing good actions rather than just avoiding evil lead to a more blessed life?

- The sermon encourages taking positive, proactive actions and not just refraining from doing wrong.
- What are some specific 'good' actions you have experienced that you can pass on to others?

According to the sermon, why is it important to maintain a right relationship with God to enjoy a blessed life?

- Living in a right relationship with God is essential to receiving His blessings and avoid judgment.
- What are some steps you can take to strengthen being in right relationship with God in your life?

What does 1 Peter 3:14 mean when it says that we are blessed even if we suffer for doing what is right?

- This scripture explains that sometimes doing good can lead to suffering, yet we are still blessed.
- Can you think of a situation where standing up for what is right might have caused you discomfort, but you felt a blessing knowing you did good?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for God to help you control your communication and speak words of blessing.
 - Ask God to give you the strength to actively seek and pursue peace in your relationships.
 - Seek guidance to remain faithful and obedient to Him throughout the coming week.
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5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore what it means to live a blessed life through God's guidance and the importance of our actions and choices.

Day 1

1 Peter 3:9

As we begin this journey of understanding what it means to live a blessed life, let's reflect on the core teachings from today's sermon. The verse reminds us that we are called to bless others, even those who might revile us. This is not just a suggestion; it's a divine calling that unfolds opportunities for us to inherit blessings. Living with a bless-others mentality reshapes our perspective on interactions and relationships, turning potential conflicts into opportunities for grace and kindness.

Moreover, our enjoyment of God's blessings is closely tied to our obedience and willingness to submit to His will. It's easy to assume our circumstances dictate our blessings; however, it's essential to recognize that our choices significantly impact the life and blessings we experience.

Let's commit to choosing words that build up rather than tear down, recognizing the power we hold through our speech and actions.

- How can you actively choose to bless someone in your life this week?
- In what ways do you find it challenging to control your words?
- Reflect on a time when being a blessing to someone else positively impacted your life.
- Pray for the courage to bless those who may not treat you well.
- Ask God to help you recognize the power of your words and actions.

Day 2

Proverbs 13:3

Today, as we reflect on the importance of communication in living a blessed life, the Book of Proverbs reminds us of the significance of controlling our tongues. Words have immense power; they can heal or hurt, uplift or destroy. To inherit God's blessing, we must be mindful of our speech, ensuring that it reflects truth and love rather than hate or divisiveness. Taking a moment to pause before speaking can turn potential conflict into dialogue that fosters understanding.

Additionally, we are invited to consider what we communicate about ourselves. Are we sharing half-truths or exaggerating to project a better image? Breaking free from deceitful communication helps us build trust and showcases the integrity that reflects God's love. Let's be intentional about creating spaces where love, trust, and truth flourish, recognizing that our communication style can either enhance or detract from the blessed life that God desires for us.

- What ways can you identify and change harmful communication habits in your interactions?
- How does your conversation reflect your relationship with God?
- Think about a time you spoke positively and the results it brought. What did you learn?
- Pray for self-control in your speech and actions.
- Reflect on ways to promote honesty and love in your conversations.

Day 3

1 Peter 3:11

As we delve into today's devotional, we are challenged to move beyond merely refraining from negative behavior and strive to actively do good. The call to 'do good' emphasizes the importance of proactive kindness and compassion in our daily lives. It's not enough to avoid doing wrong; we must actively seek out opportunities to be a blessing to those around us, whether through small acts of kindness or larger commitments to service.

Seeking peace is also a vital element of living the blessed life. Often, problems can arise from unanswered issues or unresolved conflicts. Today, let's examine how we can contribute to peace rather than chaos in our relationships. Encourage your heart to actively pursue peace through understanding, bearing the burdens of others, and resolving disputes. Striving for peace not only enhances our spiritual lives but also enriches our communities and relationships.

- Reflect on a current conflict in your life. How might you pursue peace in that situation?
- What acts of kindness can you commit to in your community this week?
- Are there unresolved issues in your life that you need to address for peace?
- Pray for wisdom and guidance in seeking peace in conflicts.
- Ask God to show you opportunities to serve others in kindness.

Day 4

Psalms 34:15

Today's focus is on living in a right relationship with God. To fully enjoy the blessings He has for us, we must first turn from our sins and submit our lives to Him. This foundational step is crucial—it opens the door to a life filled with God's peace, joy, and presence. It's not about earning His favor, but rather about establishing a close, intimate relationship with the Source of all blessings.

Through obedience, we align ourselves with God's will, allowing His favor to flow into our lives. It's essential to remember that our relationship with God influences our ability to inherit blessings, reminding us that following His path is integral to receiving the fullness of His grace and goodness. Let's commit ourselves fully to nurturing our relationship with Him and recognizing the impact it has on every aspect of our lives.

- What steps are you willing to take today to deepen your relationship with God?
- In what areas of your life do you need to submit more fully to His guidance?
- How has following God's will positively affected your life in the past?
- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's will for your life.
- Ask God to help you submit areas of your life that you are holding onto.

Day 5

1 Peter 3:15-16

As we wrap up this five-day devotional, we are reminded of the importance of focusing beyond present suffering. Life will undoubtedly present challenges, and as believers, we may face persecution for living rightly. However, the scripture reminds us that we have hope beyond our circumstances. This hope stems from our relationship with Christ and the blessings that come with it—even in trials. Our hope serves as a testimony to others, allowing us to share the joy we find in faith.

Living for Christ and conducting ourselves honorably creates an opportunity for others to witness the power of God's love and grace through our lives. Each situation we navigate serves to further establish our testimony, encouraging others and offering them the hope we have in Christ. Let's be bold in sharing why we have hope and the blessings that come from living a life rooted in Christ.

- What challenges have you faced in sharing your hope with others?
- How can you strengthen your testimony through your experiences?
- What does it mean to you to focus on hope instead of hardship?
- Pray for God to give you opportunities to share your hope with others.
- Reflect on the blessings you have experienced despite difficult circumstances.