



NOVEMBER 15

THE BLESSING

THE POWER OF CHOICE

This weekend we continued in our new series *The Blessing...God's Pursuit of His People*. In this series, we are learning how God created us to live under His blessing, how we lost the blessing, and how God is pursuing us to restore the blessing in our lives. This week we will explore how our choices, both good and bad, impact God's blessing in our lives. *Remember to have a journal handy to write down your answers.*

REMINDER: This is our last week of Life Groups for the fall session. For your study, you will spend some time engaging with this weekend's message, as well as reflecting on some of your favorite memories and the most important lessons you learned with your Life Group; as well as taking communion together.

Before starting this week's study, take a few minutes and read through *Aaron's Blessing* below. This is a blessing the priests of Israel spoke over the Israelites. Read through it a few times and jot down any words or phrases that stand out to you. Why did those words or phrases stand out?

*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



READ

What does the Word say about this topic?

Take a few moments to **read the following passages** from the NIV version of the Bible. Briefly summarize each passage in your own words in your journal.

- Psalm 40:1-4
- Proverbs 14:21
- Proverbs 29:18
- Matthew 5:6
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- James 1:22-25



REFLECT

What do these passages and the weekend message reveal about God's blessing?

1. We learned this weekend how the choices we make impact God's blessing in our lives. With this in mind, do you sense the Holy Spirit highlighting any of the passages above for your life? If so, why do you think the Holy Spirit is highlighting this passage at this time in your life?
2. In Psalm 40:1-4, the Psalmist is emerging from a very difficult season in his life. According to Psalm 40:4, who does he say will be blessed? Does this challenge you to trust the Lord in a deeper way in any specific area of your life right now (e.g. our country, the election, your fears, career, finances, family, ministry, etc.)? If so, explain.
3. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, the Apostle Paul is encouraging the believers in the Corinthian Church to be generous.
 - In verse 6, Paul contrasts two things. What are they?
 - In verse 7, what does Paul encourage each believer to do?
 - What is the promised blessing from God in verse 8?
 - Are there any areas of your life where you can be more joyfully generous (time, finances, serving, etc.)?
4. What does James 1:22-25 tell us about the path to blessing?



RESPOND

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

1. This weekend we learned that *The Holy Spirit. . .Restores The Power of Choice*. Michael shared that the only way we are able to consistently obey God and make the right choices is by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - As you think back through your life, what are some positive choices that you made that led to blessing because of the Holy Spirit's leading in your life?
 - On the opposite side, what were some negative decisions that you made, in spite of the Holy Spirit's leading, that led to pain and challenges in your life?
2. Michael shared that, as Christ-followers, we often ask for God's blessing in our lives, but then pick and choose which of the Bible's instructions we want to obey (and which ones we don't), and then wonder why we are not experiencing God's blessing in our lives. He ended the message with the question, *What...Are You Choosing?*
 - How would you answer this question?
 - Are there any areas of your life that you need to surrender to God, and ask Him to help change you, in order to receive His blessing (e.g. in your dating life, spiritual life, finances, career, marriage, parenting, priorities, etc.)?
3. Go to the following link on YouTube and listen to the song *The Blessing*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp6aygmVzM4>

Write down any words or phrases that the Holy Spirit highlights to you. Is God asking anything of you in order to live completely under His blessing?



LOOKING BACK

1. In the fall session, we completed our series on spiritual warfare (*The Resurrected King*), heard a stand-alone message (*Thriving in Babylon*), and kicked off our new series (*The Blessing*). Which of these three has impacted your life the most, and why?
2. What was one of your most important spiritual insights from the fall Life Group session? What steps have you taken to draw closer to God based on this insight?



COMMUNION

Communion is something we do to remember Jesus and what he has done for us through his sacrifice on the cross. Every time we participate in communion, we are celebrating the gospel. In your Life Group, you will be sharing communion together as a smaller church body. In preparation for your time of communion with your Life Group, read and reflect on Matthew 26:26–30 and 1 Corinthians 11:23–26.