

## Blessings in the House

# Devout

A weekly devotional message for the whole family.

### Devout

Being devout means you are dedicated, respectful, godly, prayerful, and reverent towards God.

### Dedicated

When you are truly dedicated you are completely committed to the Lord.

Cornelius was a devout man. God noted his dedication, and as a result, God blessed him and his entire household with salvation.

*“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, (2) A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. (3) He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. (4) And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God” (Acts 10:1-4).*

Verse 4 can be interpreted, *“Your devotion has come up to God Himself.”* It can also be interpreted, *“God has noted your dedication and will bless you for it.”* Being dedicated is not just something that we do once a week, but all the time. Let our dedication be noted by others, and most of all by the Lord.

### Respectful

Being respectful is paying homage to the Lord.

The Centurion had great respect towards, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And as a result Jesus granted his request.

*“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, (6) And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. (7) And Jesus saith*

unto him, I will come and heal him. (8) The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. (9) For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. (10) When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. (11) And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. (12) But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (13) And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour" (Matt 8:5-13).

Let our respect and faith be seen in our words and in our actions. Respecting Christ is acknowledging His supreme authority and paying homage to Him.

## Godly

When we are godly we are a holy people.

The Lord will hear a godly people when they pray.

*"But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him" (Ps 4:3).*

Being godly is being faithful to the Lord and striving to be more like Him. This is the will of God for us. The Lord said, "...Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). As a result of our faithfulness and our desire to be more holy, the Lord will hear and answer our prayers. A godly people are a special people in the eyes of the Lord. Their prayers and requests are important to the Lord. "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

## Prayerful

A people of prayer. It is the will of God that we pray.

*"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).*

*"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1Ti 2:8).*

*"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:6).*

As we are a people of prayer, the Lord's blessings will be upon us.

## Reverent

To be reverent towards the Lord is to adore, to love Him. Again we can see the will of God for us.

*“And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: (30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment” (Mark 12:29-30).*

Let us love the Lord with all our hearts. One way to prove our love is to keep His words. *“If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).*

We are a special people to the Lord, that is why we love Him and praise Him so much. *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (I Peter 2:9).*

Being a devout Christian is being a dedicated, respectful, godly, prayerful, and reverent people towards the Lord. In other words we are completely committed to the cause of being a true Christian. As we are truly devoted, we become special to the Lord and His blessings will be with us. *“Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. (16) For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually” (II Chron 7:15-16).*