
THE PRIESTLY BLESSING

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*'The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.'*

These beautiful words are found in Numbers 6:24-26 and are referred to as "The Priestly Blessing." They are full of comfort and hope to those who love and obey God. Even though they were spoken to the children of Israel long ago, they still thrill the hearts of God's people. The words of this blessing are still true today, if not more so. What we need to realize is that this entire blessing can be ours now in Christ Jesus!

The Lord bless you and keep you – Let us never forget that all spiritual blessings are in Christ: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). We can also rejoice that the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7 KJV). Jesus Christ fulfills this promise of God to His faithful children.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you – Paul echoed these thoughts when he wrote, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). And in another place, he wrote, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:11-13). Christ is the key to enjoying the grace of God today.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace – The idea of lifting up the countenance is to look with favor upon. Jesus Christ brings us near to God that we might gain His favor (Eph. 2:13). Jesus was prophesied as the coming Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6). He brought peace between separated peoples through His body, the church (Eph. 2:14-17), and peace to our inner man by renewing us to a new life in Him (Phil. 4:6-9).

As you can see, Christ is our fount of many blessings today. The rich promises of God can be yours if you will follow Jesus today. Eternal life can be your inheritance. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn. 14:6). Jesus truly is our priestly blessing today!