

THE POWER OF
BLESSING
Your
CHILDREN

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MARY RUTH SWOPE



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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The Power of Blessing Your Children

ISBN: 978-1-60374-125-5

Printed in the United States of America

© 1992, 2010 by Mary Ruth Swope

Swope Enterprises, LLC
7357 FM 161 South
Avinger, Texas 75630
www.maryruthswope.com

Whitaker House
1030 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
www.whitakerhouse.com

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Dedication



This book is dedicated first of all to my grandson, Joseph Daniel Darbro.

Second, I dedicate this book to all parents and grandparents in the whole world who want to have a godly influence on their children and grandchildren, even when their residences are not in close proximity to their family members.

Acknowledgments



The idea for this little book was an inspired one. It came together so smoothly and quickly as to be unreal, judging from my previous experience in writing and publishing. Those dear friends who made contributions include:

- ♦ my granddaughter, Elise Michelle Darbro;
- ♦ my partner, Charlotte Bates;
- ♦ my proofreader, Peter Chambers;
- ♦ my friends, Dick and Christine Deitsch;
- ♦ my assistant, Kandi Nolen;
- ♦ my editor, Val Cindric; and
- ♦ my daughter, Susan Cornwell Darbro.

As I always like to say, for strength, health, life, and years of education and experience—all needed for a task of this nature—I give thanks to God.

Contents



Part One: The Concept of Blessing

How It Started with Me	15
The Beginning of God's Blessings	19
Activating God's Promises of Blessing	22
Bless Your Children and Grandchildren	27

Part Two: The Content of Blessing

Abilities.....	33
Abundance	34
Angels	35
Assurance	36
Authority	37
Children.....	38
Clear Direction	39
A Controlled Tongue	40
Courage.....	41
Creativity	42

Deliverance	43
Eternal Life.....	44
Eyes to See.....	45
Faith	46
Favor	47
The Fear of the Lord	48
A Free Spirit.....	49
Good Health	50
A Good Husband.....	51
A Good Wife	52
Hands That Bless	53
Happiness	54
Holiness	55
The Holy Spirit.....	56
Hope.....	57
Humility	58
Joy	59
Listening Ears	60
Longevity	61
Love	62
Mercy	63
The Mind of Christ	64
Ministry	65
Miracles	66
Obedience.....	67

Peace.....	68
Pleasant Words.....	69
A Pleasing Personality	70
Praise.....	71
Promotion.....	72
Prosperity	73
Protection	74
Provision	75
Safety	76
Spiritual Power	77
Strength.....	78
Success	79
Trust.....	80
Wisdom	81

Part Three: The Fruit of Blessing

Your Blessings	85
A Personal Reward of Blessing	88
The Fruit of Blessing	92
Salvation Prayer	109
About the Author	111



Part One:

The Concept of Blessing

How It Started with Me



During my prayer time one morning, I was musing over the fact that I lived so far away from my daughter's only child, Joseph Daniel Darbro. It saddened me to think that I would not have the opportunity to influence his spiritual, social, emotional, and physical development in the same way that my maternal grandmother had influenced mine.

From the time my Grandmother Lutz came to live in our home when I was six months old, she was the one who read me stories, said prayers with me, helped me memorize poetry, and played games with me. I fondly remember the happy hours we spent together as she taught me to sew, knit, crochet, tat, and quilt.

My grandmother became the ideal role model for me, and I learned from watching her what it means to be a Christian servant and community leader. Not only did she regularly teach Sunday school and take an active part in church women's groups, she also served on the boards of several community organizations.

As I thought about her life and the tremendous impact she had made on mine, I longed to do the same for my precious seven-year-old grandson Daniel. But I knew the many miles separating us made it impossible for me to be with him regularly.

Then, one day, I remembered the testimony of a Baptist pastor who had suddenly been dismissed from his post. Shocked over the dismissal and brokenhearted by the aftermath of events, the pastor was depressed and lonely. To make matters worse, many of the other clergymen in his area shunned him, leaving him feeling devastated.

A few days later, however, one of his good friends—the local Jewish rabbi—came to express his sadness over the unfortunate affair. “I want to do more than extend my condolences,” the rabbi said. “I’ve come to bless you.” Those words took on deep spiritual meaning as the rabbi shared with the pastor the traditions of the Jewish faith regarding blessings.

“I believe that God’s blessing on the Jewish people is a direct result of Jewish parents regularly blessing their children,” the rabbi said. He noted that the majority of Nobel and Pulitzer prizes have been awarded to Jewish men and women, and that a large percentage of America’s millionaires are Jewish people, even though they make up only 2.7 percent of the population.

As a result of the rabbi’s visit, the pastor began to study the phenomenon of *blessing* in the Scriptures. Before long, he started teaching other fathers to bless their spouses

and children on a daily basis, and this opened many new doors of ministry for him throughout the country.

The pastor's testimony and the rabbi's words were brought back to my mind as I wondered how I could have a positive influence on my grandson's life. I thought, *Why can't I begin to bless my grandson every time I speak to him on the telephone? That would be a way to transfer my personal and spiritual values to Daniel when I cannot be physically present with him.*

Immediately, I began to write blessings.

The next time I phoned Daniel, I told him I wanted to bless him. He listened intently and then responded sweetly, "Thank you, Grandmother."

Four days later, I gave him a second blessing. The third time I called, I was ready to say good-bye when he asked, "Grandmother, are you going to bless me today?"

My heart almost leaped out of my chest as I realized that God was confirming to me how meaningful the blessings had been to my precious grandson.

Now, on a regular basis, I bless Daniel over the phone, focusing on a different area of his body, his personality, or his spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. I now feel closer to him than ever before!

I want other parents and grandparents to receive the same joy I have experienced from using this scriptural method of speaking a short blessing aloud.

The purpose of this little book is to encourage parents and grandparents to bless their children and grandchildren in the holy name of Jehovah God. It is He who forgives all sin. It is He who heals our bodies, souls, and spirits. He is the One who ransoms us from hell and who surrounds us with tender mercies and loving-kindness.

We can expect God to do great and marvelous deeds when we call forth the promises of His Word for our loved ones. As you bless your children in the name of the Lord, you will see God fill their lives with good things and bring full salvation even to your children's children. (See Psalm 103:17–18.)