

# Victory Christian Center of Hollywood

*A Church appointed to Advance the Kingdom of God! April 12, 2017*

*Pastor MC Griffin Campbell, M.Div. MA*

Mid week service

## c"The Blessings"

### Part I.

#### What we need to know about "Blessing"

#### Introduction:

One of the meaning of the word "Blessing" refers to divinely and supremely favored by God.

Also, the dictionary definition refers to:

- God's favor and protection.
- approval that allows or helps you to do something
- help and approval from God; something that helps you or brings happiness

#### KJV Dictionary Definition: bless

bless

BLESS, v.t. pret. and ppr. blessed or blest.

1. To pronounce a wish of happiness to one; to express a wish or desire of happiness.

And Isaac called Jacob and blessed him. Gen.28.

2. To make happy; to make successful; to prosper in temporal concerns; as, we are blest with peace and plenty.

The Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thou doest. Deut. 15.

3. To make happy in a future life.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Rev.14.

4. To set apart or consecrate to holy purposes; to make and pronounce holy.

And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. Gen.2

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5. To consecrate by prayer; to invoke a blessing upon.

And Jesus took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven he blessed them. Luke 9.

6. To praise; to glorify, for benefits received.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me. Ps.103.

7. To praise; to magnify; to extol, for excellencies. Ps.104.

8. To esteem or account happy; with the reciprocal pronoun.

The nations shall bless themselves in him. Jer.4.

9. To pronounce a solemn prophetic benediction upon. Gen.27. Deut. 33.

10. In this line of Spenser, it may signify to throw, for this is nearly the primary sense.

His sparkling blade about his head he blest.

Johnson supposes the word to signify to wave or brandish, and to have received this sense from the old rite of blessing a field, by directing the hands to all parts of it.

## Blessed

**BLESS'ED**, pp. Made happy or prosperous; extolled; pronounced happy.

**BLESS'ED**, a. Happy; prosperous in worldly affairs; enjoying spiritual happiness and the favor of God; enjoying heavenly felicity.

**Blessed-Thistle**. A plant of the genus *Cnicus*, sometimes used in decoctions, for a bitter.

## blessing

**BLESS'ING**, ppr. Making happy; wishing happiness to; praising or extolling; consecrating by prayer.

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**BLESS'ING, n. Benediction; a wish of happiness pronounced; a prayer imploring happiness upon another.**

**1. A solemn prophetic benediction, in which happiness is desired, invoked or foretold.**

**This is the blessing wherewith Moses--blessed the children of Israel. Deut.33.**

**2. Any means of happiness; a gift, benefit or advantage; that which promotes temporal prosperity and welfare, or secures immortal felicity. A just and pious magistrate is a public blessing. The divine favor is the greatest blessing.**

**3. Among the Jews, a present; a gift; either because it was attended with kind wishes for the welfare of the giver, or because it was the means of increasing happiness.**

## **I. What is the biblical definition of a blessing? What is it to bless in the Bible?**

The word "bless" or "blessing" comes from the Old English word *bledsian*, based on the Old English word for blood. It may have originally meant "to consecrate with blood" and it was later used to translate the Latin word *benedicere*, which means "to praise, worship." The word "bless" is also used to translate the Hebrew word *barak*, which means "to praise, congratulate or salute." In the common vernacular, the word is used to indicate a wish of good fortune upon the one receiving the blessing

. For example, in Genesis 12:1-3, God makes a promise to Abram, saying, "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. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." God is promising good fortune, and a good future, to the descendants of Abram, and He is saying that others will gain good fortune through him. It can be said that the nation of Israel, and all who believe in the God of Israel, are consecrated with blood—the blood of Jesus Christ—through faith. The Hebrew word *barak* means literally "to kneel" and when used in this context, it indicates a relationship between man, who adores God by kneeling, and God, who benefits men with His presence.

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Another word translated "blessing" is the Hebrew word *esher*, which indicates a state of happiness. This word occurs frequently in the Psalms and Proverbs. When the Psalmist says, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers" (Psalm 1:1), he is saying "you will be happy if you do not walk in the counsel of the wicked, etc." Obedience to God is not a pre-requisite for salvation—while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)—but obedience to God and living according to His Word is a recipe for blessing, for happiness in life (Proverbs 3:1-4).

There are two Greek words in the New Testament which are translated as "blessing." The first is *makarios*, which carries the same meaning as the Hebrew word *esher*. The other is *eulogeo*, which is used to give a good report or say a good word; it is more similar to the meaning of *barakl*. We bless God for all the blessings He gives us in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), and we are to bless those who mistreat us, because we were called to receive a blessing from God (1 Peter 3:9). The relationship of believers to God, our submission to Him and His gifts toward us, are described in terms of blessing, and indeed, there is no blessing as meaningful or as permanent as our inheritance in Christ (Galatians 3:18; 1 Peter 1:4).

## **II. God's desire is to Bless us: O/T & N/T**

God's intention and desire to bless humanity is a central focus of his covenant relationships. For this reason, the concept of blessing pervades the biblical record. Two distinct ideas are present. First, a blessing was a public declaration of a favored status with God. Second, the blessing endowed power for prosperity and success. In all cases, the blessing served as a guide and motivation to pursue a course of life within the blessing.

The Old Testament Terms for blessing abound in the Old Testament, occurring over 600 times. The major terms are related to the word meaning "to kneel, " since in earlier times one would kneel to receive a blessing.

The history of Israel begins with the promise of blessing. The curse, which had dominated the early chapters of the biblical story ( Genesis 3:14 Genesis 3:17 ; 4:11 ; 5:29 ; 9:25 ), was countered by God's promise to Abraham that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" ( Gen 12:3 ). The record of Israel's past is best understood as an outworking of blessing and cursing ( Deut 27:1-28:68 ).

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The institutions of society the family, government, and religion were the means by which ceremonial blessings were received. Within the family the father blessed his wife and children ( [Gen 27:27-29](#) ; [49:25-26](#) ; [1 Sam 2:20](#) ). In the government context, the ruler blessed his subjects ( [2 Sam 6:18](#) ; [1 Kings 8:14](#) [1 Kings 8:55](#) ). Those who possessed a priestly role were bestowed with the privilege of blessing ( [Gen 14:19](#) ; [Lev 9:22](#) ). The tribe of Levi was set apart "to pronounce blessings in his [the Lord's] name" ( [Deut 10:8](#) ; [21:5](#) ).

Three common themes are present in formal Old Testament blessings. First, the greater blesses the lesser, a fact picked up by the writer of Hebrews to demonstrate the superiority of Melchizedek to Abraham ( [Heb 7:6-7](#) ). Second, the blessing is a sign of special favor that is intended to result in prosperity and success ( [Deu 28:3-7](#) ). Third, the blessing is actually an invocation for God's blessing: "May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful" ( [Gen 28:3](#) ).

In a less ceremonial sense, the Scriptures declare a general blessing on the righteous. Those who are obedient to God's commands are blessed with affluence and victory ( [Deu 28:1-14](#) ). On the other hand, those who are disobedient are cursed ( [Deu 28:15-68](#) ) and suffer the consequences of drought, disease, and deprivation.

It is also possible for a person to "bless" God. The terminology arises as a response to the blessings bestowed by God: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" ( [Psalm 103:2](#) ; KJV ). These occurrences of "bless" are usually translated "praise" or "extol" in modern versions.

### III. The New Testament Blessing

The parallels between the Old and New Testament usages of blessing are striking. To be blessed is to be granted special favor by God with resulting joy and prosperity. In the New Testament, however, the emphasis is more on spiritual rather than on material blessings.

God's promise to Abraham again serves as a foundation for blessings. The pledge that "all peoples on earth shall be blessed" ( [Gen 12:3](#) ) is fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ ( [Ga 3:8-14](#) ). He has borne the consequences of the curse for believers ( [Gal 3:13](#) ) and blessed them with the forgiveness of sins ( [Rom 4:6-9](#) ; see [Psalm 32:1-2](#) ). Believers are "blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ" ( [Eph 1:3](#) ) and now inherit the blessings promised through the patriarchs ( [Hebrews 6:12](#) [Hebrews 6:15](#) ; [12:17](#) ; [1 Peter 3:9](#) ). As a result of receiving God's blessings in Christ, believers are called to be a source of blessing to the world, especially in response to those who persecute them ( [Luke 6:27-28](#) ; [Rom 12:14](#) ; [1 Cor 4:12](#) ; [1 Peter 3:9](#) ; cf. [Isa 19:24](#) ; [Zech 8:13](#) ).

In a general sense, the terms for blessing in the New Testament are used to designate that one is favored by God. Included among these are Jesus ( [Mark](#)

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11:9-10); children ( [Mark 10:13-16](#) ); Mary ( [Luke 1:42](#) [Luke 1:48](#) ); the disciples ( [Luke 24:50](#) ); those who "have not seen and yet have believed" ( [John 20:29](#) ); and those who endure trials ( [James 1:12](#) ; [5:11](#) ). As in the Old Testament, when these words are ascribed to God they are rendered "praise" ( [Rom 1:25](#) ; [9:5](#) ; [2 Cor 11:31](#) ).

The most recognizable references to blessing come from the teachings of Jesus. He declares that in spite of difficulties at the present time, the promises of God's salvation and coming kingdom bring a state of happiness and recognized favor with God ( [Matt 5:3-10](#) ; [Luke 6:20-22](#) ). The culmination of the Scriptures proclaims the end of the curse ( [Rev 22:3](#) ) and the eternal blessedness of the people of God ( [Rev 20:6](#) ; [22:7](#) ).

## Part II.

### Children are a blessing from the Lord

#### [Psalm 127:3-5](#) ESV

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

#### [Psalm 127:3](#) ESV /

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

#### [Proverbs 22:6](#) ESV /

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

#### [Psalm 139:13-16](#) ESV /

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

#### [John 16:21](#) ESV /

When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

#### [Matthew 18:1-3](#) ESV /

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of

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them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

[Isaiah 54:13](#) ESV /

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.

[Proverbs 17:6](#) ESV

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.

[James 1:17](#) ESV

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

[Matthew 18:10](#) ESV /

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

[3 John 1:4](#) ESV /

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

[Mark 10:14](#) ESV /

But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

[Numbers 6:24-26](#) ESV /

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

[Ephesians 6:4](#) ESV /

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

[Jeremiah 29:11](#) ESV /

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

[Psalm 127:1-5](#) ESV /

A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

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[Psalm 112:1-10](#) ESV /

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments! His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.

[Deuteronomy 6:7](#) ESV /

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

[Proverbs 1:8-9](#) ESV /

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

[Ephesians 6:1-4](#) ESV /

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

[Mark 9:37](#) ESV /

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

[Jeremiah 1:5](#) ESV / Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

[Proverbs 3:5](#) ESV /

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

[Deuteronomy 7:14](#) ESV /

You shall be blessed above all peoples. There shall not be male or female barren among you or among your livestock.

[Luke 18:16](#) ESV / 81 helpful votes But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

[Deuteronomy 29:29](#) ESV /

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

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[Psalm 128:1-6](#) ESV /

A Song of Ascents. Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

[Psalm 100:1-5](#) ESV /

A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

[1 Timothy 2:15](#) ESV /

Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

[John 3:16-17](#) ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

[1 Samuel 1:27-28](#) ESV /

For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there.

[Hebrews 12:9-11](#) ESV /

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

[Isaiah 8:18](#) ESV /

Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

[Psalm 22:10](#) ESV /

On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

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[Genesis 1:28](#) ESV /

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

[Luke 17:2](#) ESV /

It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

## **Part III. Conditional blessings comes thru obedience**

### **Obey**

to comply with the wishes, instructions, or commands of.

to do what is told to you, or to follow a rule

to give ear to; to execute the commands of; to yield submission to; to comply with the orders of

to submit to the authority of; to be ruled by

to yield to the impulse, power, or operation of;

### **1. Fully Obey**

entirely or wholly:

to the greatest degree or extent; completely or entirely

in a full manner or degree; completely; entirely; without lack or defect;

adequately; satisfactorily; as, to be fully persuaded of the truth of a proposition

### **2. Carefully (13-Obey) (1- Keep)**

taking care or paying attention

with caution

caution

alertness and prudence in a hazardous situation; care:

a warning against danger or evil; anything serving as a warning.

to advise or urge to take heed

### **3. Keep**

to hold or retain in one's possession, either permanently or temporarily

to maintain to hold in a given place; put or store

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**<sup>1</sup> If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. <sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:**

**<sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.**

**<sup>4</sup> The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.**

**<sup>5</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.**

**<sup>6</sup> You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.**

**<sup>7</sup> The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.**

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.**

**<sup>9</sup> The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. <sup>10</sup> Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. <sup>11</sup>**

**The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.**

**<sup>12</sup> The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. <sup>13</sup> The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. <sup>14</sup> Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.**

**What am I talking about? Specifically, Something good can be referred to you feeling very grateful or lucky to have something or someone that is good and can sometime refer to a Miracle, Blessing, and Favor.**

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## **IV. We can also relate the word "Blessing."**

For clarity sake, we can see that a blessing is a statement of good will and happiness that is said about another, as well as the condition that fulfills those good words. God's original design in creation was for His creatures, including mankind, to experience prosperity, peace, and fulfillment, but that design was ruined when sin entered the world.

Statements of blessing are a wish for God to restore His favor on others or a declaration of His inherent goodness. The ultimate blessing that God has given is the new life and forgiveness that comes through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. The material blessings we enjoy from day to day are temporary, but the spiritual blessings available to us in Christ encompass time and eternity, as well as material and immaterial things. As the Psalmist said, "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God" ([Psalm 146:5](#)).

Hear the word of God: All things work out for the best

This seems close to Jeremiah 29:11 except for the fact that even bad things work out for our best. The Bible has a history where God uses evil for His purpose. That means that everything...all things...work together for our ultimate good. It doesn't say that all things are good but that all things, good or bad, work to our benefit. These "all things" do not work out for the best for those who are not called by God. The opposite is true for non-believers; all things will work out for their worse.

## **Prayers of Blessings**

For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous. I, therefore, declare that I am blessed through Jesus Christ. Thank You for surrounding me with Your favour as with a shield. I thank You, Lord, that I can abound in your favor and blessing today. I, therefore, expect Your favor to go before me today. I anticipate the favor of God surrounding me and I expect my Heavenly Father to give me favor with men, even with the ungodly.

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**I thank You Heavenly Father for opening doors for me that neither man nor the devil can shut. Thank You for blessing the works of my hands as I walk under an open heaven. May I experience your supernatural increase and provision in every area of my life this day. I choose to walk in faith and in victory.**

**In Jesus' name I pray.  
Amen.**

The tradition of a blessing or benediction as part of an act of worship has been a part of Jewish worship for generations, and we can trace it back to the book of Numbers where Aaron and his sons bless the Israelites with this blessing :

“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. ”  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

Interestingly this is apparently the oldest known Biblical text that has been found; amulets with these verses written on them have been found in graves in dating from the First Temple Period, and are now in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

Below are some contemporary blessings

May the love of the Father,  
the tenderness of the Son,  
and the presence of the Spirit,  
gladden your heart  
and bring peace to your soul,  
this day and all days, Amen.

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May God the Father  
prepare your journey,  
Jesus the Son  
guide your footsteps,  
The Spirit of Life  
strengthen your body,

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**The Three in One  
watch over you,  
on every road  
that you may follow.**

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**May the peace of God enfold us,  
The love of God uphold us,  
The wisdom of God control us.**

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**Let the majesty of the Father  
be the light by which you walk,  
the compassion of the Son  
be the love by which you walk,  
the presence of the Spirit  
be the power by which you walk.**

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**May the peace of God reign in this place  
and the love of God forever hold you tight,  
May the Spirit of God flow through your life  
and the joy of God uphold you day and night.**

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**The love of God be the passion  
in your heart.  
The joy of God your strength  
when times are hard .  
The presence of God a peace  
that overflows.  
The Word of God the seed  
that you might sow**

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**The embrace of the Father  
Be the comfort you desire.  
The name of the Son  
Be the one on whom you rely.  
The presence of the Spirit  
Be with you every hour.  
The Three in One  
Be the focus of all you are.**

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**May the beauty of God  
be reflected in your eyes,  
the love of God  
be reflected in your hands,  
the wisdom of God  
be reflected in your words,  
and the knowledge of God  
flow from your heart,  
that all might see,  
and seeing, believe**