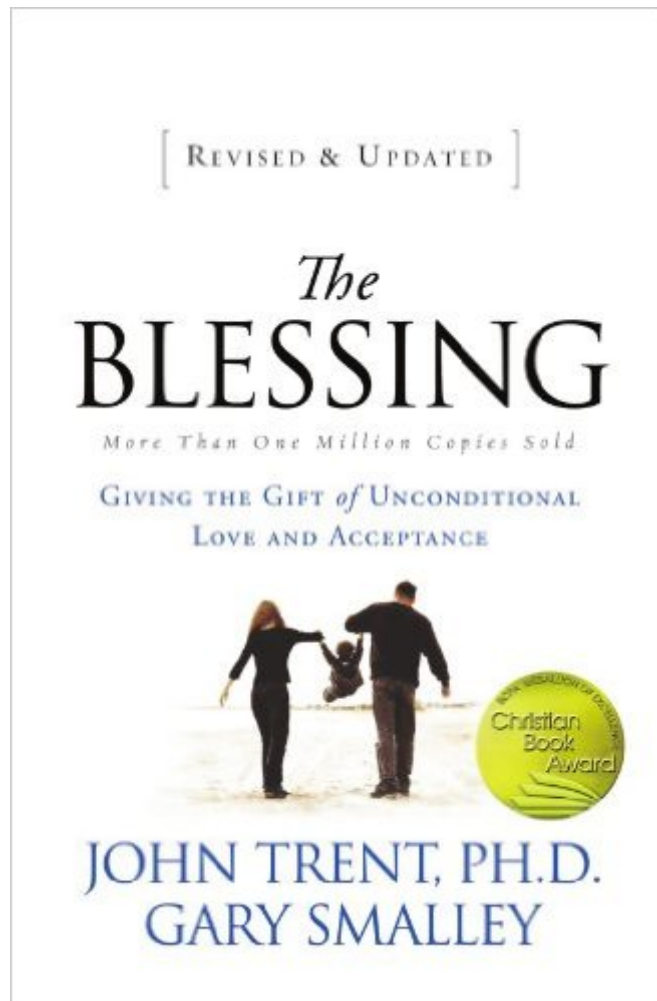


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The Blessing: Giving The Gift Of Unconditional Love And Acceptance



Synopsis

The best-selling classic that helps children thrive today and experience a special future tomorrow. Now revised, updated, and enhanced for a new generation! Children of every age long for the gift of the blessing • the unconditional love and approval that come from a healthy relationship with their parents. This life-changing gift, essential for instilling a deep sense of self-worth and unshakable emotional well-being, contains five essential elements: meaningful touch, a spoken message, attaching high value, picturing a special future, and an active commitment. Offering solid, practical advice and a fresh perspective on making this gift a bigger part of our families, The Blessing powerfully communicates these biblically based elements as necessary to prepare children for positive future relationships, including their relationship with a loving God. But what if we've missed out on the blessing in our own lives? The book includes hope for reversing the curse • and helps readers find blessing in situations of divorce, death, desertion, adoption, and blended families. New to this updated edition are practical ideas, questions, exercises, and links for online resources • plus practical advice for planning a blessing event for a child, preparing a written keepsake blessing, and living out the blessing every day of our lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Blessing others is a strong positive action that communicates so much more than a theological treatise, or even a sermon. Finding a way to communicate unconditional love is at the very heart of religion, and is critical to psychological growth. Trent and Smalley's new edition of "Blessing" treads the path of building the psychological foundation of love and self esteem in children. Additionally it emphasizes the value of offering acceptance to everyone we encounter. The guidance offered is

valuable to anyone who is religious, but is also wisdom for everyone who cares about people. Trent and Smalley suggest five vital factors to giving a blessing: Meaningful and appropriate touch; a spoken message; attaching high value to the one being blessed; picturing a special future for him or her; an active commitment to fulfill the blessing. 1. Use meaningful and appropriate touch. Many psychologists would suggest that humans require touch from others to help them feel loved and accepted. Children, especially need physical closeness to grow emotionally. Trent and Smalley posit that such behavior helps a child grow spiritually. The authors suggest that we provide meaningful touch to those we love, as touch communicates love. 2. Best to use a spoken message. Trent and Smalley say that spoken words of encouragement are invaluable with our children and friends. The power of the spoken word can be awesome, as it can depress or nurture. Praise multiplies positive feelings toward others and God. 3. We should use a message that the receiver will perceive as attaching high value. Empty praise is not of permanent value because the subject will eventually question the comment and maybe its source.

The value of this book is that it introduces the concept of parental blessing and exposes what happens when the blessing is withheld from children. As to how the blessing is defined and the value and power it contains is where the book seems to miss the mark. The book was very much psychological and behavior-based, rather than Christ-focused (soulish vs. spiritual). In fact, I didn't see much in the description of or impartation of the blessing that was different from how the secular world could feasibly bless their children (i.e. giving them affirming words, meaningful touch, attaching high value, envisioning a special future for them, and having a commitment). When I think of blessing someone, the covenant promises of God come to mind, but there was little if any mention of that in this book. Scripture talks at length about the tremendous power of the spoken word, but this book spoke of it mostly in terms of emotional response (which is completely valid, but is only a small piece of the power wielded. i.e. it left out all that happens in the spirit realm). In fact, the carelessness placed on the power of what comes out of our mouths was summarized in a story the authors chose to include in which a Christian wife assured her child that she'd never divorce their father. "Murder him, perhaps, but not divorce him," she joked. (Wince). If we understand how our words impact the spirit, that we really will be "judged for every idle word that comes out of our mouths" we'd never repeat such a terrible thing, even in jest. On two occasions the authors say that "we can't predict with Biblical accuracy our children's futures like the patriarchs in the Bible could." Why can't we? We have the Holy Spirit, and we are under a better covenant than they had.

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