



Elevation Family
Ministries

March 2024

Beautifully Blessed

To give a blessing is to affirm, to say “yes” to a person’s Belovedness and to create the reality of which it speaks.

It is not enough to be chosen. We also need an ongoing blessing that allows us to hear in an ever-new way that we belong to a loving God who will never leave us alone but will remind us always that we are guided by love on every step of our lives.

A blessing touches the original goodness of the other and calls forth his/her belovedness.



As we strive to teach our young disciples that they are the beloved daughters and sons of God, we need to see them through the lens of faith. Through this lens, we are able to see and call forth their beauty and truth. We are only able to speak blessings over them to the extent we are in touch with our own blessedness. As stewards, the staff of Elevation understands that we are instructing future stewards. We need to ensure our young disciples are in touch with their own blessedness so they can live their lives blessing others. The one who recognizes his/her own blessedness is more likely to bless others, and people want to be blessed. Our youth live in an online culture of gossip and blaming, and it is difficult for them to recognize their belovedness in such places. We teach them how to hear the voice that calls them the beloved and how to serve God by blessing others. By doing this we are able to fulfill our mission and elevate broken youth and families through hope and healing in Christ.

By: Dr. Scott Rancourt



The problem with modern living is that we are too busy, looking for affirmation in all the wrong places.

We are thrown up and down by the little waves on the surface of our existence, we become easy victims of our manipulative world, but, when we continue to hear the deep gentle voice that blesses us, we can walk through life with a stable sense of well-being and true belonging.

There is little to no neutral territory between the land of the blessed and the land of the cursed. We have to choose where it is that we want to live, and that choice is one we have to make from moment to moment.

“Blessed” is the second of four foundations of our identity as the beloved daughters and sons of God based on work by Henri Nouwen. Next month we will examine what it means to be “broken.”



Mason

Seizing the Blessing



Just before Mason was baptized last year

You may remember Mason from one of our newsletters last year. He was featured after a very joyous occasion, his baptism. Our hearts were filled with praise when Mason professed Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, but that was still just the beginning of his life-long journey of growth and sanctification. It has been such a blessing working with Mason as he discovers what it truly means to live as a new creation. Mason's place in eternity is secure now that he has accepted Christ, but now, Mason is learning that God has blessings to offer him right here and now as he lives out his life on Earth as a beloved son of God. The next step in his journey has begun.

Accepting the here and now love of God is not easy for any young believer; seeing yourself through God's eyes is a difficult task, but for someone like Mason, this task is especially difficult. Mason has spent his life believing that he had no value, that he would grow up to be nothing but the cumulation of his, and his parents' mistakes. His choices were rooted in this deep belief of inadequacy, and this belief, confirmed by far too many people in Mason's life, left him without hope. That is until he accepted Christ. But now, Mason must challenge those deeply rooted beliefs with the truth, the truth that he is loved by God, and that he has inherent value simply because he was created by a loving Father.

Our job now is to help Mason recognize those destructive thoughts, challenge them, and replace them with the truth. Then, help Mason to structure his choices around the truth of God's love for him rather than around his insecurities. Our job now is to help Mason take hold and seize the blessings God is pouring down on him right here and now, and to seek God above all else. "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple" (Psalm 27:4).



Mason serving local nursing home residents

Funding the Journey

Our goal is for financial constraints to not be a barrier to finding hope and healing in Christ.

With your financial support, we can do just that.

You may donate online at elevationfamilyministries.org or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.