

## Message Four

### The God of Blessing and the Blessing of God

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 34:26-27a; Gen. 12:3; 1:28; Num. 6:23-27;

Psa. 133:3; Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:14; 1 Cor. 10:16a

- Ezek 34:26 And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing.
- Ezek 34:27a And the trees of the field will yield their fruit, and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure in their land;...
- Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, / And him who curses you I will curse; / And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.
- Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,
- Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;
- Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.
- Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Gal 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- 1 Cor 10:16a The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ?...

#### **I. Through His shepherding, the Lord brings us into the enjoyment of His blessing and causes us to become a source of blessing under the showers of blessing—Ezek. 34:26-27a, 29; Zech. 10:1:**

- Ezek 34:26 And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing.
- Ezek 34:27a And the trees of the field will yield their fruit, and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure in their land;...
- Ezek 34:29 And I will raise up for them a planting place of renown, and they will no longer be consumed with famine in the land and no longer bear the disgrace of the nations.
- Zech 10:1 Ask rain of Jehovah / At the time of spring rain, / Of Jehovah who makes the lightning, / And He will give them showers of rain, / To everyone herbage in the field.
- A. First, we ourselves enjoy the Lord's blessing, and then the Lord will cause us to become a source of blessing to others so that they may be supplied—Ezek. 34:26.
- Ezek 34:26 And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing.
- B. God will cause the showers of blessing to come down in their season—Zech. 10:1.
- Zech 10:1 Ask rain of Jehovah / At the time of spring rain, / Of Jehovah who makes the lightning, / And He will give them showers of rain, / To everyone herbage in the field.

#### **II. God is a God of blessing—Gen. 1:22, 28; Psa. 115:13:**

- Gen 1:22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let

the birds multiply on the earth.  
Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Psa 115:13 He will bless those who fear Jehovah, / Both small and great.

A. In His creation of man, God intended that man might enjoy God as his blessing, but through the fall of Adam, man lost God as his blessing and enjoyment—Gen. 1:28; 3:23-24.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Gen 3:23 Then Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to work the ground from which he was taken.

Gen 3:24 So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

B. God's blessing promised to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 consists of the blessings of creation and redemption, including all that God wants to give man—God Himself and all that He has in this age and in the age to come:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, / And him who curses you I will curse; / And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

1. In His preaching of the gospel to Abraham, God promised that He would give Himself to the called ones as a blessing—Gal. 3:8, 14.

Gal 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles out of faith, announced the gospel beforehand to Abraham: "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

Gal 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

2. According to Genesis 22:18, this blessing would come to all the nations through Abraham's seed, who is Christ—Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16:

Gen 22:18 And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

Matt 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Gal 3:16 But to Abraham were the promises spoken and to his seed. He does not say, And to the seeds, as concerning many, but as concerning one: "And to your seed," who is Christ.

a. God's blessing of Abraham eventually issued in Christ as the unique seed in whom all nations of the earth are blessed—Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:16.

Acts 3:25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God covenanted with your fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

Acts 3:26 To you first, God, having raised up His Servant, has sent Him to bless you in turning each of you away from your wicked deeds.

Gal 3:16 But to Abraham were the promises spoken and to his seed. He does not say, And to the seeds, as concerning many, but as concerning one: "And to your seed," who is Christ.

b. All the believers in Christ, as members of the corporate Christ, are included in this seed as heirs of God's promised blessing—1 Cor. 12:12; Gal. 3:7, 29.

- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- Gal 3:7 Know then that they who are of faith, these are sons of Abraham.
- Gal 3:29 And if you are of Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise.

### III. We need to treasure God's blessing—Deut. 28:2-8; Psa. 84:4-5; Eph. 1:3:

- Deut 28:2 And all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you listen to the voice of Jehovah your God.
- Deut 28:3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.
- Deut 28:4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your animals, the offspring of your cattle and the young of your flock.
- Deut 28:5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
- Deut 28:6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
- Deut 28:7 Jehovah will cause your enemies, who rise up against you, to be struck down before you; on one road they will come out against you, but on seven roads they will flee before you.
- Deut 28:8 Jehovah will command the blessing upon you in your storehouses and in all your undertakings; and He will bless you in the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.
- Psa 84:4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; / They will yet be praising You. Selah.
- Psa 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

A. The normal life of a Christian is a life of blessing, and the normal work of a Christian is a work of blessing—Num. 6:23-27; Matt. 5:3-11; 24:46; John 20:29; Gal. 3:14; 2 Cor. 9:6; Rom. 15:29.

- Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,
- Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;
- Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.
- Matt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
- Matt 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Matt 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Matt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.
- Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
- Matt 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
- Matt 5:11 Blessed are you when they reproach and persecute you, and while speaking lies, say every evil thing against you because of Me.
- Matt 24:46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.
- John 20:29 Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.
- Gal 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- 2 Cor 9:6 But take note of this: He who sows sparingly shall also sparingly reap; and he who sows with blessings shall also with blessings reap;
- Rom 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

B. The day must come when we realize that in our work, in our Christian life, and in our church

life, everything depends on God's blessing—Eph. 1:3.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

C. In serving the Lord, we should believe in and treasure God's blessing—Rom. 15:29:

Rom 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

1. We need to learn to live and to practice the church life in a way that does not hinder God's blessing—Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12.

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,

Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,

Acts 5:12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders took place among the people; and they were all with one accord in the portico of Solomon.

2. We should rely on God's blessing and eliminate the barriers that prevent us from receiving it.

D. We need to treasure and focus on the New Testament blessings: regeneration (John 3:3, 6; 1 Pet. 1:3), the divine life (1 John 5:11-12) and the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4), the indwelling Spirit (Rom. 8:9, 16), transformation (2 Cor. 3:18), being one spirit with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17), and being like God (1 John 3:2) and entering into His glory (1 Pet. 5:10).

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

- E. Like Paul, we may experience “the fullness of the blessing of Christ”—Rom. 15:29.  
Rom 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

#### **IV. In Genesis 1:28 God blessed man to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it:**

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

- A. Before God had a man to express Him and represent Him, there was no way to pour out His full blessing—vv. 26-27.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- B. After God created man, He was able to see on earth a living creature bearing His image and having His dominion, so immediately, God bestowed His full blessing upon man.

- C. The qualifications for receiving God’s blessing are image and dominion—vv. 26, 28.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

- D. Because the priesthood is for God’s image and the kingship is for God’s dominion, God’s blessing is with the priesthood and the kingship—14:17-19.

Gen 14:17 And after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Now he was priest of God the Most High.

Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram of God the Most High, / Possessor of heaven and earth;

#### **V. In Numbers 6:23-27 the Divine Trinity is revealed in the threefold blessing of Jehovah to His people:**

Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,

Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;

Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.

- A. The blessing in Numbers 6:23-27, like that in 2 Corinthians 13:14, is the eternal blessing of the Triune God:

Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,

Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;

Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
 Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.  
 Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.  
 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1. This eternal blessing is the Triune God dispensing Himself in His Divine Trinity into us for our enjoyment.
2. In the entire universe the unique blessing is the Triune God, and this blessing comes to us through the dispensing of the Divine Being into us in His Divine Trinity—in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—Eph. 1:3-14.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,  
 Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,  
 Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,  
 Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;  
 Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,  
 Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,  
 Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,  
 Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;  
 Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,  
 Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,  
 Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,  
 Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

**B. In Numbers 6:24-26 we have the blessing of the Triune God:**

Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;  
 Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
 Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

1. “Jehovah bless you and keep you” can be ascribed to the Father—v. 24.  
 Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;
2. “Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you” can be ascribed to the Son—v. 25.  
 Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
3. “Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace” can be ascribed to the Holy Spirit—v. 26.  
 Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
4. The Father blesses us, the Son shines upon us, and the Holy Spirit lifts up His countenance upon us; as a result, we are kept, we receive grace, and we have peace.

## **VI. Psalm 133 reveals that the blessing of life is intrinsically related to the oneness of God's people; we must practice the oneness to bring in God's blessing:**

- Psa 133:1 (A Song of Ascents. Of David) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
- Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;
- Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

A. The life in Psalm 133:3 is the eternal life of God (John 3:16; Eph. 4:18), which is commanded by God as a blessing to those who dwell together in oneness in the church life:

- Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
- Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

1. Psalm 132 typifies the church life, and Psalm 133 typifies the church living—the highest living, a living in which the brothers dwell together in oneness.

- Psa 132:1 (A Song of Ascents.) Remember, O Jehovah, for David's sake / All his afflictions;
- Psa 132:2 How he swore to Jehovah / And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:
- Psa 132:3 I shall not go into the tent of my house; / I shall not go up onto the couch of my bed;
- Psa 132:4 I shall not give sleep to my eyes, / Slumber to my eyelids;
- Psa 132:5 Until I find a place for Jehovah, / A tabernacle for the Mighty One of Jacob.
- Psa 132:6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; / We found it in the fields of Jaar.
- Psa 132:7 We will go into His tabernacle; / We will worship at His footstool.
- Psa 132:8 Arise, O Jehovah, unto Your resting place, / You and the Ark of Your strength.
- Psa 132:9 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, / And let Your faithful ones give a ringing shout.
- Psa 132:10 For the sake of David Your servant, / Do not turn away the face of Your Anointed One.
- Psa 132:11 Jehovah has sworn unto David in truth; / He will not turn from it: / Of the fruit of your body I will set One upon your throne.
- Psa 132:12 If your children keep My covenant / And My testimonies that I will teach them, / Their children also will sit / Upon your throne forever.
- Psa 132:13 For Jehovah has chosen Zion; / He has desired it for His habitation.
- Psa 132:14 This is My resting place forever; / Here will I dwell, for I have desired it.
- Psa 132:15 I will abundantly bless its provision; / I will satisfy its poor with bread.
- Psa 132:16 And its priests I will clothe with salvation, / And its faithful ones will shout with a ringing shout.
- Psa 132:17 There I will cause a horn of David to shoot forth; / I have prepared a lamp for My anointed one.
- Psa 132:18 I will clothe his enemies with shame, / But on him his crown will shine.
- Psa 133:1 (A Song of Ascents. Of David) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
- Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;
- Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

2. Such a living causes God to come in to bless us with the anointing Spirit, the watering grace, and the eternal life—vv. 2-3.

Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;  
Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

- B. If we would be under the Lord's commanded blessing of life, we must be on the ground of oneness—v. 3.

Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

- C. The one accord is the master key to every blessing in the New Testament—Rom. 15:5-6, 29.

Rom 15:5 Now the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus,

Rom 15:6 That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

## **VII. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ—Eph. 1:3:**

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

- A. The Father is the source of the divine blessing, the Spirit is the nature and essence of the divine blessing, and the Son is the sphere, the element, and the means of the divine blessing.  
B. The nature and essence of the divine blessing are of the Spirit, but the element of this blessing is Christ Himself; for Christ to be the element of God's blessing means that Christ Himself is the divine blessing.  
C. Christ, the Son Himself, is the blessing; the Spirit is the nature and essence of the blessing; and the Father is the source who gives this blessing.

## **VIII. Galatians 3:14 indicates that the Spirit is the blessing that God promised to Abraham for all the nations and that has been received by the believers through faith in Christ—vv. 2, 5:**

Gal 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:2 This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

Gal 3:5 He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

- A. The blessing promised by God to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 for all the nations of the earth was fulfilled; the blessing has come to the nations in Christ through His redemption on the cross—Gal. 3:13.

Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, / And him who curses you I will curse; / And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us out of the curse of the law, having become a curse on our behalf; because it is written, "Cursed is everyone hanging on a tree";

- B. In the gospel (v. 8), we have received not only the blessing of forgiveness, washing, and cleansing; even more, we have received the greatest blessing, which is the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—as the processed, all-inclusive life-giving Spirit dwelling in

us in the most subjective way for our enjoyment.

Gal 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles out of faith, announced the gospel beforehand to Abraham: "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

## **IX. The Bible uses the word cup to indicate blessing—Psa. 23:5; 1 Cor. 10:16a:**

Psa 23:5 You spread a table before me / In the presence of my adversaries; / You anoint my head with oil; / My cup runs over.

1 Cor 10:16a The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ?...

A. Under Christ's shepherding, our cup runs over as we enjoy the Father as the source of blessing—Psa. 23:5; Eph. 1:3.

Psa 23:5 You spread a table before me / In the presence of my adversaries; / You anoint my head with oil; / My cup runs over.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

B. In 1 Corinthians 10:16a Paul speaks of "the cup of blessing":

1 Cor 10:16a The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ?...

1. This cup is the new covenant, comprising all the rich blessings of the New Testament, including God Himself—Matt. 26:28:

Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

a. In this new covenant God gives us forgiveness, life, salvation, and all spiritual, heavenly, and divine blessings.

b. When this new covenant is given to us, it is a cup, a portion for us—Luke 22:20.

Luke 22:20 And similarly the cup after they had dined, saying, This cup is the new covenant established in My blood, which is being poured out for you.

c. The Lord shed His blood, God established the covenant, and we enjoy the cup, in which God and all that is of Him are our portion.

2. At the Lord's table, when we drink the cup, we receive God's blessing—the blessing that is God Himself—Psa. 23:5; Matt. 26:27-29; 1 Cor. 11:25.

Psa 23:5 You spread a table before me / In the presence of my adversaries; / You anoint my head with oil; / My cup runs over.

Matt 26:27 And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you,

Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matt 26:29 But I say to you, I shall by no means drink of this product of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father.

1 Cor 11:25 Similarly also the cup after they had dined, saying, This cup is the new covenant established in My blood; this do, as often as you drink it, unto the remembrance of Me.