



BLESS

September 11, 2022

God has blessed us and wants to make us a blessing to others.

1. Begin with Prayer

Impacting the lives of others begins with prayer.

And as we love others and tell our story to others, the Holy Spirit will work through us.

Now, there is an important cycle in the book of Acts that we must keep in mind if we are going to live out the command to be a blessing to others.

The cycle of prayer and power in the Book of Acts:

	CYCLE 1	CYCLE 2	CYCLE 3
1. Prayer	(Acts 1:14)	(Acts 4:23–24)	(Acts 5:12–14)
2. Power	(Acts 2:4)	(Acts 4:31)	(Acts 5:12–14)
3. Ministry	(Acts 2:41; Acts 3:6)	(Acts 4:33)	(Acts 5:12–14)
4. Opposition	(Acts 4:3)	(Acts 5)	(Acts 5:17–18)

We begin with prayer, and we keep coming back to prayer if we want to impact the lives of others. There will be opposition, don't be surprised by it. Move back into prayer again, and the cycle will continue.

Read Colossians 4:2–6

Pray for your neighbors by name. As you pray for them, pray for wisdom and seasoned speech, and God will open doors of opportunity for you to be a blessing to them.

2. Listen

James 1:19 ... everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak...

Knowledge and wisdom are not gained by talking, but by listening.

3. Eat

Across the world, few things symbolize togetherness like coming together around a table. And it is not just the food, it is the time for storytelling. We share stories, hopes, fears, and disappointments. People open up to each other. Eating together is powerful.

4. Serve

Matthew 12:29 — "...how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

The devil holds people captive. He holds them in bondage. He actually blinds them to the truth.

2 Corinthians 4:4 — "in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

If we are going to have a successful ministry of seeing lost people saved, then we have to bind the “strong man” before they will be able to be released from his captivity and see the truth of the gospel.

In Luke 10, Jesus sends out seventy disciples on a mission to bind the strong man and plunder his house.

Here's how this mission ends:

Luke 10:17-18 — “The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”

The seventy came back from their mission excited because they were able to bind the strong man and plunder his house. The strategy Jesus gave the disciples to do in Luke 10 worked! What was that strategy?

Read Luke 10:5-9

Indiscriminate blessing, simple acts of kindness done with great love, plays an important role in binding the strong man.

Luke 10:7 — “Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.”

Loving relationships bind the strong man and we are able to carry away some of his possessions.

Luke 10:9 — “and heal those in it who are sick”

Find out what their needs are and ask them if you can pray for them be amazed at all that God will do.

The Apostle Paul talks about how important power was to the ministry of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 — “and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.”

Power makes a difference. Give God a chance to show His power.

Luke 10:9 — “say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ “

This is an invitation to come out of the kingdom of darkness and enter the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Story

There is so much power in telling someone else your personal testimony of what Christ has done for them.

Many don't engage in spiritual conversations because they are afraid of what to say or how to answer difficult questions. Just tell your story.

The Samaritan woman that Jesus talked to at a well in Samaria was so impacted by Jesus that she went back to town and told others her personal testimony.

John 4:28-29 — “So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done, this is not the Christ, is it?”

What were the results of the Samaritan woman's testimony? *Read John 4:39-41*

The seed was sown by the woman, but God made it grow. *Read Mark 4:26-28*

You are planting a seed that will grow, even when you are sleeping. You are not responsible to make the seed grow. Your part is to simply plant the seed. And today we Begin with Prayer.