



Love

BEFORE

Labor

WHY WE SERVE FROM GRACE, NOT FOR IT

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, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Call to the Word
Eph 1:3-6

**Everything we do for God should be as a response to what
God has already done for us.**

We love Him because He first loved us. (1Jn 4:19)

Introduction
Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings can change overnight—money can vanish, health can shift, jobs can end, relationships can strain.

But spiritual blessings like **adoption, forgiveness, acceptance, and the Spirit's seal** don't expire and can't be stolen. They're tied to Christ, not to your situation.

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings mostly touch comfort—life runs a little smoother. But spiritual blessings go straight to the core: **sin, guilt, separation from God, identity, meaning, death.**

A paycheck can't forgive your sins. Christ can.

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

They can't be canceled by a hard week

Earthly blessings sit on earthly conditions—so they're fragile. You can lose possessions... but you can't lose **acceptance in the Beloved**. You can't lose the Spirit's seal. In Christ, the foundation holds.

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings improve life's settings. Spiritual blessings transform identity and that kind of change produces lasting fruit—love, stability, endurance, service.

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings can make you happy... but often with a little fear underneath: *“What if I lose this?”*

Spiritual blessings produce peace that’s anchored in relationship: *“I’m held by God. I’m accepted. I’m forgiven. I belong.”*

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings are most noticeable when life is easy.
Spiritual blessings are most powerful when life is hard.

Introduction
Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Spiritual blessings help you handle material blessings rightly.

When grace is central:

- money becomes a tool, not a god
- comfort becomes gratitude, not entitlement
- loss hurts, but it doesn't crush your identity
- giving becomes joyful, not fearful

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

V. 3: “blessed be” means to speak well of...

“Blessing God is what we do with our mouths and hearts—
praising Him for who He is.”

Blessing Overview
Eph 1:3

V. 3: “who has blessed us”

God has **bestowed** benefits—He has acted for our good, granted gifts, favored us in Christ.

*Blessings from God isn't flattery—it's **provision**.*

Blessing Overview

Eph 1:3

V. 3: “Every Spiritual Blessing”

“God doesn’t just give us stuff—He gives us *salvation realities*: the kinds of blessings that circumstances can’t cancel.”

Blessing Overview
Eph 1:3

V. 3: “Every Spiritual Blessing”

“God doesn’t just give us stuff—He gives us *salvation realities*: the kinds of blessings that circumstances can’t cancel.”

God has provided what you truly need for life with Him—identity, access, forgiveness, hope, power, etc.

Blessing Overview

Eph 1:3

Chosen in Christ

Being 'in Christ' means we share in His benefits, not because we earned them, but because we're united to Him."

Every blessing flows from one place: our union with Jesus.

Blessing #1

Eph 1:4

Holy ...

The Blessing is in what God graciously intends to do for you, make you holy - like Jesus

Eph 2:10

*You are not an accident. You are not a mass-produced item.
You are a carefully crafted work of God.*

Blessings #2-3

Eph 1:4

Without blame...

In Christ, even the evidence you feared most can't condemn you—because it's already been handled at the cross.

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins...”

(Eph 1:7 NLT)

Blessings #2-3

Eph 1:4

He chose us... before Him in love

Blessing: intimacy. God isn't just saving you from hell; He's bringing you near to Himself.

Ephesians 2:13 — “you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Blessing #5

Eph 1:4

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Blessing #5

Eph 1:4

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Love is the atmosphere, not fear

“Atmosphere shapes behavior—and God chose love, not fear, as the atmosphere for our growth.”

Blessing #5

Eph 1:4

Adoption as Sons

When Paul says God “predestined us to adoption as sons,” he’s saying:

“God didn’t just forgive you at a distance. He **brought you into His household** with full standing. You don’t relate to God as a tolerated servant, but as a **welcomed son** (family language, security, access.)”

Blessing #6

Eph 1:5-6



LAND OF THE FREAKIN'
AWESOME

Accepted in the Beloved

“to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

“Grace is praised most clearly when someone realizes they belong—and they didn’t earn it.”

Blessing #7

Eph 1:5-6

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