

*From the first page of Scripture to the last, from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 and everywhere in-between, we find a God who desires to impart blessing to His creation.*

## JEHOVAH-BARAK: “THE GOD WHO BLESSES”

*God generously confers blessing and favor, not because of merit, but on the basis of His love and goodness.  
It is His nature to bless and confer favor!*

*Therefore, when we confer favor and blessing, not on the basis of merit but on the basis of grace, we are reflecting the image and likeness of God.*

## — BLESSING OR CURSING —

In Deuteronomy 28, Moses detailed the blessings that Israel would experience for obedience, and the curses that would come on them for disobedience. Blessing is related to righteousness; curses are related to sin.

When God breathed His breath into the lifeless form of Adam, he became a “living soul.” Through Adam, who was then blessed by God, blessing was intended to come to the rest of creation. When Adam sinned, the rest of creation was cursed.

The fact is that God created us to receive and give blessing; that is His intended design. When blessing is not present, the curse of sin prevails.

## — THE IMPARTATION OF BLESSING —

It is God's nature to bless, and in response to our sin-cursed condition, God has, "out of the riches of His glorious grace," blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

To those who have been so blessed, God has committed to them the ministry of blessing.

*For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.* (2 Corinthians 5.19)

To bless means “to will (determine, impart) the good” for another. This is what we have experienced in being blessed in Christ:

*Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ. For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. He did this by predestining us to adoption as his legal heirs through Jesus Christ, according to the pleasure of his will—to the praise of the glory of his grace that he has freely bestowed on us in his dearly loved Son. (Ephesians 1.3-6)*

To “will” is an aspect of what it means to be made in the image of God, as is the ability to impart blessing. No other aspect of God’s creation was endowed with an articulate will and the ability to impart or withhold blessing.

As those who have been redeemed from the curse of sin, we have not only been blessed with every spiritual blessing, we have also been endowed with the capacity to confer blessing, grace, and favor.



Therefore, in every interaction we have with others, we “will” either blessing or cursing—there is no middle ground. We act in grace or we are graceless. We represent the God of blessing or we project a spirit that is cursed. Blessing is the projection of good into the life of another; this is what it means to “will.” We are called to bless as we have been blessed—deeply, attentively, abundantly.

## — PRACTICING BLESSING —

In every encounter you will have this week, you have the choice of imparting blessing or allowing the curse of sin to remain in effect. It is as simple as looking someone in the eye and saying “thank you” and “God bless you.” It is practiced when we have the opportunity to criticize or condemn but instead speak kindly and encouragingly. It is especially practiced when we communicate the love and concern of God through our Christlike witness and ministry to others. We are meant to bless.