

#1 Summary

In this sermon, the pastor continues a discussion on blessings and curses, focusing on the causes of curses. He explains that curses cannot come without a cause (Proverbs 26:2) and are often related to the law of sowing and reaping. The pastor identifies three curses that affect individuals and churches: carnality (being flesh-minded), apostasy (preaching a false gospel), and legalism (trying to be saved by keeping the law). He then outlines seven causes of curses for individuals and families: parental disrespect, not tithing, negative spoken words, soulless prayers (praying from emotion rather than spirit), anti-Semitism, involvement with the occult, negative influence from authority figures, and generational ties through blood and example.

#2 Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the spiritual principles of blessings and curses in our lives, we ask for Your wisdom and discernment. Open our hearts to receive Your truth, not with fear, but with understanding of Your desire for us to live in freedom and abundance. Help us identify any areas where we may have invited difficulty into our lives, and give us the courage to make changes that align with Your Word. Guide our conversation today, Lord, that we might grow closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

#3 Ice Breaker

What's one family tradition or habit you grew up with that you've either intentionally continued or deliberately changed in your own life?

#4 Key Verses

Proverbs 26:2

Galatians 6:7-8

Proverbs 18:21

Malachi 3:8-11

Deuteronomy 27:16

Exodus 20:5

#5 Questions

1. How do you understand the relationship between the law of sowing and reaping and the concept of curses?
2. Can you share a time when you've witnessed the positive or negative impact of spoken words in your own life?
3. What's your understanding of tithing? How have you seen financial faithfulness (or lack thereof) impact your life?
4. How can we ensure our prayers are Spirit-led rather than emotionally reactive?
5. How might authority figures in our lives (parents, leaders, etc.) impact our spiritual well-being, either positively or negatively?
6. What steps can we take to break negative patterns or 'curses' in our lives and establish new, healthier spiritual legacies?

#6 Life Application

This week, take time to reflect on any negative patterns in your life that may have roots in family history, spoken words, or disobedience to biblical principles. Write these down, then prayerfully renounce any negative influences and commit these areas to God. For each negative pattern identified, find a corresponding scripture of promise and blessing to declare over your life daily. Additionally, identify one specific action step you can take to break this pattern (such as beginning to tithe, speaking words of life, honoring parents, etc.) and commit to implementing it consistently.

#7 Key Takeaways

- Curses are often the result of the law of sowing and reaping - our choices have consequences, both positive and negative.
- Our spoken words have tremendous power to create either life or death in our circumstances (Proverbs 18:21).
- Financial disobedience through withholding tithes and offerings can open the door to financial difficulties.
- Generational patterns can be passed down through both blood (genetic predispositions) and example (learned behaviors), but these patterns can be broken through prayer and intentional choices.

- Authority figures in our lives can significantly impact our spiritual well-being, but we can overcome negative influences through forgiveness and breaking unhealthy soul ties.

#8 Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for revealing these truths to us today. We recognize that You desire blessing and abundance for our lives, not curses or diminishment. Where we have participated in patterns that invite negative consequences, we ask for Your forgiveness. By the authority we have in Christ Jesus, we break any curses or negative patterns in our lives and families. We choose today to speak life, to honor You with our finances, to respect authority, to forgive those who have hurt us, and to establish new patterns of blessing for generations to come. Thank You for the power of Your Word and the freedom it brings. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, amen.