

# The Blessing

**Main Text:** Numbers 6:22-27

**Key Truth:** God spoke a blessing over His people as they prepared for an uncertain journey. That blessing pointed to His protection, provision, presence, and peace. For believers today, these promises find their fulfillment in Christ. In Christ, God gives us the power to endure, provides what we need for the journey, and gives us peace through it all.

## Getting Started

Imagine you could guarantee three things for someone you love that they would have for the rest of their life. What would you choose?

Numbers 6 gives us a glimpse of what God desires for His people. Israel had spent nearly two years at Mount Sinai, where God prepared them for the journey ahead. Now they were about to leave the familiar and move toward the Promised Land. They didn't know everything they would face, but God sent them forward with His blessing.

The blessing begins with the same words three times: "**The LORD.**" This is God's personal name, Yahweh. The God of the universe wanted His people to know that He knew them personally, loved them, and would go with them.

**Question:** If you could guarantee three good things for someone you love, what would they be and why?

## 1. In Christ, God Will Give You Power

### Read

- Numbers 6:24
- Romans 8:28-32
- Philippians 1:6
- Psalm 27:14

## Discuss

The blessing begins:

**"The LORD bless you and keep you."**

To "keep" His people means that God would watch over, guard, and protect them. This did not mean Israel would avoid every difficulty. They would encounter opposition on their journey. God's promise was that He would be with them and give them the power to persevere through it.

The same is true for us. Following Jesus does not guarantee a pain-free life. Jesus told us we would experience trouble, and Scripture repeatedly reminds us that trials are part of living in a fallen world.

But God promises to **keep us**.

Romans 8 reminds us that God is working toward His purpose of making us more like Christ. Nothing can ultimately prevent Him from accomplishing what He has begun in us. When life becomes difficult, we can trust that God will give us the power to endure.

## Discussion Questions

1. What's the difference between God protecting us **from** difficulty and keeping us **through** difficulty?
2. When have you experienced God's strength during a difficult season?
3. How does knowing God's purpose is to make us more like Jesus change the way we view trials?
4. What situation in your life right now requires God's power to endure?
5. How can we encourage someone who is struggling to "wait for the Lord"?

# 2. In Christ, God Will Provide for You

## Read

- Numbers 6:25
- Matthew 28:18-20
- 2 Corinthians 1:20

## Discuss

The second part of the blessing says:

**"The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you."**

The picture of God's face shining upon His people communicates His love, favor, and delight. His grace then expresses itself through His gifts and provision.

Israel needed God's provision for the journey ahead. They needed food, direction, leadership, strength, and everything necessary to accomplish what He had called them to do.

Our mission is different, but the principle remains. Jesus has called us to go into our world and make disciples. God provides what we need to accomplish what He has called us to do.

That provision can come in many forms, but Pastor Todd pointed to God's greatest gift to believers: **the Holy Spirit**. God does not call us to His mission and then leave us to accomplish it alone. Through His Spirit, He equips and empowers us for what He has called us to do.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How have you seen God provide exactly what you needed at the right time?
2. Why can it be difficult to trust God's provision before we see it?
3. What is God currently calling you to do that feels beyond your ability?
4. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit change the way we approach God's calling?
5. Where might God be asking you to trust His provision rather than your own resources?

## **3. In Christ, God Will Give You Peace**

### **Read**

- Numbers 6:26
- Romans 5:1
- John 16:33

### **Discuss**

The blessing concludes:

**"The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."**

For God to turn His face toward His people pictures His attention and presence. Pastor Todd compared it to looking someone directly in the eyes and reassuring them, "Everything's going to be okay."

God's peace does not mean the absence of trouble. It means we can experience peace **in the middle of trouble** because His presence is with us.

For those who are in Christ, this begins with **peace with God**. Through faith in Jesus, we are justified and forgiven. Because we have peace with God, we can experience the peace of God in our everyday lives.

Whatever we face, His face is toward us. His presence is with us.

## Discussion Questions

1. What's the difference between peace with God and the peace of God?
2. Why do we sometimes associate peace with the absence of problems?
3. How can God's presence give us peace even when our circumstances haven't changed?
4. What is currently creating fear, anxiety, or uncertainty in your life?
5. What would it look like to intentionally "fix your eyes" on God in that situation?

## Living It Out

Israel was on a journey toward the Promised Land. As followers of Jesus, we are on a journey too. Our ultimate destination is eternity with Christ, but God has also given us a mission while we're here.

This week, remember these three promises:

- When the journey is difficult, **trust God's power to help you endure.**
- When you don't know if you have what you need, **trust God's provision for what He has called you to do.**
- When fear and uncertainty surround you, **trust God's presence and receive His peace.**

These promises aren't based on what we've earned. They are ours because of Christ. As 2 Corinthians 1:20 reminds us, God's promises find their "Yes" in Him.

## Memory Verse

### 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 turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

# Closing Prayer

**Father**, thank You that You know us personally and desire good things for Your children. Thank You that in Christ Your promises are ours. When life is difficult, give us the power to endure. Provide everything we need to accomplish what You have called us to do. When fear and uncertainty come, remind us that Your face is toward us and Your presence is with us. Give us Your peace as we trust You throughout the journey. In Jesus' name, Amen.