

January 21, 2024

The Lord wants you to live in His light.

Num. 6:24-26 *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. (NIV)*

Oh, the mighty power of words. They can be light that encourage and lift up, or they can weigh down the heart and soul. James reminds us that the tongue is evil, and no one can tame it. But that is for anyone who is living in their own strength rather than walking in the LORD. Words can either bless others or curse them. As the light of the LORD, we are to be a blessing to those around us. We are to encourage, and even in correction, we are to be building rather than tearing down. This day in history, my younger sister was born. And even though as younger siblings we got after each other, she was truly a blessing to me and still is to this day. She is a reminder, just as my older sister is, that we are to love and take care of each other. I can't recall any times in my life that either of my sisters were mean or tearing someone down. That has always been a joy to me.

In this blessing from the lips of the priest to the ears of the people, we are told that we are blessed in countless ways--spiritually, mentally, emotionally and materially. But the main focus in this passage is the words that we speak. We can shine in a dark world when we choose to bless others rather than curse them by our words. Words can heal or humiliate. Let's decide to be people who walk in the light of the LORD and encourage each other, all the more as we see that Day approaching.

Dear LORD, thank You for blessing us. Your words encourage us to look to You in all circumstances and to lift others up and love them like You do. Help us to speak the truth in love. In Jesus Name, Amen