

“Removing Hindrances to Being Blessed by God”

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, October 25, 2020)

This message was birthed when I was preparing for Leadership Class this week. Normally I don't base sermons on books other than the Bible, but I really felt that the Lord Jesus wanted me to share part of the book we are studying in Leadership Class. The book is entitled “God's Armorbearer” by Pastor Terry Nance.

Pages 62-63 of this gem of a book mention four hindrances that will keep the Lord Jesus from blessing us the way He wants to.

We need to be delivered from these hindrances.

One of the main ways to be delivered from them is through continuous, sincere, daily repentance.

We had such a beautiful time in the Word during Adult Spanish Bible Study on Friday, and part of Rev. Luís' devotional was that we need to walk in daily repentance.

When we repent, God cleanses us in our spirits and our souls...

1 John 1:5-9

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

We see here that our repentance has to be sincere because we cannot say we're sorry and then go back to being the exact same way we were. We will fall sometimes, but we cannot give in to walking in darkness.

Our repentance must be daily because we will always make mistakes.

Our repentance should occur continuously so that we can stay clean before the Lord.

If we do not walk before the Lord the way He wants, we put barriers to His blessings in our lives.

1 Peter 3:7

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

This is a perfect example of how we can put barriers that will keep God from block the Lord Jesus from blessing us the way He wants to.

In this example, we see that we husbands have to treat our wives well in order to receive all of the blessings that the Lord Jesus has for us.

***An important aspect of deliverance from the hindrances we put to the Lord Jesus is by relying on God to work in us.

We have to realize that we cannot do anything of good and lasting on our own.

John 15:1-5

15 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [a]takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you[b] will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8** By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Love and Joy Perfected

9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **10** If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. **12** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. **14** You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. **17** These things I command you, that you love one another.

The cleansing of our souls occurs when God speaks His Word over us.

That’s why it’s so important to cry out to God that He would not just bless us with external blessings but also and above all with hearts that are pleasing to Him.

Psalm 51:10-17

Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin *is* always before me.

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done *this* evil in Your sight—
That You may be found just [a]when You speak,
And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me *by* Your generous Spirit.

13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*;
You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;
Build the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,
With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

He has to create a clean heart in us...

He has to restore our joy...

He has to deliver us...

When he delivers us, then we teach others and win souls for the Lord Jesus...

***When you are overcoming hindrances, we can cooperate with the Lord Jesus by not letting our thoughts wander...

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare *are* not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, **6** and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

You can be skinny and short, even old in the flesh...

It doesn't matter...

You can be strong in the spirit realm...

For every hindrance we study, we are going to give a confession that will come against that hindrance...

***So what are the hindrances to Christ's blessings?

1. Pride

There is a list of symptoms of pride in Pastor Nance's book.

Our confession against pride can be based on

1 Peter 5:5-7

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **7** casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Confession: Father, bless me to be humble. Bless me to trust You, casting my cares on You and following Your plans for my life. Bless me to think about other people, not just about myself. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

2. Anger

Proverbs 16:32

*He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

James 1:19-20

19 [c]So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; **20** for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Confession: Father, please bless me to be slow to anger and to rule over my spirit. Please bless me to be slow to speak and quick to hear. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Hebrews 12:14-17

14 Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **15** looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; **16** lest there *be* any fornicator or [f]profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. **17** For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Mark 11:25-26

25 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26** [d]But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

Confession: Father, please protect me from being bitter. Bless me to pursue peace. Bless me to pursue holiness, which is being set apart for Christ's use. Bless me to appreciate my blessings. Bless me to forgive. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen

4. Immorality

2 Corinthians 7:1

7 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Romans 12:1-2

12 I beseech[a] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your [b]reasonable service.* **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Confession: Father, please bless me to renew my mind and follow Your Will. Bless me to cleanse myself, and cleanse me. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.