

God's Formula for His blessings on a Nation and Individuals

I have just returned from a brief visit to Switzerland and Nederland and noticed the spiritual decline in these two nations. Many churches are empty and in my own country churches becoming museums, apartments, restaurants, automobile shops and even Buddhist temples.

I also witnessed the national elections in Nederland and listened to the debates of the politicians. What did they talk about? Of all the politicians' only one referred to the necessity of belief in God! All the debates were about personal comfort, social programs, shorter working hours, and government caring for the sick and aged. Out of ten politicians only one man mentioned a personal faith in God and God providing the needs of the believers.

People as a nation have turned away from God and do not worship the living God any more but seek after personal care and comfort. Money has become the focus of attention and money has taken the place of God and in a way the people worship money and thus have become idol worshippers.

What is God's formula for His blessings on a Nation and on individuals in a nation?

The answer is found in God's Word and His Word never changes. His formula for prosperity also does not change. What was relevant for God's people four thousands years ago is relevant for God's people today. His Word is everlasting.

God spoke to His people through Moses and the same message is relevant today. God's principles and formulas never change. In Deuteronomy 10:12 we read, "And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,¹³ and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?"

14. To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.¹⁵ Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today.¹⁶ Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.¹⁹ And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.²⁰ Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.²¹ He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own

eyes.²² Your forefathers who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Deuteronomy 11:1, Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.² Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm;³ the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country;⁴ what he did to the Egyptian army, to its horses and chariots, how he overwhelmed them with the waters of the Red Sea as they were pursuing you, and how the LORD brought lasting ruin on them.⁵ It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the desert until you arrived at this place,⁶ and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth right in the middle of all Israel and swallowed them up with their households, their tents and every living thing that belonged to them.⁷ But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done.

⁸ Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,⁹ and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.¹⁰ The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden.¹¹ But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven.¹² It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

¹³ So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today--to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul--¹⁴ then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.¹⁵ I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

¹⁶ Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.¹⁷ Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.¹⁸ Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

In this passage we learn several things about God.

God is in charge of heaven and earth.

All belongs to Him and was created by Him and is controlled by Him.

God loves the people He created and cares for them.
God is the God of gods.
God is the Lord of lords.
God is a great and awesome God.
God does not discriminate against any one.
God cannot be bribed. He is a Just God.
God takes care of the widows and the orphans.
God is all powerful.
God performs wonders and miracles.

What does the LORD your God ask of you?

The answer is found in Deuteronomy 10:12

1. To fear the LORD your God. To fear the Lord means to honor God and respect Him. People who do not fear God live a life of sin and disobedience to His Word.
2. To walk in all his ways. This involves obeying the decrees and commands in His Word. His way is best for any man, woman, boy or girl. His way is safe and secure. To walk in His ways brings protection. There is joy and peace in His ways.
3. To love him. If we love the Lord we want to communicate with Him in prayers and also read and meditate on His Word. When you love some one you want to be together and enjoy each others company.
4. To serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. We serve the Lord in many ways. We serve the Lord in the House of Worship. We serve the Lord when we share His Word and tell the Gospel to friends and neighbors. We serve the Lord when we help one another. We serve the Lord when we do all in the Name of the Lord.
5. To observe the LORD's commands and decrees. It takes time and effort to familiarize ourselves with his commands and decrees. This involves reading God's Word and memorizing His instructions. In God's Word there are detailed instructions for family life, business dealings, personal attitude and behavior.

What to do with God's Word?

Again we find the answer in God's Word as we read Deuteronomy 11:16
"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth."

We need to constantly remember and be reminded of God's instructions and teach them to our children.

The Blessings from God

The blessings from God are listed in Deuteronomy 11:13, God has promised that if we faithfully obey His commands, Love and serve Him with all our heart and soul then He will provide all our needs and we will be fully satisfied and lack nothing.

The Curse from God on those who disobey His Word.

Deuteronomy 11:26, "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse-- ²⁷ the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; ²⁸ the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known."

What is the curse?

Deuteronomy 11:17. God's anger will burn against you. He will shut the heavens and no rain will come down and this results in suffering and we will soon perish.

There is the blessing available from God but there is also a curse of God if we do not obey His word and pay no attention to His instructions. So the challenge to us is to trust God and obey His Word. Then we will be happy in Jesus as so beautifully explained by the songwriter...

TRUST AND OBEY

**When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still and with all who will trust and obey
Trust and obey for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.**

**Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies
But His smile quickly drives it away
Not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear
Can abide while we trust and obey
Trust and obey.....**

**Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share
But our toil He doth richly repay
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross
But is blest if we trust and obey
Trust and obey.....**

**But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay
For the favor he shows and the joys He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey
Trust and obey.....**

**Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at His feet
Or we'll walk by His side in the way
What He says we will do
Where He sends we will go
Never fear, only trust and obey
Trust and obey.....**