

Wisdom From the Blessing...

Sermon notes – BK

May 31, 2026 (My final Sunday at Central Faith as the Lead Pastor)

GOOD MORNING!

WELCOME, to all you here and online!

ANNOUNCE THIS WEEK... (Tom)

- Lots going on...!

For more than 25 years I have quoted the “Aaronic Blessing” we find in Numbers 6:24-26...

- To my kids
- To my bride
- To the church
- To you here at Central Faith

I have done so, because it is beautiful, powerful and an empowering way to send us out from here each week.

This has been called “The Lord’s Prayer” of the OT

This is a prayer the Lord gave to Moses to direct Aaron (the first High Priest), and his sons (the appointed priests), that they declare this blessing over the people.

The Priest was written by God to represent the people to Go

Think about that...

This is more than just a nice blessing.

These are the words God gave to be prayed to Him... because it is entirely in His will to fulfill it!

Besides that, this prayer...

Is a powerful reminder of God's the heart for His people – to –

- **Arron and the priests to follow**
- **To Church leaders for the people**
- **To the fathers as “pastors to the home”**

- **To ALL of us toward one another really!**

(Again)... this is more than just a nice blessing.

These are the words God gave to be prayed to Him... because it is entirely in His will to fulfill it!

What are these words...?

READ...

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Why is this such a powerful blessing?

Structurally, there are some special things going on...

- I read a lot about this, and [this one source](#) summarized it well... **(I will interject some things into it...)**

The blessing itself is in verses 24-26. It is comprised of three lines that have the following characteristics:

- ***Each line is longer than the previous one. The first line (v. 24) has three Hebrew words. The second line (v. 25) has five Hebrew words, and the third line (v. 26) has seven Hebrew words.***
- ***Even the number of Hebrew letters in each line is interesting. Line one has 15 letters, line two has 20 letters, and line three has 25 letters. This type of precision shows the wonderful elegance of this prayer.***
- ***Each line has two parts.***
 - ***The first part contains a request to the LORD to perform some action. Each request is in the Hebrew jussive form (used to issue an order, command, or strong exhortation), which is used to express a desire or wish. Here, the requests by the priests are for the LORD to act on their behalf. They could be translated "May the LORD..."***
 - ***The second part of each line specified the desired result of the action requested in the first part of the line.***

"May the Lord..."

"Bless you and keep you..." (v. 24):

- ***"Bless"***
 - This implies God's active favor, His provision, and benefits

- This implies a picture of one kneeling down to help, like a lifting up one in need from the ground

- **“Keep”**

- To protect, guard, and preserve; to keep watch over
- This includes both spiritual well-being and physical need

“May the Lord...”

- **“Make his face shine...”**

- Like a father smiling on his child
- Like the morning sun on your face
- The Lord’s face implied His presence

“... and be gracious”

- “Gracious” – God’s unmerited (unearned) favor and kindness
- It pictures relational delight and mercy from God.

“May the Lord...”

- **“Lift up his countenance...”**

- Same word as for “face,” but this implies a *“taking notice”* or *“looking toward”*
- Like a shepherd showing approving attention to his sheep
- To give a smile your way... 😊

- **“...and give you peace”**

- **Shalom** (peace)
- **This** is implies a wholeness, completeness, well-being, harmony

- Not just a lack of conflict – but being whole
- THIS peace is a culmination of all the blessing that is a result of blessing and keeping, grace and favor...

There are **three**, “*May the Lord*” declarations here...

- Three is the **number of completion**...
- It is also the **number of the Trinity**...

I like how one commentator put it (Guzik)

The Lord...the Lord...the Lord: The repetition of Lord three times does not prove the Trinity, but it illustrates it.

- ***God the Father*** blesses and keeps His children.
- ***God the Son*** makes God’s face to shine on us and brings us grace.
- ***God the Holy Spirit*** communicates God’s attention to us, and gives us peace.

***ALL of God... blessing ALL of us...
HE is the true blesser!***

It is also important to point out that there are six “you” references in this blessing...

- All “***you***” references are in the **singular** form
- This is **to each individual**...

As you know, I love looking into each of your eyes, as much as I can... so you know, you are included!

Thing is... this is not truly from my heart to yours...

...It is from the Lord’s heart to you.

This was a blessing the Lord set up, so that the Priest would know how to declare the name of the Lord on the hearts of the people...

... And we know this is EXACTLY as the Lord planned it

What is the result the Lord plans for, following this blessing?

Numbers 6:27

“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

“...put My name...”

For us today, it is to be identified by Jesus

This blessing... is for you to bless others with as well!

- Peter calls us a “Holy Priesthood” –
- The song sung in **Revelation 5:10** declares us, “...***a kingdom and priests to our God...***”

We call this the “*Priesthood of the Believer...*”

...And that includes you!

So, this is something we can bless one another with!

I pray, as you... Central Faith, go forward...

- You pray for the leadership

- You pray for what the Lord is doing in you to be a part of its continued growth and development
- You are faithful to give financially – starting with the tithe, but taking it further as the Lord directs

I PRAY YOU FOURISH INTO THE PLACE GOD HAS FOR YOU... AND FOR CENTRAL FAITH CHURCH AS A WHOLE!

And now, I ask you Tom Davis, to come forward...

- **Take this flame...**
 - May His flame be seen clearly in you, as you reflect the light the Lord shines through you
 - May this be a reminder that this light is never to be hidden
 -

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.