

A Week of Blessing!

You were called by God to inherit a blessing! 1 Peter 3:9 declares, *"... not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."*

Satan constantly is looking for ways to steal, kill, and destroy every relationship in your marriage, your family, your life. He wants you to let your guard down; he wants you to give him free access so that he can continue plaguing your life with more evil. But God is always looking to bless you! Our Lord has great blessing to place inside your heart. We react and blow up when something violates our personal space. Has that ever happened to you? Up and down! Life becomes a roller coaster and we are not the ones in control! Instead of living by emotion God has a better idea: live intentionally! Live by choice. It is best realized when we choose to bless when you have every right to retaliate instead.

When Peter says *"not returning evil for evil"* he is referring to payback. That's what the word *"returning"* means. Now the devil is the master to manipulate you into the need and right to "get even!" He begins his deception with the way you perceive things, whether real or imaginary. If you feel mistreated or berated or abused because of something someone said, you feel this gives you the right to respond back in like manner. This is the vicious cycle of negative sowing that the devil uses to destroy families, marriages, churches and careers. Insult, injury, hurt or damage is never pleasant to your soul. But God has a better idea! He says, "Don't retaliate. Don't pay back. Don't try to get even! But instead ... bless! God's way is blessing.

This word for blessing is EULOGETES. A compound word made up of EU, which means "something wonderful, pleasurable, or very good", and the word LOGOS, which is the word for "words"! *Blessing* literally could be translated here *"wonderful words"*. Life may bring disappointment, but in those moments when you feel violated or riled up, instead of venting according to the flesh, allow the Holy Spirit to take over. Don't retaliate but return inconsiderate acts with words of love! Instead of taking offense, speak words that build up. It's your choice! Your words can be the very force to turn the gravest situation around. God gives blessing through the power of life in your words! So live intentionally. Do not react emotionally. In Christ Jesus your life will remain healthy and strong. This week live intentionally, love intentionally and help reap a harvest of souls into the Kingdom!

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