

***GOD'S BLESSINGS AND INSURANCE
POLICIES***

Being Text of the Speech Delivered

To The

**FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
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INTRODUCTION

I wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity given to me to rub minds with you on this very interesting topic 'God's blessings and insurance policies.' When the invitation came for me to address this gathering my first reaction was that of cautious optimism. The reason for this was not far fetched. I have been involved in insurance as a professional for an appreciable length of time and I always welcome an occasion like this to address any gathering as an opportunity to win more converts for the idea of insurance which I consider as one of the best management tools to be created in solving critical problems in life and business. But then, my challenge here is how to share this knowledge within an atmosphere that has been variously identified as being lukewarm in embracing this idea. Research has shown that in this country, culture and religion constitute a twin barrier to the growth and development of insurance among the populace.

Within the next few minutes, however, I would like us to explore the blessings of God as known to man through the scriptures; consider this in the context of insurance and end up with the types of insurance that are available for consideration hoping that at the end of it all, some of us in this gathering would have added to our understanding of the concept of insurance and also reinforce our belief in the need for children of God to embrace this idea for our own good.

As it is with many other concepts, the word 'blessing' is loosely used by all and sundry. An aspect of the Concise Oxford Dictionary (9th edition) defined 'blessing' as 'the act of declaring, seeking, or bestowing favour'. Another dictionary of contemporary English defined the same word as 'something promoting or contributing to happiness, well-being or prosperity.' From these definitions, we can briefly conclude that a state

of blessing will arise where a 'force' decides to declare or bestow favour, in form of something, on somebody which in essence brings happiness or prosperity into the life of that person.

Putting aside insurance jargons, I would simply define insurance as a mechanism through which a group of people contributes into a common pool of funds out of which those who suffer losses are compensated. The contribution is by means of payment of a small sum called 'premium'. An Insurance company is therefore a custodian of this common pool for the benefits of contributors. It is obvious from the above explanation that Insurance does not prevent accident nor is it an absolute antidote to misfortunes. It is just an instrument to mitigate the financial hardships or pecuniary loss that may result from the occurrence of a loss or misfortune. Insurance policies are documents that contain the terms of the insurance contract (agreement) between the custodian of the common pool (insurance companies) and the contributors to the pool (insured persons or policyholders).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF GOD'S BLESSING

At the time of creation, God pronounced blessings on His creatures having made adequate and sufficient arrangements for all their needs as evidenced by Genesis 1:28. This blessing was however short-lived as a result of sin. Succour came for man through Abraham when in Genesis 12:2 God declared His intention to him by way of abundant blessings, and of course, this declaration extended to all mankind. This marked the beginning of restoration of the blessing that man hitherto lost in the Garden of Eden. David, Solomon are further examples of people that received God's blessing in the Old Testament.

The New Testament is also replete with promises of God's blessing for his children and this can be attested to by the acknowledgment of God's age long and everlasting love as recorded in Ephesians 1:3-4. Consequently, it becomes obvious that God's blessing encompasses spiritual grace, greatness, material possessions and riches especially if one recalls the record of the scripture in Genesis 12:2-3 and 13:2. God reserves His blessings for his children to enable them carry out the assignment for which they are called.

WHY INSURANCE?

Although several arguments have been raised against insurance by Christians and even non-Christians. The fact remains that no insurance critic has ever denied the reality of existence of risk (uncertainty of loss) and the danger it poses to the perpetuation of God's blessings in our life. While there have been different attitudes like disenchantment, apathy, ill-will and in the extreme cases absolute aversion towards insurance, there have been various incidents that honestly call for reevaluation of our position. The prevalence and indiscriminate nature of risk informed the submission of the writer of Ecclesiastes in Chapter 9 verses 2-3 which says:

'All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth; and to him that sacrificeth not: as is to the good so is to the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all...'

If the above scripture is held to be sacrosanct then, it couldn't have been God's intention to leave us vulnerable without any remedy.

To this end, our Heavenly father who knows the beginning from the end and with a view to guaranteeing the continuity of His blessings in our life made adequate provision for financial compensation for losses in Exodus 21:18-19 which also states:

'And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed: If he rises again and walk abroad upon his staff, then shall he that smote him be quit: only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed.'

Gentlemen, this is a similitude of insurance and in actual fact I will not be exaggerating if I should claim that this is the origin of modern day insurance!!!

Moreover, it is important to note that were it not for the consciousness of risk on the part of the wise virgins, they would not have made further sacrifice of extra oil, which sustained their light throughout the period that the bridegroom tarried. Consequently, our making adequate preparation for the likelihood of a loss by arranging insurance does not in any way suggest that we do not have faith in God. We are only exercising wisdom required of us by the scripture.

Again, it is instructive to be mindful of the warning in 1 Peter 5:8 concerning our adversary, the devil, who like a roaring lion, is roaming

about looking for whom he may devour hence we should not be ignorant of his devices.

Also, Ecclesiastes 7:12 emphasises the need to exercise wisdom by exalting wisdom far above money. Be that as it may, as Christians we are expected to demonstrate wisdom in all our life endeavours. This underscores the need for us to arrange insurance against all risks that we may be exposed to in our private and business lives. It is the will of God for us to be blessed and to put in place measures that will guarantee the perpetuation of our God given blessings.

RELEVANT INSURANCE POLICIES

As stated earlier, insurance is one of the management tools available for handling risks that man may be confronted with either in business or in one's private life. For insurance companies, the various products designed to address virtually all insurable situations are branded as policies hence we often hear terms such as fire policy or motor policy.

Practically speaking, three kinds of situation lend themselves for consideration by insurance policies and these are life, property and actions or non-actions resulting into liability. Also as stated earlier, the insurance policy will make good any loss suffered by way of payment to the victim or beneficiary of the policy in the event of any misfortune. Some of the circumstances that are common for insurance coverage are as follows:

Circumstance	Eligible	Type of Policy
Life	Individuals/Corporate	Term Assurance, Endowment, Personal

		Pension, Group Life, Deposit Administration
Property	Individuals/Corporate	Fire, Burglary, Householders Comprehensive, Motor, Money, Goods In Transit, All Risks, Fidelity Guarantee, Marine etc.
Actions	Individuals/Corporate	Personal Liability, Public Liability, Workmen Compensation, General Third Party Liability and Bonds

CONCLUSION

I have tried in this very brief presentation to try and shed light on my understanding of the blessings of God and how we could look at safeguarding these blessings from insurance perspective. I have defined what blessings meant as well as what insurance signified. We equally searched through the scriptures and found the various dimensions by which God could bestow His blessings on mankind. Of equal importance is the revelation through the scriptures that it is wise for man to make provision for contingencies and this was anchored upon the exercise of wisdom. We drew our conclusion by reviewing the different kind of policies that are available for consideration by the wise children of God.

I thank you very much for your attention and hope that my submission will be beneficial to you.

God bless you all.