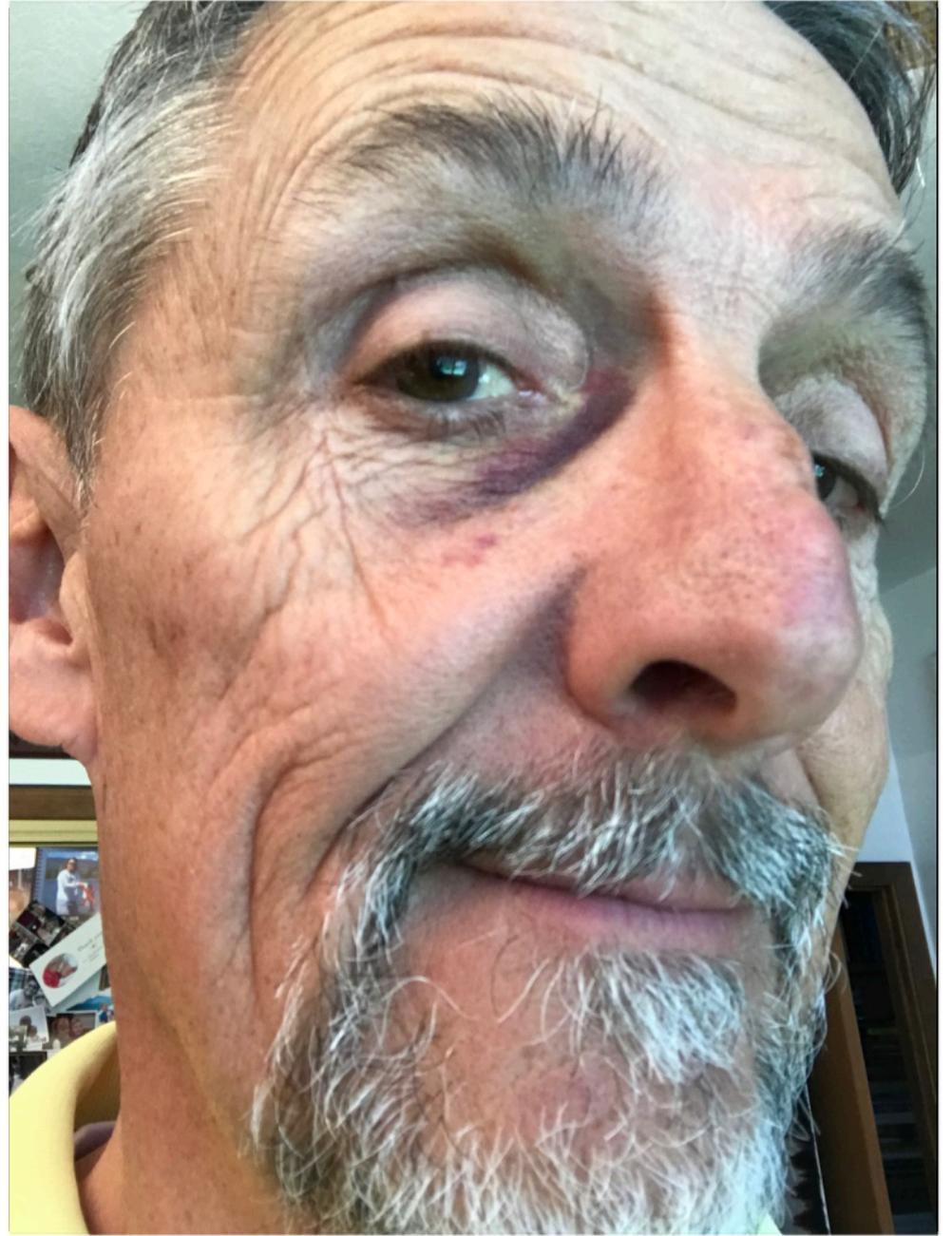
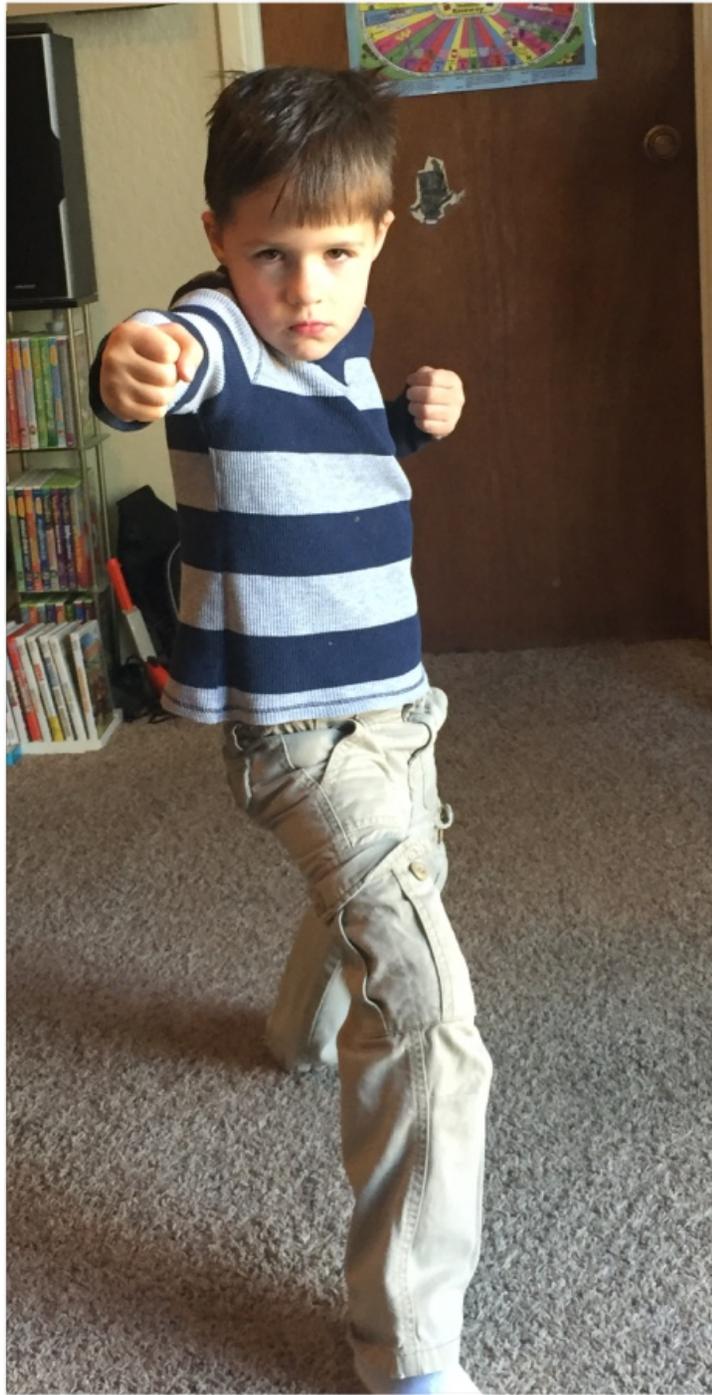


THE SPOKEN BLESSING

Numbers 6:22 – 27



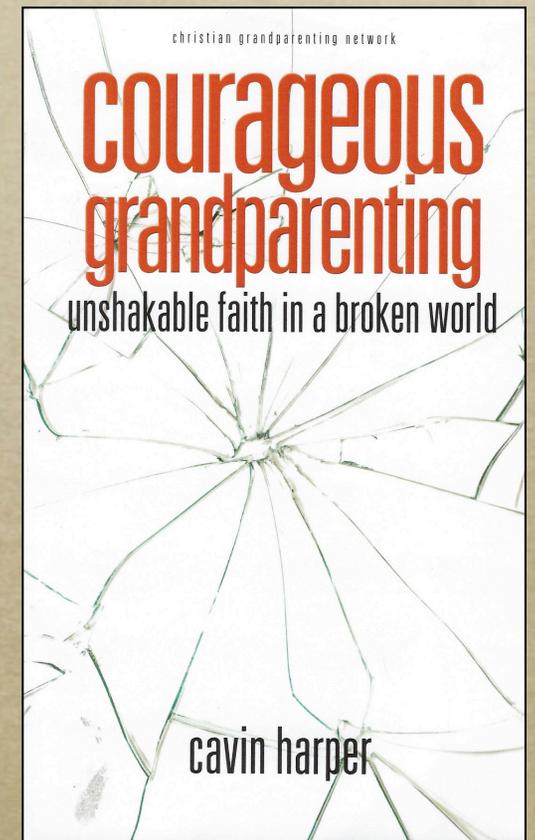
Since the start of human history, the spoken blessing has played a significant role in the lives of God's people. God's first act after creating man and woman was to bless them.

Is it possible that the spoken blessing could play an important role for communicating value in our families today?



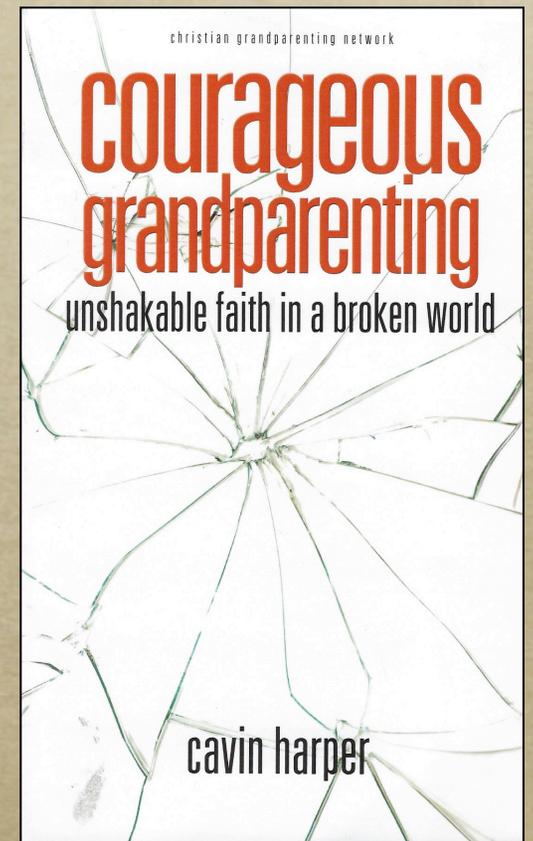
Cavin Harper

For generations the Hebrew community has used the spoken blessing on a regular basis as an integral component of family life. Even today, many traditional Jewish families speak blessings over their children during Sabbath observances.



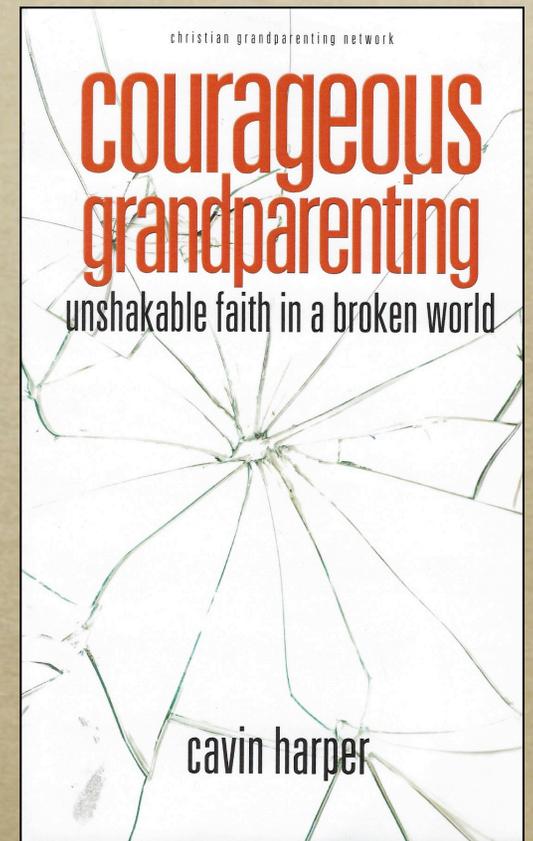
Courageous Grandparenting,
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Somewhere along the way the practice of spoken blessing has been largely abandoned. Most Christian families have never given it any thought. I don't recall hearing a pastor preach on the subject. This lack of teaching may explain why it is not often practiced in the Christian community today.



Courageous Grandparenting,
p. 131 - 132

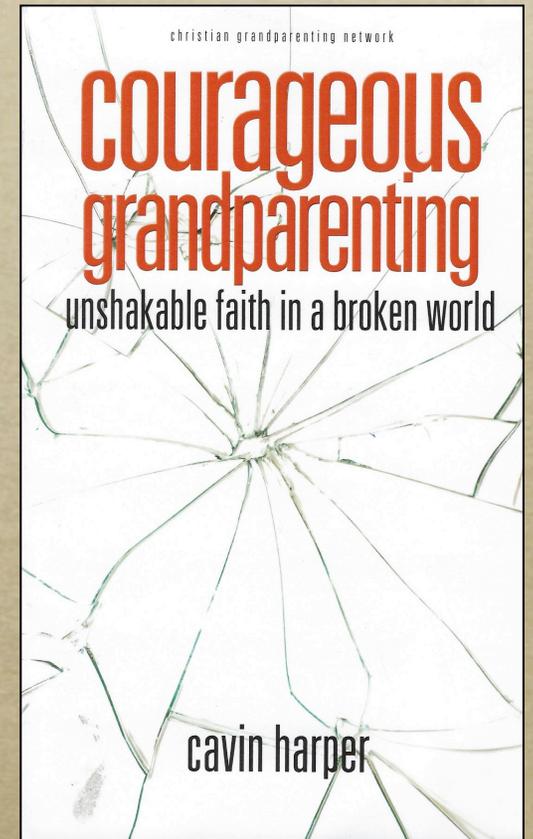
Grandparents are in a unique position to create a tradition that should be part of every family. It is a role we should be modeling and teaching to the next generations for their sake.



Courageous Grandparenting,
p. 131 - 132

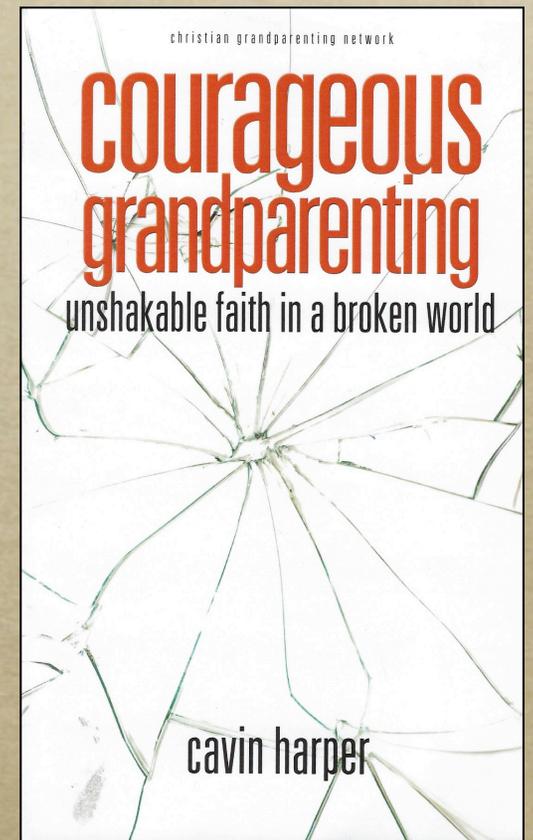
The effectiveness of the spoken blessing rests on the condition that it is *more than a rote recitation of empty religious words.*

Traditions devoid of meaning, purpose, and compassion produce no more effect than a fine mist sprayed into a hot, dry wind.



Courageous Grandparenting,
p. 131 - 132

On the other hand, *intentional, authentic words* of blessing spoken into a child's life are like a cool drink of water refreshing a parched throat.



Courageous Grandparenting,
p. 131 - 132

Prayers are addressed to *God* on behalf of others.

Prayers are spoken *for* others and *with* them.

Blessings are addressed to *others* on behalf of God.

Blessings are spoken *over* them.



Cavin Harper

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God *blessed* them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1:27 & 28 – 27

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.’ ” (ESV)

Numbers 6:22 – 27

²² The **LORD** spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

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Numbers 6:22 – 27

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Numbers 6:22 – 27

Some people suggest that only spontaneous prayer is 'real' prayer; verses such as these show that such sentiment is not correct.



²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

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1. GOD BLESSES

Numbers 6:22 – 27

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

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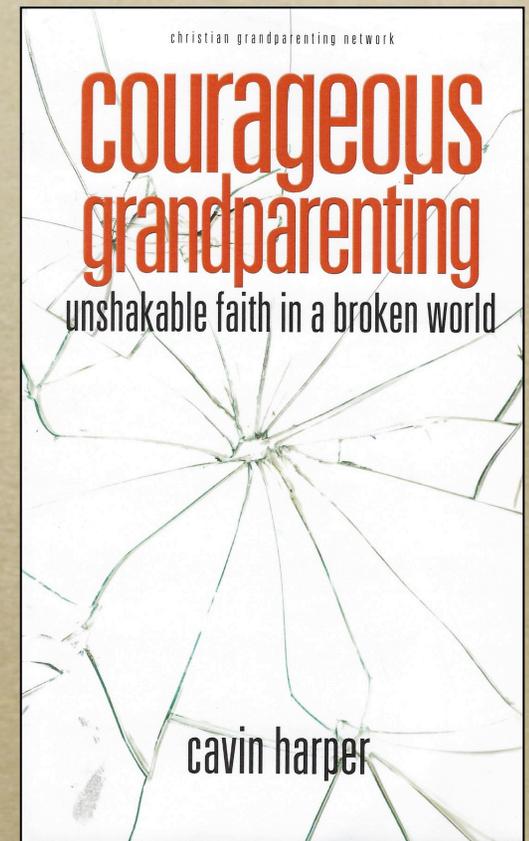
2. GOD PROTECTS

Numbers 6:22 – 27

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who *keeps* you will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, he who *keeps* Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD is your *keeper*; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD will *keep* you from all evil; he will *keep* your life. ⁸ The LORD will *keep* your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Psalm 121

In a world that can often feel very unsafe and uncertain, God wants us to know that He is Emmanuel, *God with us*. He will never leave us or forsake us.

This part of the family blessing expresses the hope and confidence we have in God to protect us no matter how tumultuous, dangerous, or fearful our circumstances.



Courageous Grandparenting,
p. 143

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

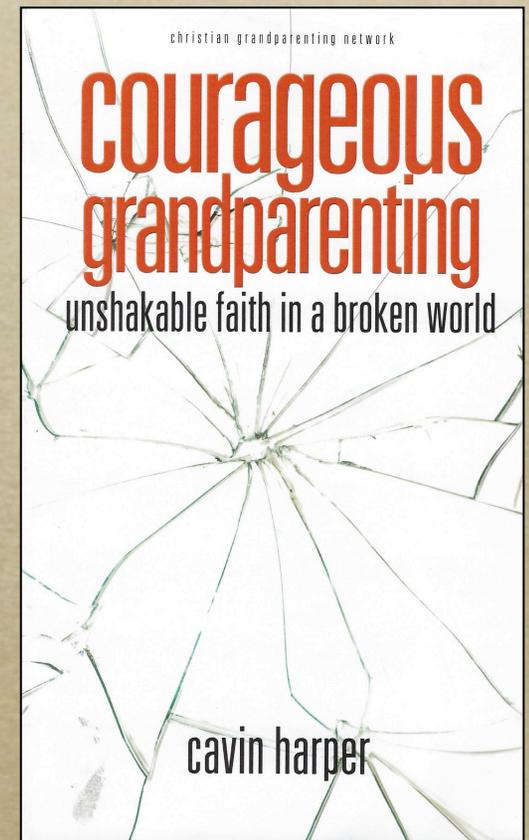
²⁵ the LORD ***make his face to shine upon you*** and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.’” (ESV)

3. GOD SHOWS FAVOR Numbers 6:22 – 27

The idea of God's face shining upon us is another way of saying that God smiles because of us . . . His smile reflects the pleasure He takes in being gracious to us.



Courageous Grandparenting,
p. 144

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

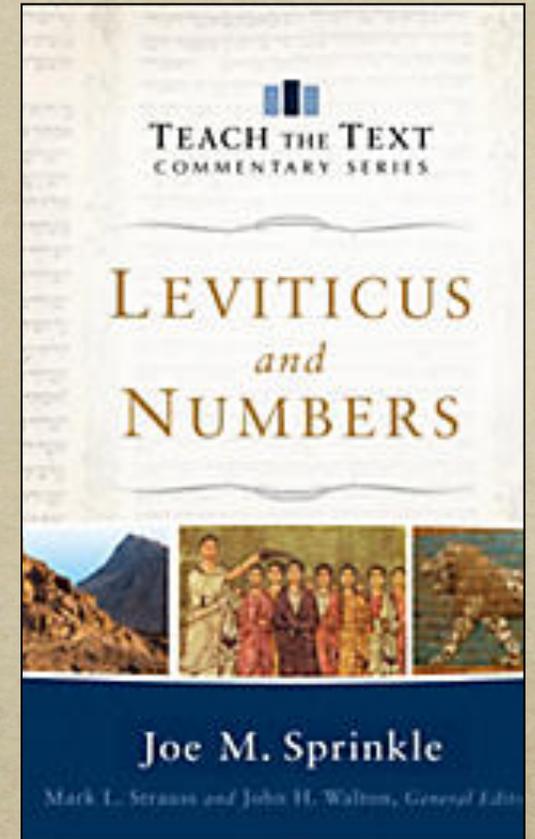
²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and ***be gracious to you;***

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.” ” (ESV)

4. GOD SHOWS GRACE Numbers 6:22 – 27

This blessing, like those, is a gift bestowed on those who cannot claim it as *a right* . . . it is an act of God's gracious character.



forgiveness – As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!” Psalm 41:4

answer to prayer – Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! Psalm 4:1

deliverance from enemies – Be gracious to me, O LORD! See my affliction from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the gates of death . . . Psalm 9:13

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

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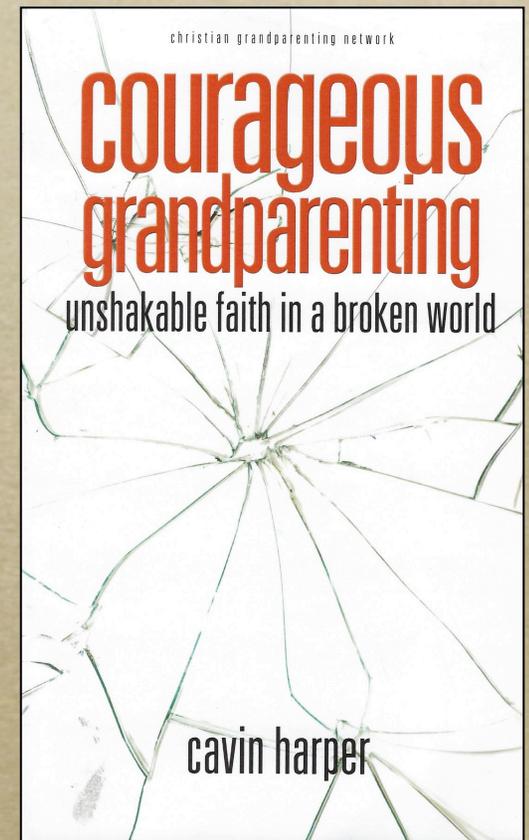
²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.’” (ESV)

5. GOD GRANTS PEACE Numbers 6:22 – 27

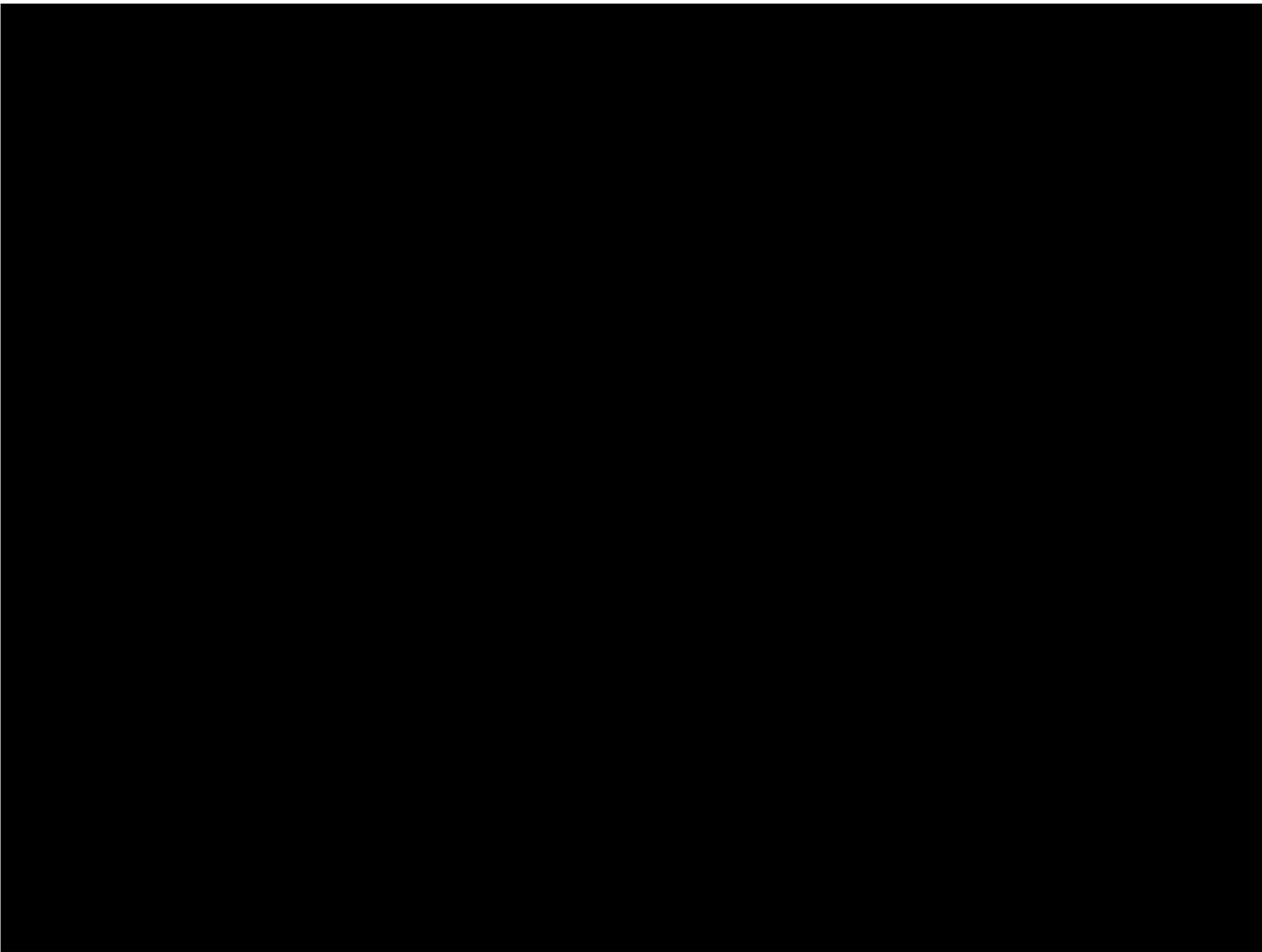
Your favor, O LORD, made me as secure as a mountain. Then you turned away from me, and I was shattered. Psalm 30:7 (NLT)

Why do you look the other way? Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression?
Psalm 44:24 (NLT)

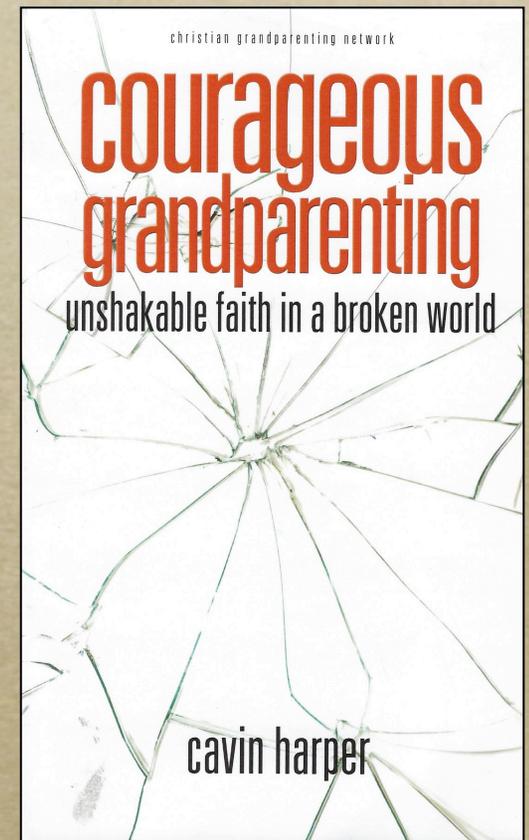
When God turns His face toward you, His complete attention is directed to you. He is never distracted. As the Creator of the universe, He directs His full attention to you because He truly cares and wants you to know how much of a treasure you are to Him. His longing is to bless you by heaping His favor upon you.



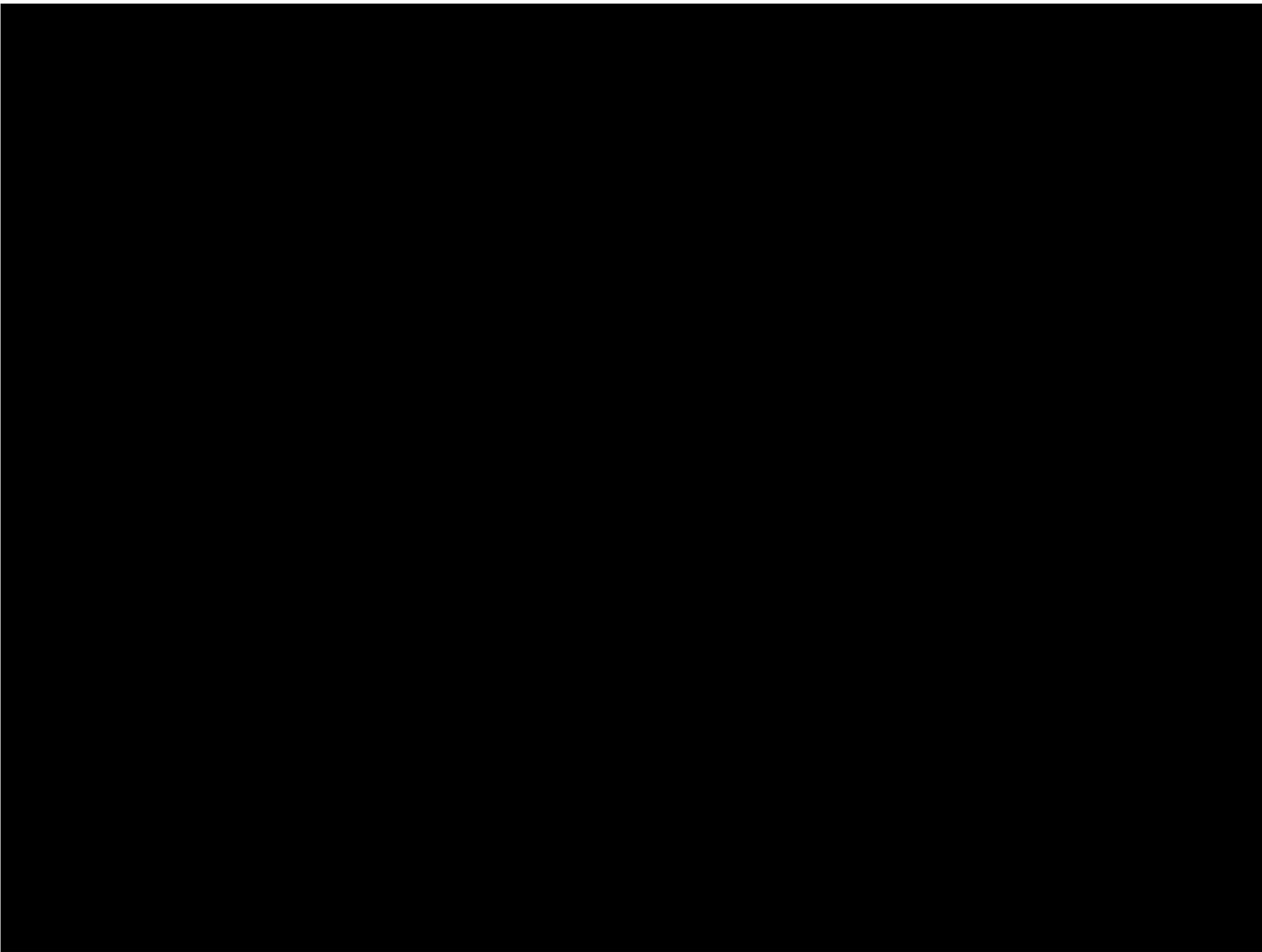
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While His smile expresses His delight in us, His face turned or lifted towards us conveys His careful attention to us.



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p. 145



⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, *Prince of Peace*. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Isaiah 9:6–7

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (ESV)

John 14:27

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,’

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷ “So shall they *put my name upon the people* of Israel, and I will bless them.” (ESV)

6. GOD SEALS US w/HIS NAME

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

The disciples were called **Christians** first at Antioch. Acts 11:26

However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

1 Peter 4:16



On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:5

²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his *seal of ownership* on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Corinthians 1:21 - 22



Is it possible that the spoken blessing could play an important role for communicating value in our families today?



