

Sermon Notes: Perfecting Prayer Lesson 8: Prayer over your Home

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How To Bless Your House

The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God."

2 Sam 6:12

Blessing a house (or an apartment or wherever you live) is simply taking the authority over it that belongs to you and dedicating it to the Lord. It is inviting the Spirit of God to come and everything else to leave.

A. Our Home and God's Care—A Biblical Background

1. The Bible teaches us that a home is far more than a physical building. *Proverbs* 24:3-4

Pro 24:3-4 Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.

2. We need God's presence, power and direction for our lives and homes to be fruitful. *Psalm 127:1*

Psa 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

3. The Bible indicates that it is important to dedicate our homes to God. Before going into battle, the men in the Bible were warned to dedicate their homes!

Deuteronomy 20:5

Deu 20:5 "Then the officers shall speak to the people, saying: 'What man *is there* who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it.

4. God told his people to write his word on the doorposts of their homes. (See sidebar) *Deuteronomy 6:6-9*

See side bar and explain the significance of the mezuzah and how IN THE SPIRIT we need to keep our mind stayed on the Messiah — from room to room.

Introduction...

I'm reminded of the story in the Old Testament of the blessing that came to a man and his household because the Ark of the Covenant was left in his yard for several months after it had been in captivity by the Philistines. **2** Samuel 6

"Now it was told King David, saying, 'The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." (Vs 12)

Anywhere the Ark resided, blessings abounded. That is because the Ark contained the very presence of God. Where God's presence is, there is blessing and hope. When we bless our homes we make room for God to take up residence in every room and over all possessions.

Your house blessing will be on the basis of your rightful authority over your own dwelling. When you moved in, someone put some keys to the house in your hand. YOU determine anyone additional who will have a key. Spiritually you also determine who has access. Joshua said; "But as for me and my house, we will serve the **Lord.**" (Joshua 24:15) If your heart is in agreement with that statement, a house blessing is a great way to proceed.

- 5. When a person dedicates their house to God, they trust that God responds to their commitment. When Solomon dedicated the temple, God responded by speaking to him. *2 Chronicles 7:15*
 - **2Ch 7:15-16** Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer *made* in this place. :16 For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.
- 6. In his teachings, Jesus presented home life as a model of what it means to live a life in God's presence and love. *John 14:1-3*
 - **Joh 14:1-4** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. :2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. :3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. :4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."
- 7. The Psalmist saw God's care in a similar way. *Psalm 91:1-2*
 - **Psa 91:1** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. :2 I will say of the LORD, "*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."
- 8. How will we use the homes God has loaned to us? Dedicating our homes to God is not a one-time act. It is an ongoing ministry! *Hebrews* 13:2
 - **Heb 13:2** Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels.

B. Dedicating Your Home To God

1. <u>Making the decision to follow God</u>. *Joshua 24:15* Like Joshua we must decide who we will serve in our homes.

The people had to decide whether they would obey the Lord, who had proven his trustworthiness, or obey the local gods, which were only hand-made idols. It's easy to slip into a quiet rebellion—going about life in your own way. But the time comes when you have to choose who or what will control you. The choice is yours. Will it be God, your own limited personality, or another imperfect substitute? Once you have chosen to be controlled by God's Spirit, reaffirm your choice every day.

The way we live our lives—even in our homes — shows others the strength of our commitment to serving God.

- 2. Your house has a history! Just like you have legal access to your house now, someone had legal access before you. No matter what happened, it is by YOUR authority in Jesus Name that determines the atmosphere from now on.
- 3. <u>Clean your house and keep it clean!</u> As you go from room to room ask the Holy Spirit if there is anything in that room that grieves Him.
- 4. <u>Take authority—what to do and say!</u>
 As blood was applied to the door posts on the Passover night—you may want to apply oil to all the doors and windows of your house.

Pray over each room asking God to use it for His glory. Thank God for providing you with a place to live. Ask for His angels to be posted at all the doors and windows. Speak out loud that you are countering any curse in this house with the blood of Jesus and you are taking authority in the Name of Jesus.

If you know of any ungodly activity from the past or you are having any particular trouble in your house, you may have to get specific. For instance, if a murder was committed in your home, you may need to speak words of repentance and forgiveness.

Suppose there is a particular spot in your house that feels disturbing. You might stand in that spot and say something like; "I speak peace here in the name of Jesus. I invite you to come, Holy Spirit, and fill this place. Fear (or whatever), leave." A song or hymn might also be appropriate.

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Can demons dwell in houses? YES!

This is not like possession but more like oppression! No matter the semantics—the result is the same!

Permission was given originally by someone through sin, occult activity, or a spoken curse. Just like a squatter who stays until evicted, the demonic force is not about to leave unless forced to by someone with greater authority than their own. I believe that the vast majority of so called haunted houses or ghost apparitions are demonic activity.

It is not necessary for people to put up with strange goings on, cold spots, rooms that feel full of fear or terror, unusual noises and lights, etc. There is no curse that cannot be reversed by the blood of Jesus.

Remember that the best way to dispel darkness is to turn on a light.