

CONVERT THE CURSE

INTRODUCTION

As we have heard before, this year is a Jubilee year. It's a year of freedom, a year of blessing and a year of restoration.

Sometimes we need restoration in our lives because the enemy has been causing havoc. Today I want to address an area where we can inadvertently allow the enemy to cause that havoc, and speak about ways to either completely avoid that havoc, or if we are already experiencing these problems, I want to show you some biblical principles for breaking free. In particular, I want to speak of curses and breaking their power in our lives.

MESSAGE

GOD'S PERFECT STATE FOR OUR LIVES

God's perfect state for our lives is that we move in under His covering, a place of blessing, a place of peace. I would like to call that place the "SHALOM", or "peace" state. **The SHALOM state is a place of wholeness, completeness, wellness, safety, soundness and delight, as well as being right with God.**

When we are a child of God, we carry His Shalom with us everywhere we go. **This is God's will for us!**

The enemy wants the opposite, he wants to curse us and cause **turmoil, destruction, brokenness, anxiety, sickness, insecurity and lack of joy** in our lives, and one way he does it is by getting people to curse us, or by tempting us into sin so that we open ourselves up to a curse.

John 10:10 (NKJV) The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

How do we make sure we remain in God's "SHALOM state" rather than coming under a "curse state" according to the devil's plan for us?

Let's look at 5 truths about curses:

TRUTH 1: AN UNDESERVED CURSE WILL NOT FIND REST

The devil will try to rob us of our "shalom" state by getting people to curse us but we need to know what God's word says:

Proverbs 26:2 (NLT) Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse will not land on its intended victim.

When people curse us without cause, we need not fear because that curse has no right to be effective against us.

God loves us and He takes care of us. He is a just God and He takes care of curses spoken out against us, Therefore, we don't have to accept, nor fear any curse spoken against us.

If someone curses us needlessly, we must pray and ask the Lord to nullify it.

TRUTH 2: BY SHOWING MERCY, WE CAN GET THE CURSE TURNED AROUND

Even if we may feel that the person has a reason to curse us, our immediate reaction may be to want to strike back. However, by showing mercy, we put ourselves in a place where God can turn the curse into a blessing.

When Absalom rebelled against king David, and David was on the run, Shimei, a relative of King Saul followed David and his men, throwing stones and sand at them and cursing them, shouting that David deserved what he was getting. David could have had him killed but chose to leave this battle to the Lord.

2 Samuel 16:9-12 (NLT) "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?" Abishai son of Zeruiah demanded. "Let me go over and cut off his head!" "No!" the king said. "Who asked your opinion, you sons of Zeruiah! If the Lord has told him to curse me, who are you to stop him?" 11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "My own son is trying to kill me. Doesn't this relative of Saul have even more reason to do so? Leave him alone and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to do it.12 And perhaps the Lord will see that I am being wronged and will bless me because of these curses today."

Abishai wanted to cut the dead dog, Shimei's head off...but David understood that mercy begets mercy.

- Even when David was restored to his throne, Shimei came and begged for mercy and David allowed him to live.
- He knew that God saw that he was being wronged even though he had said that the Lord had instructed Shimei to curse him.
- He trusted the Lord to turn the curse into a blessing.

Isaiah 54:17 (NLT) But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the Lord; their vindication will come from me. I, the Lord, have spoken!

- ***Instead of retaliating when someone curses us or attacks and accuses us wrongly, we must trust God to vindicate us, be sure that He sees the wrong being done to us!***
- ***Instead of accepting it when someone speaks out negatively against us, we can ask God to bless us instead.***

If you think Shimei got away with it, you are wrong... There are always consequences to our actions! Shimei was even granted mercy when Solomon took over, but there were conditions. Shimei violated those conditions and Solomon had him executed.

TRUTH 3: BY SHOWING MERCY IN ADVANCE, GOD BLESSES US IN THE DAY WHEN OTHERS CURSE US

One of King Saul's other descendants called himself a dead dog, his name was Mephibosheth, he was Jonathan, David's friend's son.

One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" He was told about Mephibosheth, and David had him brought to him. Mephibosheth said to David: "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?" Do you remember that Abishai called Shimei a dead dog too?

David told Mephibosheth: "I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!"

Years later, on the same day that Shimei was cursing David, Mephibosheth's servant brought David and his men refreshments.

2 Samuel 16:1-2(NLT) When David had gone a little beyond the summit of the Mount of Olives, Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, was waiting there for him. He had two donkeys loaded with 200 loaves of bread, 100 clusters of raisins, 100 bunches of summer fruit, and a wineskin full of wine.

Because David had shown Mephibosheth mercy many years earlier, now he received help, regardless of the motive, in the day that another relative of Saul was cursing him.

We must always show mercy, we never know when we may need to reap mercy.

TRUTH 4: IT'S NOT SO EASY TO CURSE GOD'S PEOPLE

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, Balak, the king of Moab hired Balaam the prophet to curse them so that He could defeat them. But every time Balaam tried to curse Israel, instead of cursing them, he landed up blessing them.

Numbers 23:7-8 (NKJV) And he took up his oracle and said: "Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. 'Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!' 8 "How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?"

Deuteronomy 23:5 (NKJV) Nevertheless the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, **because the Lord your God loves you.**

Our God loves us. Even when people try to curse us, He will turn their curses into blessings.

TRUTH 5: OUR FINANCES CAN BRING ABOUT A CURSED STATE OR A BLESSED STATE

Malachi 3:8-12 (NKJV) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts; 12 "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts.

Giving of the first redeems the rest. If we want our finances to be blessed and not cursed, then we need to apply this principle of giving tithes and offerings out of our income.

- God sees neglect of tithing as robbing Him. The tithe is not ours, it's the Lord's
- God gives us only one opportunity to test Him in the Bible – we can test Him in our tithing to see if He will not bless us with a massive blessing.
- This is a sure way to avoid a curse and receive God's blessing.

It doesn't stop with tithes and offerings but also extends to generosity:

Proverbs 28:27 (NLT) Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed.

Have we neglected tithes and offerings? In December 2016, our tithes and offerings were half of what they were in December 2015. If we

hold back because we are struggling financially, we may well find ourselves in a worse state than if we had chosen to trust God and even give out of our need.

Are we giving to the poor – If we do so, we lend to God. He promises that we will lack nothing, but if we ignore them, we open ourselves up to a curse!

CONCLUSION

This message has not even covered the blessings and curses as spoken about in Deuteronomy. There are many more truths about blessings and curses. But for now, let us remember these five truths:

- **TRUTH 1:** An undeserved curse will not find rest.
- **TRUTH 2:** By showing mercy we can get the curse turned around.
- **TRUTH 3:** Showing mercy in advance can result in blessings on the day when others curse us.
- **TRUTH 4:** God's people are not so easy to curse.
- **TRUTH 5:** Our attitude towards tithes, offerings and generosity will determine whether our finances are cursed or blessed.

I close with this exhortation: **Psalm 109:28** (NKJV) 28 Let them curse, but You bless; When they arise, let them be ashamed, But let Your servant rejoice.