

January 2011

Dear Friend,

God recently spoke to my heart that "2011 is going to be the greatest year ever for my people." When He spoke to me about this in November of 2010, He said to me, "If my people will pursue me as never before, I will take them to levels they have never been before."

To go to a new level you don't need more religion. You don't need another list of "do's and don't." You don't even need 6 steps to this and 12 keys to that. **You need a fresh encounter with God where He reveals Himself to you in a meaningful way and raises your faith to a new level.**

I believe it is time for us as God's people to begin walking in a higher level of blessing than ever before. It is time we set our expectations higher than ever before. It is time we received like never before. But I know, and you know, from time to time there seems to be something holding us back from receiving what is rightfully ours.

The Bible is full of promises about God wanting to pour out upon us more blessings than you and I could possibly imagine. It is His very nature to bless us. He cannot help Himself. He has been blessing humanity from the very beginning. In Genesis 1, God created man in His own image and then blessed him (verse 27-28). Then in Genesis 12 God found a man by the name of Abram and promised him, "I will bless you and I will bless your seed after you." God enriched every area of Abraham's life with blessing upon blessing. That blessing continues to flow from Abraham's life down to his son, Isaac, and on for generations.

God blessed Abraham such that his seed became the entire Nation of Israel. Even with that, God was not done. "To the people of Israel God gave this promise: It shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)

But now, what I want to know is, **where are all those blessings today?** What is the holdup?

Throughout the Word of God we find many accounts where the blessings of God are blocked or obstructed in a believer's life. I have come to depend on the free-flow of God's blessings in my life, but at one point in my life those Covenant Promises of God were not producing the way they should so I pressed in to find out how to keep that from happening.

To begin, Proverbs 26:2 points out a sobering truth: "The curse causeless shall not come." The New King James Version states it this way: "A curse without cause shall not alight." In other words, a curse does not just happen. There is always a reason behind it. What we need to understand, however, is a "curse" is really nothing more, or less, than what I call a **blessing blocker**. What Solomon is pointing out here is those **blessing blockers** only occur when there is a cause. In short, curses are not coincidental. There has to be a cause when our blessings from God are being blocked from us. That tells me, the moment we begin to notice the flow of God's blessing in our lives slowing down, we need to begin looking for the blockage.

We can fall back on the promise of Job 36:7-9, "He never takes his eyes off the righteous; he honors them lavishly, promotes them endlessly. When things go badly, when affliction and suffering descend, God tells them where

they've gone wrong," (The Message). We have God's guarantee that if we ever find ourselves in some sort of problem, we can count on Him to reveal to us the source of that problem. It doesn't have to remain a mystery. God will reveal its cause to us. He will tell us when we have gone wrong.

First, understand the devil cannot get up one morning and decide to hinder the blessings of God from flowing into your life. No, you have to give him a cause or reason for **blocking the blessings** of God. You have to open the door for him.

Second, God is standing by ready to reveal any **blessing blockers** in your life and the cause behind them. Do a heart checkup. We have already seen in Deuteronomy 28 the "blessing" side of the Old Covenant. The other side to that blessing, or the "curse", is also found in Deuteronomy 28:15. It boils down to this: "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses (**blessing blockers**) shall come upon thee, and over take thee."

Notice, under the Old Covenant, if you obeyed the Word of God, then blessings would come upon you and overtake you. If you disobeyed the Word, however, curses were the result. It all came down to the matter of obedience. Well, the same holds true in the New Testament, our New Covenant with God. Jesus said in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." The word 'follow' here is defined as "carry out fully my commands." Sounds like 'obedience' to me.

Today it is still a matter of whether we choose to obey God's Word, or not. If we do, we will be blessed. If we don't we give entrance to the curse. We open the door for every devil of hell to cheat us out of our rightful blessings. Now, as in Jesus' day, disobedience remains a major problem in the Body of Christ. Jesus once asked His disciples this question: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) He was warning them obedience to His Word was vital. Likewise, James exhorts us as believers today: "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only." (James 1:22) Why? Because a doer of the Word "shall be blessed in his deeds" (verse 25).

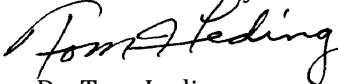
The Amplified Bible says, "he shall be blessed in his doing (his life of obedience)." The next time you start blaming the devil for stealing the blessings of God from you, remember your disobedience is an open door for the enemy to move in with his **blessing blockers**. If situations in your life are not going according to the promises of God, then turn inward and allow the Spirit of God to begin to reveal the cause behind any possible **blockage**.

Here is my own little checklist:

- (1) Am I putting the "blessings" ahead of the blesser (God)? Am I seeking 'things' more than Him?
- (2) Am I living a Godly lifestyle, or have I accepted the world's standards for moral conduct?
- (3) Am I walking in the love of God, or is there strife and unforgiveness in my heart?
- (4) Am I honoring God with my finances?

These are a few **blessing blockers** associated with disobedience. The point is, go down the list and do a heart check. See if there is any disobedience in your life. Allow the Lord to reveal any **blockages** you might have. If He does uncover any, repent and make the necessary adjustments. By doing so, you slam the door on the devil! Curses will no longer have a cause in your life and the blessings of God will flow freely once more.

Your faithful Prayer Partner,



Dr. Tom Leding