


The Burden of Blessing

Dale Cilliers

Introduction

1. Offence
2. Expectation
3. Entitlement
4. Fairness





Offence & Expectation

“When we expect an outcome (realistically or not) and it does not come to pass”

Entitlement

“Because of A,B,C –
I deserve D,E & F...”



Fairness

“Comparing what we have to what others have, in light of their conduct or performance”





Fairness - David

Ps 73:3

“For I was envious of
the boastful,
When I saw the
prosperity of the
wicked”

Fairness

SCARF MODEL

David Rock

Golnaz Tabibnia

+ striatum

- anterior insula



We are wired to
compare and
evaluate fairness
– especially true
in the church
when it comes to
BLESSING...




Fairness

Matt 20:1-16

Workers in the
Vineyard...

3rd, 6th, 9th and 11th
hour?





Renewal!

Rom 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Blessing?

1. Gift (Ps 127:5)

Happy is the man
who has his quiver
full of them;



Blessing?

2. Material Gain

3. Wealth

4. Heath (Bless you)



Blessing?

5. “Rubber Stamp”

Matt 4:1-11



Blessing?

6. A thing we say when life is good?
7. When we have received something of value?
8. When God has been “good” to us?





OT

Obedience:

Reward, Success,
Conquest, Prosperity,
Wealth, Victory...



OT

Disobedience:
Plunder, Defeat,
Loss, Slavery,
Judgement, Suffering
and Punishment...



NT

Reality...
Disciples...
Has God Changed?
(Hebr 13:8)



Is it possible that
“blessing” includes
those circumstances
that appear to be the
exact opposite that we
would classify as
“blessed,” that it has
more meaning than our
comforts, our material
reward?

Romans 5:3

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope”



Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”





Refugees...

Global
Leadership
Summit '16



Beatitudes

Matt 5: 1-12

Poor in Spirit

Mourn

Meek

Hunger and Thirst

Merciful

Pure in Heart

Peacemakers

Persecuted

Blessing:

May the purposes of
God come in and
through your life.


It has very little to do
with material gain and
well being (but may
include these)



Jeremiah 40:4

And now look, I free you this day from the chains that were on your hand. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you.





Do you have “space” for
God to bless you AND
OTHERS THROUGH
YOU?


Are your material
blessings an excuse?



Blessing


To serve His
Body/Church and
Generations to come.

Abraham
Inheritance/Legacy
Kingdom



Blessing – Abraham (Gen 12)

“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.
I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the
earth shall be blessed.”



Must we “wait” for this blessing?

Eph 1:3

John 1:16

2 Pet 1:3

Past tense...

It is **DONE**.



Eph 1:3

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”

John 1:16

For out of His fullness
[the superabundance of
His grace and truth] we
have all received grace
upon grace [spiritual
blessing upon spiritual
blessing, favour upon
favour, and gift heaped
upon gift].



2 Pet 1:3

“...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue”,



Summary:

1. Christ HAS already blessed you. Completely.
2. Blessing has everything to do with His Bride/His Church and everyone other than yourself.



Summary:

3. Blessing is found in
ALL circumstances.

