

# CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

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BLESSINGS & CURSINGS

44

SERIES



In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the blessings of God and how to obtain it in one's life.

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Published by Paul Baumeister, P.O. Box 2366, Elk Grove, California 95759.

Printed in the United States of America.





# City of the Living God



*“For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise” (Heb. 6:13-15).*

The Bible is full of promises of blessings to the people of God that are beyond our imagination. God has made these available to all of those that want to be part of his Kingdom and he gives us clear instructions of how to obtain them. Since the beginning of man and woman, God has shown his desire to bless them. He opens the book of Genesis with the blessings of a promise to all mankind to be “fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (Gen. 1:28). Still man rebelled and fell from God’s grace and was ousted from the Garden of Eden in their new fallen state.

God’s first action after they fell was to provide redemption for them, so he gave them clothes of an animal skin. It was the sin sacrifice that was established quickly to allow man to be blessed again. Many years later, God focused his blessings on one man named Abraham. He wanted to bless Abraham so that he could be fountain of blessings to the whole world. God blessed him in all ways to show all how to obtain the blessings of God. After all, everyone loves the blessings of God.

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# CONDITIONAL BLESSINGS

From the outset of creation, we have seen that God promised us his blessings. These blessings are always attached to the way that we live. They are based on his goodness and our obedient will. It is obvious the focus of the whole earth is upon mankind. There is no other creation like it. He has made us the apple of his eye, the focus of his creation. He created us and that is why we call him our Father. He wants to bless us as any father wants his children to be blessed. He does not make it difficult to understand. He says it so plainly in his Word.

## **Deuteronomy 28:1-2**

*“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God.”*

There is no guessing in this Scriptural reading. Our blessing is directly connected to our obedience to his commandments. The key is to understand this sentence begins with a conditional clause “if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord...” It is conditional upon our obedience to him. It’s a promise. That promise depends on us being diligent followers of Christ.

The results of that obedience to God opens up a massive number of blessings in every way. The Scriptures continue with very detailed outcomes from our obedience.

## **Deuteronomy 28:3-4**

*“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks...”*

It does not even stop there. It continues for another 12 verses of a description of all the blessings that would fall on those that follow the Lord's commandments. It promises further blessings of:

- Provisions for food.
- Blessings to follow us wherever we go.
- Protection against our enemies.
- Manifest blessings that will help us during times of economic trouble.
- Such great blessings that the world will see our success.
- Blessings of health, business, prosperity.

These blessings were promised to the Old Testament people of God. It is obvious when the nation of Israel was obedient in their walk with God. They had peace, safety, dominance, and the spiritual promises of God that came with it. Their prosperity was evident by their obedience to the commandments of God. It wasn't just that God demanded complete obedience; He wanted their obedience to be an outcome from their love for God.

### **Deuteronomy 5:29**

*“Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!”*

Jesus in the New Testament connects our love for God with our obedience to his commandments.

### **John 14:21**

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.”*

The New Testament promises us the blessings of Abraham through the obedience to the faith.

### **Galatians 3:7-9**

*“Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.”*

To be “of faith” means that the believer is obedient to that faith, otherwise his faith would be dead. In other words, if you have faith you will have the results of that faith which is obedience.

### **Hebrews 1:8**

*“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”*

## **CONDITIONAL CURSINGS**

Just as our blessings are directly connected to our obedience to God’s commandments, the cursings are and outcome of our disobedience to him. As in all covenants, they include a section called the “blessings and cursings” and they are evident within the Scriptures. Deuteronomy chapter 28 lists 14 verses of blessings and it lists 54 verses of curses. The reason why there are so many more curses is because the outcomes of curses on our lives degenerates and affects other areas of our lives.

### **Deuteronomy 28:15-19**

*“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and*

*your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out."*

All of the blessings that were an outcome of our obedience is reversed with our disobedience to God. It's strange how the believer quickly forgets why he/she is blessed and falls into the trap of the enemy and begins to veer from God's path. The blessings of God stop and the results of sin becomes evident. It's just part of the laws of God. It has been fixed from the beginning of time. The ultimate outcome of that life of sin is death as the Apostle Paul states:

**Romans 6:23**

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

We know that all of us have sinned and have been disobedient in our lives. Knowing the results of that life should awaken us to live a life of obedience. Living for God should not be only based on our desire to be blessed of God. It must go beyond that. Obedience without the basis of love will not last a long time. Our love for God should be the basis for our obedience to him.

## **IN LOVE WITH THE MASTER**

Love for God is the basis and primary motivator for obeying God. It is the evidence of a transformed heart rather than a burdensome legalistic requirement. Jesus states in John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments," linking obedience to a relationship with Him. When someone is in love with another, they have this desire to please that person. It is the same with our relationship with God. If we love him, then we want to please our Lord.

True love is found in the very definition of the word, “love.” In Hebrew it is the word, Ahava, which means more than a feeling, but it is a giving of oneself. It is that love that causes someone to show action. Notice that God showed his love for mankind by his “giving.”

**John 3:16**

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

Love is the basis for our actions and is the basis for our commitment and obedience to the Lord. Notice how Jesus connects his love with his actions and how our actions show our love for him.

**John 15:12-14**

*“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”*

So the blessings of God are an outcome of our true love for him! True love shows action, and our action is our obedience to him. We have a few sayings in English, “Actions speak louder than words” and “Love is a verb. Demonstrate it. Express it. Show it.”

Are you thankful for the blessings of God in your life?  
What are some of your actions that show your love for  
God? What have you learned from this study?

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