

# **DEVOTIONAL**

Written and Presented by Lisa Bishop

# **Give-Away Blessings**

Presented by Mary Lowman
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#### **Day One**

How often do you give away a blessing? We have lots of examples in the Bible of blessing and being blessed. There are many verses in the Psalms which talk about how God blesses us:

"For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield" (Psalm 5:12).

And there are passages where we bless the Lord:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (Psalm 103:1).

But did you know that we can bless others by some act or word of kindness or encouragement? I want to talk about give-away blessings, to encourage us all to become very intentional about giving a blessing to others, in word or deed. In fact, we have designed a set of 31 lovely cards, a month's worth of blessings you can give away. They're linked <a href="here">here</a> for you to access and use. Each card has a verse on it, and that word from God could be a great blessing to the right person at the right moment.

For example, one card says, "Carry each other's burdens." You could give that card to someone who is carrying a heavy burden of some sort. And as you hand it to that person, you could simply say, "I know you've got a heavy burden on your heart right now. I just want you to know that I'm carrying it with you; I'm praying for you, and I care." That simple give-away blessing could make a world of difference to that person.

Or you might want to encourage a good friend of yours, a friend who has stood with you through happy times and sad times, a friend you cherish and appreciate. The give-away blessing you could choose for that friend says, "A friend loves at all times," from Proverbs 17. It would give you an opportunity to thank your friend for all the times she has loved you and helped you.

Would you like to get in the habit of giving away blessings? What a wonderful way to become encouragers and to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ, where you work, where you live—anywhere that God directs you to give away a blessing. If that is something you'd like to do, and you will indeed give away these cards as God directs, then you'll find these cards with give-away blessings <a href="here">here</a>. Easy to print and give to others.

#### **Day Two**

We often say "Bless you" when someone sneezes. But wouldn't it be a lot more meaningful if we did more than just utter a cliché and instead, we became intentional about giving away blessings? That's what I'm encouraging you to do, and to help you get in the habit, we've designed a set of 31 lovely cards, each with a verse of Scripture, which you can use to give away a blessing, and you'll find those here.

For example, you might give someone this blessing, from Song of Songs, which says, "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come." In fact, for an extra measure, you could give the card with a flower, and simply say, "I thought you might like a reminder of God's beautiful creation. Flowers really can put a song in your heart, don't you think?" Even if that person is not yet a believer in Jesus Christ, they would so appreciate a blessing like that. It's small, but it says, "I thought of you; I care about you; I bless you." It's a give-away blessing!

Another one of these cards has the verse from Romans 8, which says, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." That would be a wonderful blessing to give to a fellow-believer, perhaps your pastor or someone on your church staff who is going through some tough times. They might really appreciate just a reminder that God is working for their good.

I wonder if you know someone who is really worried right now? Maybe they're waiting on some test results from the doctor, or they think they might get laid off from their job. It could be a blessing to give them this card which says, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

You may have a family member who needs encouragement, your mother or father or sibling. Sometimes we overlook those closest to us, and they need blessings too. Another card says, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful," from Hebrews 10. That could be such a sweet give-away blessing for the right person at the right time.

If you really want to become someone who blesses others, these give-away blessings will help you develop that spiritual discipline. This set of 31 cards is <u>here</u>, free for you to print and give away. I hope you'll do that.

#### **Day Three**

Can you think of a time when someone lifted your spirits and made your day by a small act of kindness? When that happens, you are blessed! Well, I'm suggesting that as Christians we need to be blessing others. And to help us get in the habit of giving away blessings, we have designed a set of 31 lovely cards—a whole month of blessings with a short Bible verse, which you can give away to someone, as God leads you. They're on our website now for you to print and give away.

For example, if someone has worked really hard and completed a difficult task, you could give the card which says, "Well done, good and faithful servant. . . Come and share your master's happiness!" from Matthew 25. Along with the card you could give words of blessing, as you compliment that person on work well done. It could be a coworker or a child who just improved his grades at school or a mate who completed a tough assignment. Don't you think that would be a blessing to them?

You know, there's always people in our churches who are the servant people—the ones who are doing the "dirty work," the behind-the-scenes work, and are so very faithful. They don't get a lot of recognition. Suppose you gave that person the card, which says, "Serve one another in love," while thanking them for their life of service. I can only imagine how blessed they would be, just to know their service is noticed and appreciated.

There could be an occasion where your word of blessing could be a challenge to a person, at just the right moment, given in the right spirit. Take this give-away card, which says, "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." This little card, given with words of encouragement and understanding, empathizing with the difficulty of forgiveness but helping them remember that they will find freedom through forgiveness—well, it could really be a blessing to them, don't you think?

There are so many people in my life who have blessed me and continue to do so. I just don't know how I would carry on without them. We need each other. And we can be a blessing to others. So, be a blessing today. You'll find this set of 31 cards to help you develop this gift of giving away blessings here.

## **Day Four**

Have you been blessed by God? I would hope that all of us would quickly agree that God has blessed us richly. When God called Abram to leave his country and go to the land he would show him, he said, "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are blessed to be a blessing. Not just to enjoy God's blessings to us, but to be able to pass a blessing on to others. Have you ever intentionally determined that you wanted to be that kind of Christian who blesses others? You know, if you don't find a practical way to be a blessing, or you don't remind yourself to bless others, you can go through your days just self-focused and self-centered, and never blessing anyone else.

So, I've been encouraging you to give away blessings. In fact, we've prepared a set of 31 lovely cards, each with a scriptural blessing on it, to help you become more intentional about giving away blessings. Those are now on our website <u>here</u>.

Here's a good blessing to give someone.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

We all lose hope from time to time. No doubt you know someone who is losing hope right now; they've lost their job, or lost their home, or some other problem just won't go away, and they're ready to give up. Suppose you gave them this card with this give-away blessing and let them know you are praying that God will fill their hearts with hope and they won't give up. I know you would be a blessing to that person.

If you know someone who is a little confused about what they are supposed to do, or feels inconsequential with low self-esteem, you might want to give them this card from Ephesians 2:10, which says, "We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." This is one of my favorite verses, for it says that every child of God is here with a distinct and specific purpose, designed by God. Giving a person this card with words of encouragement from you could make a huge difference in their attitude.

If you'd like to do a better job of blessing others, then go to our <u>website</u> and print this set of 31 cards with give-away blessings on them. You won't regret it.

### **Day Five**

I wonder if you've counted your blessings lately. That old hymn of the church reminds us to count our blessings, name them one by one, count our blessings and see what God has done! You know, in a world that is full of trouble, it's easy to overlook our blessings. I've been encouraging you to become a give-away blesser—someone who blesses others freely and frequently, because you have been so greatly blessed by God. As the saying goes, we are blessed to be a blessing.

We have created a lovely set of 31 cards with give-away blessings on them, scripture verses, that can be given to someone to bless them, to encourage them, to lighten their load. You can find these cards on our <u>website</u>. All you have to do is print them and give them away. Dr. Robert Cook has gone on to be with the Lord, but for years he would end his radio broadcast each day by saying, "Walk with the King today and be a blessing." That's what we all need to do—be a blessing to others.

One of these give-away blessing cards says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see," from Hebrews 11. At times our faith can waver, can it not? I know mine does. What a blessing it would be to give this card to someone who is struggling to believe that God has heard their prayer, that God is concerned about their need, that God hasn't forgotten them. You could bless someone with this give-away blessing.

Another one of these 31 cards has a portion of 1 Corinthians 13: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. . . Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." Wouldn't it be a blessing to give this card to someone who has loved you with this kind of love. It could be a good friend, a mate, a parent—whoever God puts on your heart. You could say, "Thanks so much for loving me like this."

Well, I've tried to give you some ideas of how you could become a blessing, as an act of gratitude to God for all your blessings. And you know, when we start looking for ways to bless others, it just comes right back to us. We reap what we sow, and you will be blessed beyond belief as you determine to become a better blesser!