



**“Blessing the Generations”**  
**Numbers 6:22-26**

**Introduction:**

Those words “bless” “blessed” and “blessing” are such familiar words...but what do they really mean?

- God blesses us • We bless God • Others bless us • We bless others

**The Aaronic Blessing**

Numbers 6:22-26 - Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

The LORD bless you, and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine on you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up His countenance on you,  
And give you peace.’”

**“May the LORD...”**

As New Testament believers, we understand that we are truly blessed in the name of God the Father...in the name of God the Son and God and in the name of God the Holy Spirit. We also give our blessing to others in that name.

**Blessing #1: “May the LORD bless you.” (Numbers 6:24)**

bless = Hebrew: *barak* = to kneel down. A related word *berakhah* means to present a gift — on their level.

- Our Blessing: “May the LORD bless you.” (Numbers 6:24)
- What We Are Really Saying? “May the LORD show Himself real to you.”

**Blessing #2: “May the LORD keep you.” (Numbers 6:24)**

keep = Hebrew: *shamar* = to guard, protect, keep careful watch over—i.e. put a hedge of protection around.

- Our Blessing: “May the LORD keep you.” (Numbers 6:24)
- What We Are Really Saying? “May the LORD put a hedge of protection around you.”  
“...deliver US (me and others) from evil...”

**Blessing #3. “May the LORD make His face shine on you.” (Numbers 6:25)**

face = Hebrew: *paniyim* = plural word meaning faces) e.g. the many faces, attributes of God...the fullness of His presence.

- Our Blessing: “May the LORD make His face shine on you.” (Numbers 6:25)
- What We Are Really Saying? “May the LORD light your life with the fullness of His glorious character.”

**Blessing #4. “May the LORD be gracious to you.” (Numbers 6:25)**

gracious = Hebrew: *channa* = God’s favor, mercy and pity. Focuses on the need for God’s protection

We are in danger of hell...God provides the grace for salvation

We are in danger of sin...God provides us the grace for sanctification

- Our Blessing: “May the LORD be gracious to you.” (Numbers 6:25)
- What We Are Really Saying? “May the Lord show His saving power to you.”

**Blessing #5. “May the LORD lift up His countenance on you.” (Numbers 6:26)**

“...the LORD turn His face toward you...” (NIV)

“lift up His countenance” = Hebrew phrase: *nasa paniym*. = “lift up His faces (plural)” Pictures someone lifting up our chins when we are sad and disappointed in ourselves. “Look at Me. Do you know how much I love you?”

- Our Blessing: “May the LORD lift up His countenance on you.” (Numbers 6:26)
- What We Are Really Saying? “May the LORD show how pleased He is with you.”

**Blessing #6. “May the LORD give you His peace.” (Numbers 6:26)**

peace = Hebrew: *shalom* = wholeness or completion. “May you accept the wholeness and completion God provides.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

give = Hebrew: *siym*—sometimes *suym* = to put something or someone in its proper place. cf. Psalm 23

- Our Blessing: “May the LORD give you His peace.” (Numbers 6:26)
- What We Are Really Saying? “May the LORD bring you His wholeness.”

**CONCLUDING CHALLENGE:**

1. Make a list of people you want to “bless” ... e.g. family, friends, etc.
2. If you can, pray over them...

**A Generational Prayer of Blessing  
(Adapted from Numbers 24-26)**

May the LORD bless you and show Himself real to you.

May the LORD keep you and put a hedge of protection around you.

May the LORD make His face shine on you and light your life with the fullness of His glorious character.

May the LORD be gracious to you and show His saving power to you.

May the LORD lift up His countenance on you and show how pleased He is with you.

May the LORD give you His peace and bring you His wholeness.

This is my prayer for you and the generations to follow.

In the Strong and Mighty Name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What do you believe is the importance of giving a blessing to others?
2. To whom would you like to give a blessing? Make a list.
3. What did you get most out of this message?
4. Recite together Numbers 6:24-26 “The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.”