

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR DEVOTIONAL*Title: #blessed*

January 15–21 and January 22 – 28

Introduction

Do you remember the social media trend #blessed? Whenever something goes well or we want to share our good fortune, we post with this trendy hashtag. But for believers, the meaning of being blessed carries much deeper significance. You are chosen and entrusted to fulfill His will on Earth. This includes stewarding His creation, His provisions, and His design for governance. As a believer, you are called to bless political leaders and those in authority, knowing that your prayers and actions, aligned with God's will, can influence righteous leadership.

Unlike the fleeting hashtag that eventually fades, God's power to bless is eternal. This week, we'll explore the spiritual authority you possess—authority that empowers you to bless and not curse those who govern. You'll also learn how to use that authority to break off curses and release blessings over your sphere of influence.

Objectives

1. Understand what it means to be redeemed.
2. Embrace the truth that God's redemption is for all people, including those in positions of authority.
3. Reflect on the power of Christ's redemption in your personal life and extend those benefits of as blessings to your leaders.

Key Scriptures**Genesis 12:2**

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Galatians 3:8

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Key Word: Blessed

The story of Abraham is foundational to understanding our own spiritual identity. Just as God blessed Abraham and promised that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him, we, as believers in Christ, are entitled to the same blessing. Our spiritual inheritance empowers us to bless others, especially those in authority, and to carry out God's will on Earth.

Through Jesus, the greatest blessing of all, we are now participants in a global mission to spread His love and truth to every nation. Your obedience to bless and pray is not just a personal duty; it is an integral part of your divine purpose and calling.

In Scripture, we see the concept of blessing presented in a variety of ways:

- A decree of our spiritual heritage and great destiny as blessed in **Genesis 12:2 and Galatians 3:8**.
- God's command to bless and not curse which applies to every believer in **Romans 12:14**.

These passages remind us of our spiritual heritage, authority, and requirement to extend our blessed inheritance to others. This means that even the leaders of our nations, who carry great responsibility and influence, can benefit from the actions of the believers they lead.

Reflection: Breaking Agreement

1. Spend time with the Holy Spirit and ask Him to reveal times that you might have knowingly or unknowingly cursed your leaders. Was it verbally? In your thinking or attitude? Consuming and agreeing with judgmental voices in the media? Write it all down because you will use this list to reverse those curses in this week's activation.
2. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal why you may have adopted this particular way of responding to your leaders. You might discover that some of your actions stem from external negative influences or from internal emotions such as disappointment, bitterness, offense, or fear. Another possibility is that your desire for righteousness and justice, while genuine, may not be shaped by God's perspective, leading to misalignment in this area of your behavior.

3. Break any agreement with this behavior or mindset by asking God for forgiveness. Then, verbally declare your decision to renounce and reject the act and attitude of cursing your leaders (or anyone else).
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to help align your desire for righteousness and justice in the nations with His will. If He reveals any action you should take, be obedient and follow through.
5. Rejoice because you have taken a bold step in your identity as a believer and a blessing to the nations!

Important Reminder: Let go of any regret or condemnation for anything you've said or done in the past. As Scripture reminds us in Romans 8:1, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." You are free from blame and guilt—only blessings remain for you!

Activation: Reverse the Curse

1. Grab a sheet of paper (or you can do this on a laptop or phone). On one half of paper or document, use your list from Reflection #1 above to write a list of unrighteous things you've said, thought, or agreed with regarding your leaders. Then on the other half, write the opposite of each, transforming those curses into statement of blessings.
2. Through the week, reverse these curses as blessing statements over your leaders. Here is an example, "I declare that [insert leader's name] is not incompetent. God has blessed him/her with the intelligence and faculties to perceive truth, wisdom, and sound reason. So I bless my leader with an awakening in their mind and heart to use what God has given them to lead with justice and righteousness. God, there is no heart or mind out of your reach and I trust you will meet them for the benefit of my nation and for your glory. Amen!"

Don't Forget

Scripture reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." It will require great faith to declare blessings over your leaders each day, especially when you're likely witnessing the very opposite of what you're hoping for.

But you, History Maker, have a divinely appointed calling to be a blessing to the nations. As we've learned this week, your role is supported by God's promises and His unshakable power. Who would have thought that just a minute a day could make such a powerful impact? Keep going!

Closing Prayer

Father, thank you for the covenant promise you made to Abraham that resulted in my salvation through Jesus Christ AND my role as a blessing to the nations. I am grateful that you grafted me into the bloodline of the blessing and not the curse! I rejoice that I get to partner with you according to your great will and my God-given identity. I pray that you would soften my heart, anoint my words, and increase my faith to speak outrageous and wonderful blessings over my leaders this week and beyond.

In Jesus' name, Amen!