

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: OUR CALL TO BLESS AS CHRIST DID

Houses of Light Church • July 29 y 30, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 3:8-9

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.”

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. ***“Finally, all of you”*** Peter says this because he has already spoken to citizens, slaves, wives, and husbands, and now he addresses all believers in general.
- B. ***“have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind”*** All these things that are asked of us here are internal attitudes and have to do with what is happening in our hearts. This inner change becomes so real that we can sincerely bless those who curse us, and the means by which it is accomplished is the work we allow the Holy Spirit to do in our hearts.

II. THE CALL TO FEEL WHAT GOD FEELS

- A. Let's see the things we are called to experience in the heart:
 - 1. ***“have unity of mind”***: Have the same mentality, the same opinion or harmony. This is not something that comes naturally to us.
 - 2. ***“sympathy”***: This means feeling with someone else, showing sympathy, sharing joys and sorrows; it is to feel together with others what they are going through, it is also known as empathy.
 - 3. ***“brotherly love”***: We are called to feel family affection for one another; this is a type of affection that is known to be united by family ties, we are children of our Heavenly Father.
 - 4. ***“a tender heart”***: Feel disposed towards someone else, be kind and good-hearted. **Being merciful is a sensitivity for others.** It is also the disposition of wanting something good to come to another person..
 - 5. ***“humble mind”***: It is the mindset or attitude without pride or boasting. Humility is the internal root and unity is the external fruit.
- B. These are all very warm feelings of empathy and tenderness. One question that arises is **how do you get unity between us at heart level?** and the answer is that it comes from a process of repentance, transformation and encounter with Christ that produces humility and the willingness to consider others as more significant than yourself.

Phil. 2:3-4 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

- C. By nature we are not humble or merciful, nor do we show sympathy; rather we are proud, we tend to be hard; Naturally we do not put ourselves in the

place of others. Humility does not spring up immediately, nor does being merciful, nor showing sympathy. These things do not come from our human nature and therefore we must feel absolutely desperate when we are told that we must all feel and have these things and resort to the process that God marks us.

III. HOW IS IT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES THIS INTERNAL WORK?

A. In this letter of Peter we find 5 ways in which we move towards obedience in these aspects:

1. **Repentance:** We need to admit that we are not humble or merciful and turn away from evil.

1 Pet. 3:10-11 *"For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it."*

2. **Come to Christ:** When you walk away from evil and say I don't want to be a proud and insensitive person anymore I want to show empathy and mercy. We need to be healed of the hardness of our hearts and when I find that my sins have been forgiven because He paid the price by dying for me there is a breaking that happens within that produces the humility that begins the fruit of mercy.

1 Pet. 2:4 y 24 *"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious... 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

3. **Taste:** We savor a new aspect of Christ that meets our needs, ensures our future and as newborn babies we yearn for spiritual milk, that is, the Word so that through it we may grow for salvation if we have tasted the Lord's kindness. This begins to produce a sweet fruit inside. Many want to change but without Christ which is something very superficial.

1 Pet. 2:2-3 *"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

4. **Pray:** Ask the Lord to help you, to transform you, tell Him: remove my heart of stone and put a heart of flesh that allows me to be humble and sensitive to the needs of others.

1 Pet. 3:12 *"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

5. **Determine:** Do not return evil for evil, propose to carry out the external behavior of the internal change that the Holy Spirit is carrying out even if the internal change is happening little by little, resolve not to return evil for evil but rather bless those that curse you.

1 Pet. 3:9 "Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing"

IV. OUR CALL TO BLESS AS CHRIST DID

"Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless..."

- A. The main point of this text is let us sincerely bless our adversaries but precisely for this reason before what must happen within us. Not responding in the way they treat us but blessing is the behavior itself, which is the result of what happens in our hearts; the aspects of our personality that need to be renewed
- B. We need to be totally redone from the inside out before any of these amazing things like blessing instead of cursing can genuinely happen on the outside.

"for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing."

- C. When he says that **for this they were called**, he is referring to what he has just said: Do not return evil for evil or curse for curse, but, on the contrary, bless because for this you were called to have this type of behavior and what confirms this interpretation is what Peter told us before:

1 Pet. 2:20-23 "For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."

- D. The call is to live as Christ lived, giving us an example. It is a call to suffer patiently instead of returning evil for evil and we can do it because we are sons and daughters of God and we know that we are going to inherit blessing, this is our call therefore we feel safe and confident to the point that we bless even our adversaries.
- E. This inheritance is something that we earn by our works it came to us by the mercy of God that produced the new birth and a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Pet. 1:3-4 "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay."

V. CONCLUSION

- A. In the midst of the difficulties we live in, we have hope to be able to experience in our hearts what God asks of us because He is capable of doing His work in us to the point that we do not respond badly to offenses and abuses, on the contrary, we bless because we know that we have an inheritance in Christ and this security makes us respond as Christ responded. This is the clear message in all Scripture:

Rom. 12:14-17a y 21 "Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! ¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable... ²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How are you doing your part so that God does the work in your heart to feel what He feels in the midst of difficulties with others?
2. According to these verses, what is our calling?
3. Why do we know that the Christian can react with blessing even when he is cursed?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Corporate Prayer is this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The whole family is welcome.
2. Women's Retreat August 19 and 20, please register at the bookstore or www.housesoflight.org
3. Our Parenting School starts on Wednesday, August 24 at 7:00pm. You can register at www.housesoflight.org or at the information booth.
4. Starting next weekend there will be child care for children ages 1-2 and it will be located in this building next to the bookstore.
5. Take the opportunity to serve in one of the ministries of our church; at the entrance are the tables to register and receive training.