

THE IRREPRESSIBLE GOSPEL



The Blessing
Acts 15:1-35

What is a Blessing?

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

What is a Blessing?

Genesis 27 — Isaac blesses Jacob instead of Esau

Genesis 49 — Jacob blesses Ephraim instead
of Manasseh

Genesis 50 — Jacob blesses his 12 sons,
elevating Judah above the others

What is a Blessing?

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: '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.' So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

What is a Blessing?

May His favor be upon you—and a thousand generations

And your family and your children—
and their children, and their children

May His presence go before you—
and behind you, and beside you

All around you, and within you—He is with you, He is with you
In the morning, in the evening—in your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing—He is for you, He is for you

What is a Blessing?

A blessing is a statement of good will and favor that is said about another, as well as the actions that help fulfill those good words. God's original design in creation was for us to experience joy, peace, and abundant life, but that design was ruined when sin entered the world. Statements and actions of blessing help bring about God's work of restoration.

**There is great
power in a blessing.**

**A blessing can turn a key—
or open a previously closed door.**

A blessing invites God to work.



**Engaging and
blessing our
community
with the Gospel.**

Acts 13 & 14

Paul's First Missionary Journey (46-47AD)

32AD *Jesus ascended to heaven*

34AD *Paul converted*

46AD *Paul's First Missionary Journey*

Why did they stop?



Acts 15



Acts 15:7-9

Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that He accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as He did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for He purified their hearts by faith.

Acts 15:12

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

Acts 15:16-18

[James, the brother of Jesus, quotes Amos 9:11-12]

I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent.
Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,
that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
even all the Gentiles who bear my name,
says the Lord, who does these things—
things known from long ago.

Acts 15:19

[James then articulates one of the most pivotal and propelling statements in the entire New Testament]

**“It is my judgment, therefore,
that we should not make it
difficult for the Gentiles who
are turning to God.”**

An open white door stands in the center of a room with blue-tinted walls and a reflective floor. The door is flanked by two white panels, each with four rectangular recessed sections. The door is slightly ajar, revealing a bright, glowing light source behind it. The word "Go!" is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font in the center of the image, positioned in front of the doorway.

Go!

An open white door in a blue-tinted room, with the text "We bless you!" centered in the doorway. The door is white with a classic panel design and is open to a bright, glowing light. The room is dimly lit with a blue tint, and the floor is highly reflective, showing a clear reflection of the door and the text.

***We bless
you!***

Be careful, though, to maintain a genuine spirit of unity and fellowship between Jewish and gentile believers.

Converts into the church are welcomed, but not without limits.

Even as change was required of Jewish Christians to include converted gentiles in their fellowship, so converted gentiles must change for the good of the fellowship.

The Trip that Changed the World
(Paul's second missionary journey)
would never have happened without
the unity & blessing that came out
of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15.

Unity & Blessing



- God has blessed you.
- Who is God calling you to bless?
- The door is wide open.

