

A BLESSED LIFE

Part 1: Opening The Door To Blessings

BLESSED:

A. A word with a diluted meaning

1. Bless you when we sneeze
2. Say the blessing over the food
3. Bless your heart - Southern code word / buffer phrase

B. Blessed, a powerful word

1. God's favor and protection
2. God's action or intervention in our lives - favor, gift, benefit, bounty
3. We can open the door to more of God's blessings in our lives **(Psalm 34:8 NKJV)**

A BLESSED MAN (Luke 5:1-9 NKJV)

A. Jesus asked for Peter's help

1. He did not force or demand
2. He chose to use Peter to help Him help the people
3. Jesus' request would require Peter's time and resources

B. Jesus gave Peter a directive

1. Required a level of trust on Peter's part
2. Contained a level of risk - he could have looked foolish fishing in the daytime
3. Peter's response was classic - Nevertheless at Your word I will

C. Jesus blessed Peter's fishing business

1. The catch was astonishing
2. Jesus may have had more in mind for Peter - He said nets plural
3. Peter was involved in opening the door to the major financial blessing

OPENING THE DOOR TO GOD'S BLESSINGS IN OUR LIVES

A. With our service to Him (Hebrews 6:10 NKJV)

1. When the Lord says He will not forget - it's a good thing
2. What we do for others - He takes personally
3. Contains a level of risk, requires a level of trust - appears a waste of time or insignificant

B. With our tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10-12 NKJV)

1. We bring the tithe - the first tenth
2. He opens the window and pours out blessings
3. He also rebukes the devourer - so there is a level of protection (blessings in that)
4. Other people will call us blessed - visible and tangible
5. Also contains a level of risk, requires a level of trust - may appear foolish to others

C. Don't disqualify yourself

1. Peter acknowledged he was sinful but later wrote **(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV)**
2. The blessings start when we open the door to receiving Jesus in our lives