



NOVEMBER 8

THE BLESSING

GOD'S PURSUIT OF HIS PEOPLE

This weekend, we started a brand-new series called *The Blessing...God's Pursuit of His People*. In this series, we will look at how God created us to live under His blessing, how we lost the blessing through our rebellion, and how God is pursuing us to restore the blessing. This week we will explore several passages of Scripture which describe the many different forms God's blessing can take in our lives.

Before you jump in, take a few moments to prepare your heart, slow your mind, and take a few deep breaths. Then, read the following passage:

*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. **Jeremiah 17:7-8***



READ

What does the Word say about this topic?

Take a few moments to **read the following passages**. For each passage, briefly describe what the blessing is and what it takes to receive it. We will be referring back to specific verses later.

- Job 5:17
- Psalm 1
- Psalm 32:1-2
- Psalm 34:7-8
- Proverbs 10:22
- Proverbs 22:9
- Luke 6:20-23
- Luke 24:50-51
- James 1:12



REFLECT

What do these passages reveal about God's pursuit of us and desire to bless us?

1. After having read through the passages, is there a specific one that spoke to you the most? If so, why do you think that passage is being highlighted for you?

2. In the message this weekend and in these passages, one of the main themes is God's pursuit of us to bless us. After listening to the message and reading the passages, how would you define God's blessing?

- Has your definition of blessing changed now? If so, what is that change?

3. What is the blessing for the person who delights in and meditates on God's Word according to Psalm 1?

4. Re-read Luke 6:20-23. This is the exact opposite of what most people would pursue as God's blessing in their life. Why do you think Jesus says we are blessed when we are poor, hungry, sad, or hated?

5. In Luke 24, we see Jesus ascending into heaven. Right before that, He lifted up his hands and blessed them. The last thing Jesus did while with His followers before ascending was bless them. Can you picture yourself in that scenario? How would that scene make you feel?



RESPOND

In light of these truths, how does God want me to respond?

1. Quickly review the ways that God blesses us in the passages we've studied today. When you stop and take a moment to think about all the ways that God has blessed you in your life, what comes to mind?

- Have you ever seen God's correction lead to a blessing in your life, like in Job 5:17?
- Have you ever experienced God's protection in your life, like in Psalm 34:7-8?

2. In the message Michael asked *Do You Believe...In The Blessing?* Do you believe that, just as God pursued Abraham and the nation of Israel to bless them, that He also wants to bless you? Why or why not? Explain.

3. Michael also asked, *Are You Living...Under God's Blessing?* How would you answer that question?

- Is there anything in your life hindering you from living under God's blessing?
- If so, what is one practical step you could take to begin moving back towards being under God's blessing?

4. To end the study this week, take 5-10 minutes to thank God for the ways He has blessed you in your life. Confess and repent of anything that may be hindering you from living under His blessing, and last, ask God to show you through this series how to live under His blessing in your life.