

Praying Blessings

The focuses for the Year of Prayer and for Adopt a Street which we are encouraging you to use in your town are 'praying blessings'. In the main we don't understand what it means to pray blessings on a place or person so the following is a guide.

There is a good book that I recommend you read on praying blessings on people and places called *The Grace Outpouring* by Roy Goodwin. The book is about a Christian retreat or house of prayer in Wales called Ffald y Brenin and the things that have happened since they started praying blessings on their community. I have been there myself and God met me powerfully there; the place is full of His presence.

Another book that is good on this subject is called *Positioned to Bless* by Faisal Malick. It is said that "*Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained*" and that is what blessing someone is doing, praying for their ultimate good. It is because you love them that you bless them.

That love may not come naturally to you but is an expression of God's love for that person. It is letting us feel God's heart for the person or place and working in conjunction with him. Blessing someone involves praying for their ultimate good in that they are blessed by God.

The Definition of Blessing

Here is a selection of meanings for blessing:

1. A good thing that God does for us; to ask God to help us and do good in us; a blessing can be a prayer that God will bless someone.
2. The act of invoking divine protection or aid
3. The words or ceremony used for this
4. A short prayer of thanksgiving before or after a meal; grace
5. *Judaism* Also called **brachah brocho**
 - A. a short prayer prescribed for a specific occasion and beginning "Blessed art thou, O Lord..."
 - B. a section of the liturgy including a similar formula
6. Approval; good wishes *her father gave his blessing to the marriage*
7. The bestowal of a divine gift or favour
8. A happy event or state of affairs *a blessing in disguise*
9. To consecrate or sanctify by a religious rite; make or pronounce holy
10. To extol as holy; glorify: *Bless the name of the Lord.*
11. *To consecrate or sanctify by a religious rite; make or pronounce holy.*
12. *To bestow good of any kind upon: a nation blessed with peace.*

In the Jewish culture and especially in Israel it is common for people to speak blessings daily over each other and to greet each other with a blessing.

At the end of a meal the father would call his sons to him and speak a blessing over them and the mother would call the daughters to her and speak a blessing over them. The husband would speak a blessing over his wife and the wife over her husband.

It seems that in Jewish tradition they speak blessings over everyone and at every occasion and I suggest you look at the website www.HebrewsforChristians.com and look under their section of blessings to see just how many there are and when they use them.

Incredibly we can bless God also Ps.16.7. I will bless the Lord, Who has given me counsel; yes, my heart instructs me in the night seasons.

One blessing that is often used at the end of church services is Numbers 6:22-26.

"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 upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.'"

As can be seen from the above scripture, this is a blessing that God wants spoken over His people and applies to us. Another scriptural passage telling us of the Lord's blessings to Israel is Deuteronomy 28:1-14 and these can also be applied to us.

A Prayer of Blessing

I have used and adapted a prayer from the Methodist website, as they are focussing on the importance of praying blessings.

Prayer of Blessing

- *In order to equip the Church with a deeper understanding of the power of blessing we hope you will feel able to use the following. The Bible says that one of the roles of priests (Levites) was to speak (not pray) blessings to the people, and we take that privilege seriously because we have become a kingdom of priests to our God.*
- Heavenly Father, we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to the Church in the United Kingdom.
- "We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your ministers and leaders. We bless your health that you may be well and strong. We bless your families and your homes; we bless your vision and wisdom by which you seek to build up the church of Jesus Christ. We bless your leadership.
- We bless each area leader and all who give direction. We bless your energy and the giving of your time to the work to which you are called. We bless each local church and congregation that you will receive from the Lord Jesus every spiritual gift available to you. We bless your planning and new ideas; we bless your children and young people and we bless their capacity to learn and discover more of the wonderful truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We bless your older people for their faithfulness.
- We bless those entering into the Ministry for the first time; we bless your calling to serve Christ's church. We bless all ministers, deacons and local preachers; we bless the work of your hands and the preaching from your hearts.
- We speak to the Church in our nation and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power.

The Importance of Blessing

As we are now in the Year of Prayer may we remember:

In Jeremiah 29:7 we are told: *“Also, seek the **peace** and prosperity of the **city** to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”*
[Jeremiah 29:7](#)

And a bit further on in Jeremiah we are told: *“Then this **city** will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and **peace** I provide for it.”* [Jeremiah 33:9](#)

We are told in these verses that if we pray for the peace and prosperity of the city then it will bring glory to God and make him known to people as they see how he cares for that city. Praying for the peace and prosperity of the city is another way of saying pray for God to bless the city. From the above two verses we can see how important praying for Gods blessing on our town, city, village; wherever we live.

Now we realize how important blessing is, I would like to give you some blessings as examples that you can use when you are praying for Street Pastors Year of Prayer.

Bible Blessings

“The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

This can be used as a prayer of blessing for the street pastors. May the lord bless the street pastors and take care of you all.

“The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace.” Psalm 29:11

This can be used as a prayer of blessing for street pastors that would say: may the Lord give the street pastors strength and bless them with his peace.

“May the Lord who created the heavens and the earth give you his peace.” Psalm 115:15

“The Lord will keep you from all harm-He will watch over your life: the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and evermore.” Psalm 121:7-8

As Street pastors may nothing separate you from the love of God, not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or below. Nothing in all creation can separate you from Gods love for you in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38-39*

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

"May all the gifts and benefits that come from God our father and the master Jesus Christ be yours." 1 Corinthians 1:3

"I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace." 2 Thessalonians 1:2

"I pray that God will greatly bless you with kindness, peace and love!" Jude 1: 2

As you look through the bible you will find many more blessings you can pray. These are just a few examples.

A Blessing for a Town

Heavenly Father, we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His Name we speak to every household in this town and surrounding area and say to you:-

"We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationships between each marriage partner that they may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every inter-generational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one.

In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this town and to every person in the surrounding area we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the shops and restaurants in every good that you do.

We bless the Residential Homes for the elderly, that they may be secure, safe and peaceful places where those who live there may be loved and cared for in a way that maintains their dignity.

We bless Pre-school, Schools, colleges and universities (name those within the town or those that you know the name of), that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

We speak to the Churches, (name as many that you know) and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless

the hearts of all who live in and work in this town and surrounding area, that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the Kingdom of God may fall upon you."

Amen

(After the pattern of the Blessing used at Ffald-y-Brenin Prayer Center, South Wales)

Daphne Godwin also wrote a blessing that we can use as street pastors when praying for our town. Her suggestion for a blessing is:

In the Name of Jesus I speak out to you, my community/locale/street/neighbourhood etc, that God loves you and cares for you.

I bless you that a spirit of salvation might come upon you, that the Spirit of Truth might reveal Jesus.

I bless you that you might prosper in body, soul and spirit and that you might always have enough.

I bless you that your hearts might be softened towards one another and to Jesus.

I bless you that you might care for and support one another and that true community might arise in your midst.