

# From Curse to Blessing

## Derek Prince Radio Excerpts

### 1. Christ was Made a Curse

Now, in my talk today, I'll be focusing on another aspect—one to which the Holy Spirit sovereignly directed me some years ago. I've never found it referred to in any book that I've read or any sermon that I've heard and yet if we can understand and apply the truth contained in it, it has the potential to revolutionize the whole course of our lives. I, myself, have witnessed the impact that this truth produces both upon individuals and communities. This aspect of the exchange that I'm speaking about now and will be speaking about for the rest of this week is described by Paul in Galatians 3:13–14, where Paul says: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus . . . (NKJ). Now the exchange is obvious, just as in the other cases. The evil is the curse; the good is the blessing. Christ was made a curse on the cross, that we might qualify for and receive the blessing.

In order to receive this provision which God has made for us, it is necessary to understand the nature of both blessings and curses. And if you don't understand that, you will not be able to avail yourself of this provision. Both blessings and curses are major themes of Scripture. The words "bless" or "blessing" occur in the Bible about 430 times. The word "curse" in various forms occurs about 160 times. In other words, the Bible has a great deal to say about both. Both are absolutely real—we must understand this—so real, that Jesus had to be made a curse that we might be redeemed by the curse and receive the blessing. Some people are inclined to think that blessings are real but not curses. That's illogical. Any pair of opposites that we care to think of, if one is real, the other must be real. Like day and night. If "day" is real, "night" is real. Heat and cold. If "heat" is real, "cold" is real. Good and evil. If "good" is real, "evil" is real. Strong and weak. If "strength" is real, "weakness" is real. We cannot focus simply one and ignore the other. And so it is with blessings and curses. Blessings are real and curses are real.

Now, in the talks that follow for this week and next week, I'll be opening up this whole subject: the nature of both blessings and curses, how they operate, how to recognize if there is a curse at work in your life from which you need to be delivered. The Bible had much to teach us about all these areas. If we remain ignorant, it will be to our own cost. We will miss much of the total provision that God has made for us through the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross.

I travel widely, I minister to congregations of many different backgrounds, denominations, nationalities, and I find everywhere that most of God's people do not know how to discern blessings and curses. I often ask people as I preach: "Tell me, are you enjoying the blessings or are you enduring the curses?" A whole lot of Christians who should be enjoying blessings are actually enduring curses—for two reasons: first of all, they don't know how to recognize what is a blessing and what is a curse; secondly, if they are under a curse, they do not understand the basis upon which they can be released.

Now I'm going to deal with these themes very thoroughly and systematically in the talks that follow. Our time is up for today. I'll be back with you again tomorrow at this same time. Tomorrow I'll be explaining the nature of both blessings and curses and how they operate.

### 2. Nature of Blessings and Curses

In my first talk yesterday, I explained that the basis of all God's provision for us is the divinely-ordained exchange which took place when Jesus died on the cross. Very simply, God permitted the evil due to our rebellion to come upon Jesus, that the good due to Jesus' obedience might be made available to us. There are many different aspects. I just mentioned a few: Jesus was punished that we might be forgiven. He was wounded that we might be healed. He tasted our death that we might share His life. He was made sin that we might become righteousness. He endured

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rejection that we might have acceptance. And so on. But I focused, in my talk yesterday, on one particular aspect of that exchange, concerning which most Christians have received absolutely no teaching. This is stated by the apostle Paul in Galatians 3:13–14: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus . . .”(NKJ)

Now the exchange there between the evil and the good is obvious. The evil is the curse; the good is the blessing. Jesus was actually made a curse when He hung on the cross. This is according to the words of the Book of Deuteronomy, where God said through Moses: “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”—the cross being a tree. And so, when Jesus hung on the cross, every Jew who knew his Old Testament Scriptures knew that Jesus had been made a curse. What they did not understand and what can only be revealed by the Holy Spirit, is the reason why He was made a curse. He was made a curse that in return we might be redeemed from the curse and inherit the blessing of God. So, that’s what we’re going to focus on: the exchange from curse to blessing—the transition by which you pass from under the curse and into the blessing.

Today I’m going to share with you the nature of both blessings and curses and how they operate. Both blessings and curses essentially take the form of words. They may be spoken, written, or merely uttered inwardly, but these words become vessels of supernatural power. They’re not just ordinary words. That wouldn’t make them either blessings or curses. They’re words that have been charged with some kind of supernatural power. Blessings produce good effects; curses produce evil effects. Blessings proceed from God or from men representing God; and curses likewise. God pronounces curses and men representing God pronounce curses. But there’s a further point with curses—that they also proceed from Satan or men representing Satan. Satan cannot bless anybody but he can curse.

Now, this is the most important point. I want you to listen carefully. Once released, both blessings and curses tend to continue on through time, from generation to generation, even from century to century, until they are revoked. Normally, once a curse has been released or a blessing, it will continue until something happens to cancel it or revoke it. This means that there can be forces at work in our lives which were originally set in motion in previous generations, even many centuries previously; consequently, we may be dealing with things in our lives, in our circumstances, in our families, in our temperament, which aren’t to be explained solely in terms of what has happened in our lifetime or in our personal experience. The root cause for them may go back a long way in time, even generations, and even, as a matter of fact, millennia, thousands of years.

Now history contains many examples of the outworking of both blessings and curses. I’ll begin by taking some examples from the Bible: first of all, or blessings.

Here’s an example in Genesis 22:15–18 of a very important blessing pronounced in Abraham: Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, [This was the point at which Abraham was willing, actually, to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah. Then God continues, because you] have not withheld your son, your only son, in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed [also in your descendants—it’s the same word] all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (NKJ) Now that blessing was pronounced 4,000 years ago—it’s still at work in

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history today. One evidence is this broadcast that you are listening to because the blessing that comes to you through this broadcast comes through Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham and because of that blessing pronounced 4,000 years ago, you are being blessed right now, if you can receive the message of this radio message. So you see, blessings continue from generation to generation, from century to century.

Now let's look at some examples of curses. First of all, a curse pronounced by God Himself in Genesis 12:3 when He called Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go out and obey Him for another land which He would afterwards give him. Some of the promises that God gave to Abraham were these: "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Notice, in the middle of the blessings there's a curse. "I will curse the one who curses you [Abraham]."

Now the same was stated again, later on, when Isaac, the son of Abraham blessed his son Jacob. In Genesis 27:29 he said: "Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!" (NKJ) Again, the same: "If anybody curses you [Jacob] God will curse him." So you see, this is something that also continues in history. In simple, modern day language that's God's protection against anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is the attitude and the spirit that curses Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants, the Jewish people, up to this day. And anybody who yields to the spirit of anti-Semitism or makes negative utterances and statements that are false against the Jewish people is exposing himself or herself to that curse pronounced by God more than 3,000 years ago. And if you look at the history of all the nations and the empires in the last 3,000 years that have turned against the Jewish people, persecuted them, sought to destroy them, you'll find that every one of them has come under the curse of God. This is a fact of history. It is still at work in our world today. We only have to consider the events of the 1930s and the 1940s in Germany and in Europe to see how true this is today.

Let me give you another remarkable example. When Saul and Jonathan, his son, were killed in battle against the Philistines, David uttered a most beautiful poetic lament over them. And because they had been killed on the mountains of Gilboa, David said something about the mountains of Gilboa, which I want to read to you in 2 Samuel 1:21. David said: "O mountains of Gilboa, Let there be no dew, nor let there be rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil." (NKJ) I don't know whether David really knew what he was saying, but he said to that particular group of hills, "Let there be no dew nor . . . rain." That was a curse. Now that was about 3,000 years ago. You can go to that very area in the land of Israel today, the Jewish people have been remarkably successful in reforestation. They've planted trees on every kind of hill and mountain but they cannot succeed in making them grow in Mount Gilboa. Why? Because David pronounced a curse 3,000 years ago! Can you see how real this whole thing is? Many of us need to adjust our thinking because we are grappling with unseen forces that we don't understand.

### 3. How to Recognize a Curse

Today I'm going to give you guidelines that will help you to recognize if there is a curse at work in your life and that's extremely important for you. It's very probable that you've been struggling against something which you never really were able to master. And the thing you're struggling against is a curse and if you only look in your own lifetime you may not find the cause of it, therefore, let me give you, first of all, a general picture of what a curse is like. I'll just use the best kind of descriptive language that I can and I trust that the Holy Spirit will quicken to you whatever you particularly need to understand.

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A curse is something like a dark shadow or an evil hand from the past—oppressing, pressing you down, holding you back, tripping you up, and propelling you in a direction you do not really wish to take. I think I'm going to say that again: A dark shadow or an evil hand from the past—oppressing, pressing you down, holding you back, tripping you up, propelling you in a direction you really do not wish to take. Or, you could compare it to a negative atmosphere that surrounds which seems to be stronger at some times than others but you're never totally free from it. If I were to choose one key word, it would be the word "frustration." For example, you reach a certain level of achievement or progress in your life, you seem to have all the needed qualifications for success, yet something goes wrong. So you start again, you reach the same level, then something goes wrong again. And this seems to be the pattern of your life and yet there's no obvious reason for it.

I cannot tell you how many people I've dealt with who have told me a life story that has that pattern. There can be many different details, but the pattern is there. And then often they will say something like, "The same thing used to happen in my father's life," or, "I remember my grandfather telling me about this or that." And somehow they're vaguely aware that this thing didn't begin in their own lifetime. This pattern may occur in various areas—in the area of business, personal relationships (especially marriage and family), a career, finance, or health. In all probability whatever area it may be, that dark shadow or evil hand is a curse over your life, perhaps going back many generations.

Now let me give you some specific forms that curses may take. If you want to study blessings and curses in the Bible there is one chapter above all others that you must turn to and study and that is Deuteronomy, chapter 28. This chapter contains sixty-eight verses. The first fourteen verses are blessings and the remaining fifty-four verses are curses. And I think anybody that has a problem in this area should take time to study and meditate on and pray over that chapter. I will give you a very brief summation, first of all, of the blessings and then of the curses. But I am not asking anybody to accept my summation. I would prefer that you go to the chapter for yourself and read it through carefully, but this is the summation that I have arrived at.

First of all, blessings: exaltation (being lifted up), health, reproductiveness in every area, prosperity, victory, and God's favor. The curses essentially are the opposite: humiliation, failure to reproduce (and I want to say barrenness in almost any area is nearly always the outworking of a curse) . . . failure to reproduce, mental and physical sickness, family breakdown, poverty, defeat, oppression, failure, God's disfavor.

In the connection with the blessings, Moses said to Israel, "If God's blessing is on your life, you'll be the head and not the tail; you'll be above and not beneath." That's the difference. I ask people many times, "Are you living like a head or a tail? Are you taking the initiative, are you making the decisions, or are you just being dragged around like a tail by forces that you have no control over? Are you living above or are you living under?"

I heard about two Christians once who met one another and one said to the other, "Brother, how are you doing?" The other one answered, "Well, under the circumstances, I'm not doing too badly." And the first one said, "Well, brother, what are you doing under the circumstances?" You shouldn't be under the circumstances. If the blessing of God is in your life, you'll be above the circumstances, not under them.

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Now all these apply more often to a family, a community or a nation than an individual. In other words, both blessings and curses are not limited normally to a single individual but they are related to a family or a community or a nation or sometimes a whole civilization. Now, in dealing with people in this area—and I've had pretty extensive experience, and I tell you what I'm teaching today is out of experience, not theory—I made my own list of curses or indications of curses that I have found in the lives of people. This was done purely on the basis of experience and observation but I'll just give you my own personal list. It's amazing how close it is to Deuteronomy, chapter 28. So I have here seven common indications that there's a curse over a person's life.

**Number 1.** Mental and/or emotional breakdown.

**Number 2.** Repeated or chronic sicknesses, especially if they're hereditary or without clear medical diagnosis.

**Number 3.** Repeated miscarriages or related female problems.

**Number 4.** The breakdown of marriage and family alienation, where a family falls apart.

**Number 5.** Continuing financial insufficiency, especially where the income appears to be sufficient. You see, a little with God's blessing does more than a lot with a curse on it.

**Number 6.** Being accident prone. Oh, how common this is!

**Number 7.** In a family, a history of suicides or unnatural deaths.

Now, let me just tell you in closing a little incident that awakened me to this. I had been teaching in a church, I'd come to the end of my preaching, I was standing behind the pulpit just wondering what to do next. I saw a family—father, mother and teen-aged daughter—on the front row on my left. God seemed to say to me, "There's a curse over that family." So I walked up to the father and said, "Sir, God has shown me there's a curse over your family. Would you like me to release you from it in the name of Jesus?" He immediately said, "Yes." I stepped back behind the pulpit, said a short prayer, saw a visible physical reaction in each one as I released them from the curse. Then I noticed that the girl, about 18 years old, had her left leg in a cast from the thigh down to the bottom of the foot. So I stepped back and said to the father, "Would you like me to pray for your daughter's leg?" He said, "Yes, but you need to know she's broken the same leg three times in eighteen months and that doctors say it will not heal." Now if I heard that today, I'd know immediately: a curse. That's unnatural to break the same leg three times in eighteen months. So I prayed for the leg and to cut a story short, the next time she went back to the hospital, the leg was healed. But as I meditated on it, I realized that God had shown me there was a curse in that family because, if the curse had not been revoked the leg would not have been healed. The curse was the barrier to the healing of the leg. And many, many times a curse is a barrier to people receiving healing.

#### 4. What Causes Blessings or Curses

Today, I'm going to share with you the kinds of things that cause either blessing or curses in a person's life. It's very important to understand that there is always a cause for both blessings and curses.

In connection with curses, this is what Solomon says in Proverbs 26:2: Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight. (NKJ)

In other words, wherever a curse alights there's a cause behind it. And in dealing with the curse, it is often important to discover the cause. In this connection, we need to distinguish between primary and secondary causes. In each case the primary cause, both of blessings and curses, is very simple. Let's look, first of all, at blessings. We'll go to that chapter, Deuteronomy chapter 28, which is the key chapter on blessings and curses. In the first two verses Moses states the cause for God's blessing. "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God." (KJV)

There are the basic causes of blessing. Very simple. Listening to God's voice and doing what He says. Let me repeat that: The basic cause of all blessing is listening to God's voice and doing what He says. This is clearly exemplified in

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the case of Abraham when he offered up his son Isaac. God said to him: “. . . in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (Gen. 22:17–18 NKJ) Notice, what’s the cause? Because Abraham heard and obeyed the voice of God.

Then let’s turn to curses. We go back to Deuteronomy chapter 28, and in verse 15 at the beginning of the whole list of curses which goes on for 54 verses, this is the basic cause for curses. Moses says: “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee . . .” (KJV) What is the cause of curses? Not listening to God’s voice and not doing what He says. So the root cause of all blessings is hearing and obeying God’s voice and of all curses is not hearing and not obeying God’s voice. And notice that both curses and blessings “overtake” us. We don’t really have to pursue them, we just have to fulfill the conditions, either positive or negative. If we fulfill the positive conditions, the blessings overtake us, but if we fulfill the negative conditions, then the curses overtake us. And no matter how hard we try we cannot go so fast that they won’t overtake us.

So those are then the root causes: hearing and obeying God’s voice; or not hearing and not obeying God’s voice. Now, from these roots there spring many different kinds of behavior which I call “secondary causes.” A list of twelve secondary causes of curses that proceed from God is given in Deuteronomy, chapter 27. (That’s the chapter before the complete list.) In Deuteronomy 27:15–26, God lists twelve things concerning which He warns Israel, “If you do these things, you’ll come under a curse.” Again, I’m not going to read the complete list, I’m going to give you my summation. But once more I advise you: Don’t just accept what I’m telling you. Go to the chapter for yourself and study it. The reference is Deuteronomy 27:15–26.

This is my summation: four main causes of curses.

First and foremost: idolatry, false gods and the occult. And we need to remember that the occult is the same as worshipping false gods. It’s going to false gods or the servants of false gods for help that we should seek only from the true God.

Second main cause of curses is dishonoring parents. And I have dealt with countless young people who had a curse over their lives because of a wrong attitude or relationship to their parents. We need to remember that in Ephesians 6 Paul says, “the first commandment with blessing is ‘Honor thy father and mother that it may be well with thee.’” And Paul points out that’s the first commandment that carries with it a promise of blessing. And I want to tell anybody listening to me, if you fail to honor your parents, you incur a curse upon yourself. If that’s your condition, you need to repent, you need to change, you need to adjust your attitude and if possible your relationship with your parents. I have lived a long while and have dealt with thousands of people. I have never known a person with a wrong attitude to parents come under the full blessing of God.

The third main area is illicit or unnatural sex; that is, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bestiality, and so on. All those things bring curses. It’s not a matter of whether we wish them to bring curses or whether we think they ought to bring curses. The fact of the matter is, God has so ordered human life that they do bring curses.

The fourth main area is injustice to the weak or the helpless. And I would say here perhaps the most outstanding example of such injustice to the totally weak and helpless is the deliberate procuring of abortions, the deliberate killing of unborn children. There cannot be any greater example of injustice to the weak and the helpless than that. And I want to say to anybody listening to my voice, if you have been guilty of that, there is a curse over your life. I’m not saying you cannot escape from the curse, but I’m saying you need to recognize the curse, turn to God for mercy, and meet His conditions for redemption from the curse, which I will be describing in the course of these talks.

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I want to emphasize particularly, as I close, the consequences of idolatry or the occult stated in Exodus 20:3–6 by God Himself: “You shall have no other gods before Me [or beside Me]. You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them [that’s worship them] nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (NKJ)

Notice, God states specifically that the penalty for idolatry, false gods, the occult, will be visited not merely on the persons guilty but on the next three generations—their sons and daughters, their grandsons and granddaughters, their great-grandsons and their great-granddaughters. Now you may be in the category of one of those subsequent generations and there may be a curse over your life because of idolatry or occult practices in previous generations. This is typical of a curse. It goes on from generation to generation until it is dealt with in a scriptural way. And I’m going to be explaining in the rest of my talks on this theme, the scriptural way to be released from a curse and to enter in to the blessing.

### 5. Common Causes of Curses

Today I’m going to share with you some major specific causes of curses revealed in the Bible beyond those which I have already shared. First, I’ll turn to Jeremiah 17:5–6, which states a reason for a curse which most people, even many Christians, have failed to notice and consequently they’ve come under the very curse against which they are warned. This is it: Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited.” (NKJ)

Let me say that that picture of the shrub in the desert is typical of a curse. Blessing goes all round, others prosper, others succeed, but the person under a curse is like a shrub in the desert who never sees when good comes. Now what is the cause? It’s very simple: it’s trusting in man and, first and foremost, remember you are man. It’s trusting in yourself, making flesh your strength, or you’re relying on your own natural ability, cleverness, education, whatever, and in doing so your heart departs from the Lord. This brings a curse. This is the reason why many individual Christians and even more—many churches have lost their blessing because they started in the grace of God, they started with supernatural blessing and anointing, supernatural faith. They had supernatural conversions, supernatural power to overcome evil, to lead lives of godliness and then had gone back to just plain human morality, organization, education, whatever. Now none of those things are wrong, but to trust in those things brings anybody, whether it’s an individual or a church, under the curse of God.

Paul dealt with the same theme in Galatians 3:1–3: O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? (NKJ) That’s the essence of the problem—beginning in the Spirit and the level of God’s supernatural grace and ability and then going back to relying on our own carnal efforts: morality, education, cleverness, programs, finance, whatever it may be. And if you follow Paul’s teaching in that third chapter, you get to the place in verses 13 and 14 that we have referred to many times where he speaks about the curse and the blessing. In other words, going back to legalism, to works, to seeking to achieve righteousness with God by your own efforts, brings you under a curse. I think that’s a major problem of countless Christian denominations and organizations today. They are under a curse and they don’t know what they are struggling with or what the cause for it is.

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And then again in Zechariah 5:1–4, the prophet had a vision of a flying scroll with a curse on either side of it. The curse on one side was for stealing, the other side was for perjury. And in his vision he saw this scroll going into people's houses and taking up its place in their houses and as a result the houses disintegrated—they just rotted, they fell apart. Again, that's typical of what a curse does. It just destroys everything around it. But notice two cause for curses: stealing and perjury.

And then again in Malachi, the prophet deals with another thing that brings a curse on people. In Malachi 1:14: But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And makes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished... (NKJ) What's the cause of the curse there? You've promised God to do something, to give Him something and then you draw back on your promise and you are stingy with Him. That brings a curse. Let me tell you, dear friends, don't be stingy with God! When I see people put miserable sums in church offerings, I just ache for them. They're being stingy with God, they're bringing a curse upon themselves. Let me tell you this very gently: God doesn't need your tips! If all you are going to put in the offering is a tip, you'd better not put anything.

And then in Malachi 3:8–10, Malachi returns to this theme: "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation." What brought a curse upon them? Being stingy with God, withholding the offerings due to God. And then Malachi tells them the remedy: "'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And prove 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.'" (NKJ)

There's the antithesis. The cause for the curse is stinginess with God. The cause for the promised blessing is being generous, being liberal with God. Why should we deny ourselves the blessing? Why should we come under the curse of stinginess in our dealings with God when He has so freely promised us His blessing if we'll just be open and generous with Him? And then I want to give an example of a curse pronounced by a man representing God. The man is Joshua and it's pronounced in Joshua 6:26. After the destruction by Israel of the city of Jericho, this is what Joshua said: Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates." (NKJ)

Now people might have forgotten that; centuries passed; about 500 years later in the history of Israel a certain man named Hiel of Bethel did the very thing against which Joshua had pronounced a curse: he rebuilt Jericho. This is what it says about him in 1 Kings 16:34: In the days Hiel the Bethelite ["in his days," that's the days of Ahab] Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho; he laid its foundations with the loss of Abiram his first-born, and set up its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which He spoke by Joshua the son of Nun. (NAS) Notice, this man did what Joshua had put a curse upon. In the power of God he rebuilt Jericho, it cost him the lives of his two sons. Words that had been spoken 500 years earlier resulted in the death of those two young men. Can you picture the doctors of the day analyzing the death of these two young men? What would they discover? Would they understand that it was due to words spoken by a servant of God 500 years before? Can you see how we are often wrestling with things in our lifetime of which the cause may go back many, many centuries?

And then one final example of a curse is Jesus and the fig tree. He went to a fig tree looking for figs to eat. He found none because it was not the season for the figs and He said, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." That's all He did. He just spoke to the tree. Some people would consider it crazy to speak to a tree, but He spoke to the tree. But let me tell you this, the tree felt the impact of what Jesus said because a little later on in the same passage it says: Now in the morning, as [the disciples] passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to [Jesus], "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which you cursed has withered away." (Mark 11:20–21 NKJ)

That's powerful! Jesus didn't lay His hand on the fig tree, He didn't take an axe to the fig tree, but in the Spirit of God, He spoke words charged with supernatural power and within 24 hours, those words caused the fig tree to wither.

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That's the power of both curses and blessing. They are words charged with supernatural power. And they are the source of many things that happen in our lives.

### 6. Further Causes of Curses (1)

Today I am going to share two further common sources of curses. The first one proceeds from persons with relational authority. By that I mean that in the way God has ordered human society there are relationships between persons in which one person, by virtue of the relationship, has authority over another person. For instance, a husband has authority over his wife; parents have authority over children; teachers have authority over pupils; pastors have authority over congregations.

Now, we'll look at some examples. First we'll turn to a historical example in the Bible in the life of Jacob. Jacob had lived with his uncle Laban for a long period of time, he had acquired two wives, two concubines, eleven children, and then, without telling his uncle Laban, he just left. He fled because he was afraid of his uncle trying to hold him back or to take his wives from him. His uncle Laban pursued him in anger. Now, what Jacob did not know was that his favorite wife, Rachel, before leaving, had stolen her father's household gods—the Hebrew word is *teraphim*, a kind of little idols or images which people would keep in their homes to protect them, to bring blessing and luck, and so on—forms of occult—which Rachel should not have been involved in, let me add. So, Laban follows Jacob, catches up with him, and starts to complain about his conduct. But he comes down finally to this point, in Genesis 31:30. He says to Jacob: "And now you have surely gone because you greatly long for your father's house [In other words, "I understand that."], but why did you steal my gods?" (NKJ) Now, Jacob, not knowing who had stolen the gods, knowing that he had not done it, said this: "With whomever you find your gods, may he not live." Now that's a curse. Jacob said it in all innocence. He didn't know to whom it applied but he was actually, as husband, pronouncing a curse upon his wife Rachel. And the next time Rachel gave birth, which was not much later, she died in childbirth. That's cause and effect. It was her husband's curse that caused her death.

Well, we can have other examples of persons with relational authority, as I said, parents. For instance, a father may have three sons—the first one is the firstborn, he's accepted; the third one is talented, he's accepted; the middle one has really nothing special to commend him, the father doesn't like him. Maybe he sees too much of himself in his son. So he's always against the son and he says, "You'll never succeed, you'll never make good in life. There's no hope for you." What's that? It's a curse.

I've met many people—people with natural gifts and talents who could not succeed because they were struggling against a parental curse. Or a teacher may say to her pupil, "You'll never make good. You're stupid! You'll never learn to read." And what's that? It's a curse. Again, I've met people struggling against curses pronounced by teachers decades previously in their lives. Or a pastor may say to a member of his congregation, "If you leave this church, you'll never prosper. You'll never succeed. You'll backslide." What's that? It's a curse.

Then there are self-imposed curses. Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Go and get the blessing from your father Isaac." Jacob said, "Maybe my father will discover I am a deceiver and curse me instead of blessing me." Rebekah replied, "Upon me be thy curse, my son." She pronounced a curse upon herself. If you study the story, Rebekah never saw her son Jacob alive again. She was dead by the time he returned. And we find by the end of that chapter Rebekah is using language like this: "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth . . . what good will my life be to me?" (Genesis 27:46 NKJ). That's typical language of a person under a curse. "I am weary of my life. What good will my life be to me." Beware of others saying, "I wish I were dead. What's the good of living." They are pronouncing a curse on themselves. Make a positive confession: "I shall not die but live and declare the works of the Lord." Cancel the negative by the positive.

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And one final, closing tragic example of a curse which has stained the pages of human history for nineteen centuries. Jesus is standing before Pilate wanting to release Him. He says, "Shall I let Him go?" And the crowds say, "No. Crucify Him!" And Pilate took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, "I'm innocent of the blood of this just man." The crowd replied, "His blood be on us and on our children." What's that? It's a curse, a self-imposed curse. One of the great tragedies of human history is that the Jewish people pronounced a curse on themselves and on their children and I say with the deepest regret that subsequent history illustrates the outworking of that curse. It's still at work today. Oh, thank God, that there is provision for release from the curse through the sacrificial death of the Messiah but there is no other way out.

### 7. Further Causes of Curses (2)

Today I'm going to share three further causes of curses, all of which I have encountered many times. The first is persons representing Satan—persons supernaturally empowered, not by God but by Satan, persons who have cultivated the evil power of Satan in such a way that they can release it in the lives of others. We call such persons by various names, of which here is a sample: witch doctors, wizards, witches, sorcerers, mediums, clairvoyants, fortune-tellers, false prophets, and so on. Now, the Bible clearly states that all who practice such things are detestable to God. Listen to what Moses said to Israel in Deuteronomy 18:10–12: Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD. . . (NIV)

Notice the list of things. I'll just pick out some: divination, that's fortune-telling; sorcery; interpreting omens, that could be teacup reading; engaging in witchcraft, which is very wide; casting spells; a medium; a spiritist; or one who consults the dead. "Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD." Furthermore, those who resort to such persons expose themselves to satanic influence. Here's one example from the Bible of such a person—what we would call a "witch doctor"—Balaam. Israel had arrived at the borders of their inheritance, they were camped there on the borders of the territory of Moab. Balak, the king of Moab, was extremely frightened. He knew he could not defeat these people in war so he resorted to a very typical practice in the Middle East today and in various other nations. He called for the witch doctor, the sorcerer, whose name was Balaam. And he asked Balaam to curse this people of whom he was afraid, whom he could not defeat in war. And so this is what he said in Numbers 22:5–6: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." (NKJ)

Let me tell you that that's typical practice amongst primitive tribes in Africa, even to today. If they go out to war against one another, they don't go straight to battle. First of all, they get the witch doctor to pronounce a curse on the opposing tribe because once they are under a curse, they believe they'll be able to defeat them. Now some people would regard this as an empty superstition but I want to point out to you that God did not regard it that way. On the contrary, He took it very seriously and He intervened sovereignly to prevent Balaam cursing Israel and to change the curse into the blessing. And this is what Moses told Israel later, in Deuteronomy 23:4–5: . . . [the Moabites] hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. 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. (NKJ) God took it so seriously that He stood against Balaam and turned the curse into a blessing.

You see, the Bible never says that Satan has no power, that's a mistake. The Bible clearly teaches that Satan has supernatural power, but Jesus promised His disciples superior power. In Luke 10:10, He says: "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy [the enemy is Satan], and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (NKJ) Don't have the impression that Satan has no power! But take refuge in this glorious fact that Jesus has given to His disciples power over all the power of Satan.

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Now I want to illustrate the reality of this by a few examples from personal experience. I was for five years a principal of a teacher training college in East Africa, training teachers for African schools. One of my students from a remote village told me this story. He said in the village two families quarreled and became very bitter against one another. So one family sent for the local witch doctor, gave him a goat as payment and said, "Put a curse on the other family." And he said, "All right." He took the goat, went away and he said, "I've put a curse on the son of the other family, the little son, and at midnight on a certain day a jackal will cry in the village and when the jackal cries, the son of that family will die." And it happened exactly that way! A jackal cried and the son died. That was the outworking of a curse. It has power.

I think of another story. A friend of mine, a pastor of a church, in order to raise funds for the church some of the members organized what they called a Garden Fete. And they had all sorts of entertainments and attractions to amuse people. And one of them was a fortune-teller, which they regarded simply as a joke. So the pastor really didn't feel too happy about this, but he went along with the plan and he went into the fortune-teller's tent to have his fortune told and the fortune-teller said to him, "Your wife will get cancer." He told me afterwards his blood ran cold and his heart almost stopped beating. And do you know what happened? His wife got cancer. Praise God! Through prayer and faith and the help of doctors, she was ultimately healed. But you see, that man had unwittingly exposed himself to a curse from a servant of Satan which affected his wife.

Let me give you another experience of my own. In Chicago some years back, I was pastoring a church. A lady came to me and told me that she had been a spiritist medium, that she wanted deliverance. I was somewhat skeptical, but I began to pray with her and to drive out the power of Satan from her life. It was very hard going and in the middle I stopped and rested for a few moments and suddenly she looked at me and she said, "I see you in a car and it's wrecked against a tree." And I realized that was Satan's destiny for my life being pronounced through the lips of that woman. Thank God I was on the alert. I said, "I'll never be in any car that will be wrecked against a tree. I reject that curse. It has no power over me." And I was free. But if I had said, "Oh, I'm going to be in a car and it's going to be wrecked against a tree," I would have accepted that curse and it would have worked out in my life.

Now, another cause of curses is soulish prayers, utterances and gossip. Listen to what James says in chapter 3, verses 14-15: But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (NKJ) You see, people can talk against one another and even pray against one another and in doing so, if they are not in the realm of the Spirit, if they are in the realm of the soul, if they are in bad and evil emotions, the effect of their prayers is a curse.

I was in a church some little while back where there was a group of people connected with the church actually praying for the death of the pastor's wife. What's that? It's a curse. The result: it was the result of bitterness and hatred and division in the church. You see, we can kill people with our tongues. Do you realize that? In Jeremiah's day, the people who opposed him said this in Jeremiah 18:18: "Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah . . . Come on and let us strike at him with our tongue, and let us give no heed to any of his words." (NAS) Do you know that many servants of God have died through being struck by the tongue of gossip and soulish utterances and prayers? That can be the source of a curse.

Finally, one other source: unscriptural covenants, by which people commit themselves to persons who are themselves committed to false gods. God said through Moses to Israel: "You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods" (Exodus 23:32 NKJ). If you make a covenant with people who are in false religions and worshiping false gods, not only do you make a covenant with the people but you make a covenant with their gods.

And now let me give you one example to close. I say this with care. Freemasonry is an example of such a secret society and it brings terrible curses upon the people who are involved in it. I've seen this working out in the lives of family members: retarded children, paralyzed children, broken homes.

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### 8. How to Pass from Curse to Blessing

Now I'm going to tell you today how to pass from curse to blessing. I am going to speak in clear simple practical terms and I want you to listen carefully. First of all, the basis of all deliverance from a curse is the sacrificial atonement of Jesus. This is stated very clearly in Galatians 3:13–14—the key verse for this whole theme. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus . . . (NKJ) There's the transition from curse to blessing that's made possible because on the cross Jesus was made a curse with the curse due to us that we might in return receive the blessing due to His sinless obedience.

This is stated very generally in Isaiah 53:6: All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all. (NKJ) Where the word "iniquity" means not only rebellion but all the evil consequences of rebellion and one of those evil consequences is the curse that comes from not hearing and not obeying God's voice.

Now, once you have met these conditions and claimed your deliverance, I want to remind you very emphatically that thereafter God still requires obedience. Let me remind you of the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 28:1–2: And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. (KJV) Now, that is the ongoing condition. That's the way we have to live.

Once we have been delivered from the curse and entered into the blessing, to remain in the blessing, we have to meet those very simple, basic conditions—that we listen carefully to God's voice and we do what He says. If we again turn away and refuse to hear God's voice and refuse to obey Him, once again, we automatically expose ourselves to the curse. Now this requirement is not something specifically for keeping clear of curses. This requirement is the universal requirement for having God's favor, having the light of His countenance upon us, living in His salvation, His blessing and His provision.

Jesus said the same for all who want to follow Him and serve Him, as Christians and disciples. In John 10:27, He enunciated the same principle in very simple language. He said, "My sheep [that is, My true followers] hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (NKJ).

What is the basic requirement for being a Christian? It's not the church you attend; it's not your denominational label. All those things are secondary. The primary requirement is: hearing the voice of Jesus and following Him. You see, this runs all through the Bible. "If thou shalt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God and do that which is right in His sight all these blessings will come upon thee." "My sheep hear my voice and they follow Me." You cannot escape from that basic requirement. What I can help you to do is come out from under the curse and commit you to the grace of God. Then you are responsible thereafter to live your life in such a way that you continue in the grace of God, you continue in His blessings.

Now, in order to come into the blessings and out from under the curse, we have to move from what I call the "legal" to the "experiential." Jesus has already made the provision. That happened more than nineteen centuries ago. On the cross Jesus was made a curse so that we might receive the blessing. That's already provided but we have to make it real in our personal experience. This is true of every aspect of what Jesus did on the cross. He was punished that we might be forgiven. He was wounded that we might be healed. All that has been done. But in order to receive forgiveness, we have to do what God requires. In order to be healed we have to do what God requires. And so it is with this provision. Jesus was made a curse that we might receive the blessing. That's done. That doesn't have to be

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done again. But we have to appropriate this provision in our own personal lives— what I call “passing from the legal to the experiential.” And often, in order to do this in the case of curses, we need to ascertain the cause or the source of the curse. That’s why I have taken so much time in these talks to deal with the various possible causes or sources of curses.

Now, once we have identified the cause, the source, the point in time and in experience where we (or, in many cases, our ancestors or others associated with us) were exposed to the curse, then there are four things that we need to do and they all happen to begin in English with the letters “R-E.” So, I’ll make it easy. They are: recognize, repent, renounce, resist.

**Recognize:** We have to recognize our problem and its source.

**Repent:** We have to repent of whatever initially exposed us to the problem, whether it was our own sin or the sin of our ancestors.

**Renounce:** We have to say, “It no longer belongs to me. I don’t accept it. Through Jesus I have the right to be free from it. It’s not my problem any longer.” And then,

**Resist:** We have to take a very definite, active stand against the power of Satan. Let me say those four words again: Recognize, Repent, Renounce, Resist.

Let me give you this Scripture from James 4:7 about resisting the devil. It’s one of the things the Bible tells us we have to do. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (NKJ). Notice the order. What is the first thing we have to do? Submit to God. Then, when we have done that, we can resist the devil and the Bible says he will flee from us. Do you believe that? I tell you, I believe it for two reasons: first of all, because the Bible says it; and second, because I have proved it in my own experience. When I’m submitted to God and on the basis of Scripture, I resist the devil, he will flee from me.

Now, in order to make this happen in our experience, we need to pray a prayer which fulfills God’s requirements.

### 9. The Process of Release

Let me say those four words again because they are important: recognize, repent, renounce, resist.

Now, once you have done this, you are ready to come to God and to claim your release by a very specific prayer. Today I am going to explain to you the form of prayer that you need to use. I am going to state a number of different requirements which your prayer needs to fulfill in order to be thoroughly in line with God and with what He expects of you. I will state these requirements in order.

First of all, your faith must be based on God’s Word; therefore, establish a clear, scriptural basis in the Word of God for the prayer you are going to pray. Now I’ll give you some very powerful Scriptures which provide you with this basis in God’s Word. First of all, the one we have been quoting all along, but I will quote it again. Galatians 3:13–14: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus . . . (NKJ) Christ was made a curse on the cross and by that He has redeemed us, He has brought us back from the curse that we might receive the blessing. Then Ephesians 1:7: In Him [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. (NKJ)

We see there that this redemption comes through the blood of Jesus and it goes with having our sins forgiven. Through the blood of Jesus we can have our sins forgiven and be brought back out of the hand of the devil, redeemed from the curse. Then Colossians 1:13–14: For [God] delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (NAS) Through our faith in Jesus and His sacrificial death, God has delivered us from the domain of darkness.

Notice that word “domain.” In the original Greek it is “authority”—that’s Satan’s kingdom. Satan has authority over the disobedient, the unbelieving, the unsaved. But through Jesus God has delivered us from that domain of darkness

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and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption. Note that key word, "redemption." We have been bought back. We are no longer under the power of the curse because of the redeeming death and the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

And then in 1 John 3:8: For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (NKJ) That's a wonderful Scripture. Why did Jesus come? To destroy the works of the devil and that includes the curse.

And then again, Luke 10:19: "Behold [Jesus says to His disciples], I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (NKJ) Satan has power, but Jesus has given us power over the power of Satan and because of that nothing shall by any means hurt us.

All right. That's a wonderful series of Scriptures on which to base your faith. Once you have based your faith on those Scriptures and their truth and grasped them as realities for yourself, the next thing you need to do is confess your faith in Christ, because Hebrews 3:1 says Jesus is the "High Priest of our confession." It is our confessing our faith in Jesus that releases Him to operate in the supernatural realm on our behalf as our High Priest. If we do not make a confession, we do not release Him to operate on our behalf. No confession, no High Priest. But when you make the right confession, then He serves as your High Priest.

The third thing you need to do is commit yourself to obedience. Do you remember what I said? The blessings come to those who hear and obey the voice of God. So, once you are released from the curse, in order to remain free from the curse, you have to commit yourself to hear and obey the voice of God. Now, you don't rely on your own efforts, your own righteousness, but when you make the commitment in faith that releases the grace of God in your life, enabling you to do what you have committed yourself to do in faith. So, commit yourself to obedience.

Fourthly, you need to confess any known sins by yourself or your ancestors. Now, why do I say your ancestors? Because it may be that it was the sin of your ancestors that exposed you, as one of their descendants, to the curse. Now, you do not bear the guilt of their sin, but you do suffer the consequences of their sins. I think I need to say that again. You do not bear the guilt, but you do suffer the consequences, which in this case is the curse. So, in order to escape from the curse, you need to deal with the sin that exposed you or your ancestors to the curse. You do that by confessing and asking God to forgive and to blot that sin out. Proverbs 28:13 says: He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. (NKJ) Now, if you cover up sin, you won't prosper, you won't be blessed. But, if you confess and forsake sin—and that's important, not just to confess but to forsake, to turn from your sin—then you will have God's mercy, redemption from the curse.

The fifth thing you need to do is forgive all other persons. Jesus said in Mark 11:25: "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions." (NAS) That's very important. Jesus makes it clear that if we hold unforgiveness and bitterness and resentment in our hearts when we pray, that will be a barrier to the answer to our prayer. It will keep us under the curse. So, by a decision of our will, when we pray we have to lay down any kind of resentment or bitterness or unforgiveness against any person and, in the measure in which we forgive others, God forgives us. If we want total forgiveness from God, we have to offer total forgiveness to others. It's not really being super-spiritual, I call it "enlightened self-interest" to forgive other people.

The sixth thing you have to do is renounce all contact with the occult of secret societies, by yourself or your ancestors, for the same reason as I have already stated, and get rid of all contact objects— anything that in any way is associated with the occult. You have to get it out of your presence, out of your house. You have to be totally separated from it. You need to destroy it. Listen to what Moses said to Israel in Deuteronomy 7:25–26 about idols and things like that: "You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.

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Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it; but you shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing." (NKJ) If you bring an accursed thing into your house, that brings the curse on you. You cannot expect deliverance from the curse if you keep any kind of a cursed thing in your house—any idol, any image, any charm, anything that is superstition, any horseshoe upside down—all those things. You have to get rid of them if you want to be released from the curse.

The seventh thing you have to do is release yourself in the name of Jesus. Let me give you two Scriptures: Joel 2:32: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered. . . .(KJV) If you call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be delivered. Make sure of that.

And then in Matthew 18:18, Jesus said: "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (NKJ) So that gives you authority when you meet the conditions to loose yourself on earth. And when you do it on earth, you are loosed in heaven.

Let me very, very quickly cover those points again.

First of all, your whole operation must be based on faith in God's Word.

Second, you must confess your faith in Christ.

Third, you must commit yourself to obedience.

Fourth, you must confess any known sins by yourself or your ancestors.

Fifth, you must forgive all other persons.

Sixth, you must renounce all contact with the occult or secret societies and get rid of all contact objects.

Seventh, you may then release yourself in the name of Jesus from the curse.

Now, if your prayer covers all these points, then you can have the assurance that you have fulfilled God's requirements. You can trust in God's mercy, faithfulness and power.

### 10. The Prayer of Release

Now, today I am coming to the climax which is extremely important. I want you to be listening and following me very carefully. I am going to lead you, step by step, through the prayer that you need to pray and I am going to do it this way: First of all, I will pray the prayer myself and let you listen. Then, the second time, I will lead you to say the prayer after me, step by step. Now, I am going to say it myself first because I am not asking you to do something following me blindly. I want you to have an intelligent understanding of what you will be doing so I am going to say the prayer and you can think it over and decide in your heart if you want to say that prayer because you are going to have to make the commitment. It is going to have to be your faith. And remember, you will be praying, not to me, but to the Lord Jesus Christ. I am just giving you the prayer to pray to Him.

All right. Now I am going to say this pattern prayer, right through once. I will say it slowly and carefully. You listen.

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are the Son of God and the only way to God; that on the cross You died for my sins; and that You rose again from the dead; that on the cross also You were made a curse, that I might be redeemed from the curse and receive Your blessing. I trust You now for mercy and forgiveness and I commit myself from now on by Your grace to follow You and obey You. I ask you to forgive and blot out any sins committed by me or by my ancestors that exposed me to a curse. If people have harmed me or wronged me, I forgive them, as I would have God forgive me. I renounce all contact with Satan, or with occult practices, or with unscriptural secret societies. If I have any contact object that link me to these things, I promise to destroy them. And now, with the authority you have given me, as a child of God, I release myself from every curse that has even come upon me or affected me in any way. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

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Now, this second time I am going to say the prayer through once more, slowly, phrase by phrase, and I will pause after each phrase to give you ample time to say it after me. This time I am inviting you to say it through, after me, phrase by phrase. Turn your heart and mind toward the Lord Jesus, focus on Him. Remember, you are praying to Him, not to me. If you are in a place where you can pray out loud, it is better to do so; otherwise, just say the words under your breath, but remember, you are not praying with me, you are praying after me. Are you ready? Then say these words after me:

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God, — and the only way to God; — that on the cross You died for my sins, — and that You rose again from the dead; — that on the cross also — You were made a curse, — that I might be redeemed from the curse — and receive Your blessing. — I trust You now — for mercy and forgiveness, — and I commit myself from now on — by Your grace — to follow You and obey You. — I ask You to forgive and blot out — any sins committed by me — or by my ancestors — that exposed me to a curse. — If people have harmed me — or wronged me, — I forgive them — as I would have God forgive me. — I renounce all contact — with Satan — or with occult practices — or with unscriptural secret societies. — If I have any contact objects — that link me to these things, — I promise to destroy them. — And now, — with the authority you have given me — as a child of God, — I release myself from every curse — that has ever come upon me — or affected me in any way. — In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Now, Jesus has heard your prayer. Receive your release by faith. Right now. The simplest way to do that is just to begin to thank God because thanksgiving is the simplest and purest expression of faith. Accept your release as an accomplished fact. If there is any kind of strange emotional or physical reaction that you go through, don't let that frighten you. That's a good sign. It means that God is moving to release you, even emotionally or physically. So you just keep thanking God. And I, as the Lord's servant, will pray a prayer for each and every one of you who have claimed your release. Now accept my prayer.

O, God. I thank you that you allowed Jesus, on the cross, to become a curse that we, through faith in Him, might be redeemed from the curse. I thank you for every one that has prayed this prayer after me, in faith, meeting Your conditions. And Lord Jesus, I just claim their release for them now, as they are thanking You. I claim a full release. I break every satanic power over those lives. I revoke every curse. I declare that Satan is a defeated enemy, that all his claims have been canceled by the shed blood of Jesus. I declare that Satan's authority is revoked and canceled forever, in the name of Jesus. Amen.