

## Outline

I. When you trust in God, there's a blessing that comes upon you:

*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

Psalm 34:8

A. It's better to rely on Him instead of trusting in yourself, because when you do, you're blessed!

B. Peace is one of the blessings that comes through trusting in God:

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Isaiah 26:3

C. Many Christians struggle with peace.

D. They're stressed-out and worried.

E. They feel like they've failed and deserve whatever is happening to them—that God is holding sin against them.

F. These things add up and compound upon each other.

II. You need to understand that you are forgiven of all sin.

A. If God forgave you of your sins, which is the greatest miracle that could ever happen, how could you believe that He won't heal you?

B. If He loved you enough to forgive you of your sins, then He loves you enough to heal your body.

C. He'd keep you in perfect peace!

III. Psalm 37:25-26, Isaiah 54:13-14, Psalm 112:1-2, and Psalm 115:13-15 are about your children being blessed.

A. God will increase both you and your children.

B. Now, this doesn't rule out the fact that your children have a choice of their own to make, to trust God or not.

- C. This doesn't mean that they will automatically be forced to do the right thing, but your children will be blessed.
- IV. Aaron was the high priest, and he was anointed with oil, which symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! [2] It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments. [3] As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

Psalm 133:1-3

- A. On whom did God command this blessing?
- B. On those who dwell together in unity.
- C. These verses say that there is a blessing that comes on people when they are in unity that won't manifest any other way.
- V. Strife is an inroad of Satan:

*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

James 3:16

- A. Some people think, *Well, I'm not giving place to the devil*, yet they're mad, in strife, and bitter.
- B. If you're self-willed and stubborn, those are the same as the sins of witchcraft and idolatry:

*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

1 Samuel 15:23

- C. Maybe you were raised to think that living in strife is just the way it has to be.
- D. That's not true.

## Living in God's Best

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VI. When the believers were all together in unity, the power of the Holy Spirit fell:

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

Acts 2:1-2

- A. Unfortunately, the body of Christ is so divided today.
- B. The body is separated from and angry with each other.
- C. Nobody will fellowship with anybody who's different than they are.
- D. The church has all this strife, yet we wonder why we're struggling.

VII. You turn Satan loose when you are angry (James 3:16).

- A. You might say, "But, Andrew, I just need to get it off my chest."
- B. No, you just need to repent and get over it.
- C. Pride is the only reason for this strife:

*Only by pride cometh contention.*

Proverbs 13:10

- D. It's what is inside of you—your pride, your selfishness—that makes you angry.
- E. Although God commands His blessing on unity, it's not even a goal for most people.
- F. They're mad, and they just don't care.
- G. They think that they're hurting this other person by harboring unforgiveness.
- H. No, they're hurting themselves.
- I. Satan uses that as an inroad into their lives.
- J. It stops the blessing of God.
- K. They need to forgive and start walking in love.

VIII. We as the church need to be in unity.

- A. Some things just cannot be done on an individual basis.
- B. America isn't going to turn back to God because of one person.
- C. We as the church have to change the hearts of people.
- D. American voters elect people into office who reflect their morals.

IX. John Adams, the first vice president and the second president of the United States, basically said that democracy is totally unfit or unsuited for anybody but a moral people.

- A. If America ever ceases to be moral, democracy will destroy its people.
- B. That's what is happening today.

*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

Proverbs 14:34

- C. If you're an American, then you ought to exercise your right to vote because it's irresponsible not to, and when you do, be sure to vote according to godliness, not outward appearance.
- D. Compared to righteousness, things like good looks, gender, and color aren't important.
- E. If you do what God is leading you to do, and if every other Christian goes out as salt and light and does what the Lord wants them to do, this nation could turn back to God (Matt. 5:13-16).

#### ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

If you struggle with pride, anger, or being in strife, I encourage you to get hold of my teachings entitled *Self-Centeredness: The Source of All Grief and Anger Management*. They'll help you!

## Discipleship Questions

1. When you trust in God, what comes upon you?
  - A. A zeal
  - B. A thirst
  - C. A power
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
2. Psalm 34:8 says, “O taste and see that the \_\_\_\_\_ is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

3. What is one of the blessings that comes through trusting in God?

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4. According to Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep him in \_\_\_\_\_ peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

5. *Discussion question:* How have you learned to experience peace?

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6. *Discussion question:* When you consider that God would forgive and heal you, what do you think about God’s love?

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7. Psalm 37:25-26, Isaiah 54:13-14, Psalm 112:1-2, and Psalm 115:13-15 are about what?

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8. True or false: This rules out the fact that your children have a choice to make, to trust God or not.

9. True or false: Your children will not automatically be forced to do the right thing, even though they are blessed.

10. Psalm 133:1-3 says, "*Behold, how \_\_\_\_\_ and how \_\_\_\_\_ it is for brethren to dwell together in \_\_\_\_\_!* [2] *It is like the precious \_\_\_\_\_ upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments.* [3] *As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, even life for evermore.*"

11. On whom did God command this blessing?

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12. What is an inroad of Satan?

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13. According to James 3:16, "*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and \_\_\_\_\_ evil work.*"

14. What are the same as the sins of witchcraft and idolatry?

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15. What verse says that?

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16. True or false: Living in strife is just the way it has to be.

17. When did the power of the Holy Spirit fall?

- A. When the believers lived in the same house
- B. When the believers agreed on everything
- C. When the believers cooked together
- D. When the believers were all together in unity
- E. When the believers attended the same local church

18. Acts 2:1-2 says, “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one \_\_\_\_\_ in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*”

19. *Discussion question:* Why do you think the body of Christ is so divided today?

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20. You turn Satan loose when you are what (James 3:16)?

- A. Angry
- B. Quiet
- C. Happy
- D. Loud
- E. Late

21. If you say you need to get something off your chest, what do you really need to do?

- A. Receive and get a blessing
- B. Respire and get a nap
- C. Repent and get over it
- D. Relax and get a pizza
- E. Relent and get some therapy

22. According to Proverbs 13:10, “\_\_\_\_\_ *by pride cometh contention.*”

## Living in God's Best

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23. What makes you angry?

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24. *Discussion question:* How do you forgive and start walking in love?

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25. *Discussion question:* What does a unified church look like?

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26. If America ever ceases to be moral, democracy will \_\_\_\_\_ its people.

27. According to Proverbs 14:34, “\_\_\_\_\_ exalteth a nation: but \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ to any people.”

28. *Discussion question:* How are you going to be salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16)?

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## Scriptures

PSALM 34:8

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

ISAIAH 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

PSALM 37:25-26

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. [26] He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

ISAIAH 54:13-14

And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. [14] In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

PSALM 112:1-2

Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. [2] His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

PSALM 115:13-15

He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. [14] The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children. [15] Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

PSALM 40:4

Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

PSALM 133:1-3

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! [2] It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; [3] As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

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JAMES 3:16

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

1 SAMUEL 15:23

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

JOHN 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

ACTS 2:1-2

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

PROVERBS 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

PROVERBS 14:34

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

MATTHEW 5:13-16

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. [14] Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. [15] Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.