

Contents

Introduction: Elevator Pitch	ix
I. AWAKENING TO BLESSING	
Blessing is Like Bulletproof Glass	3
Blessing is God's Prerogative	11
Original Sin is Unnecessary and Unhelpful	25
A Tale of Two Boxes and a Golden Thread	47
II. REVISITING THE GARDEN	
Let's All Take a Deep Breath about Genesis	59
God's Actions Speak Loudly of Blessing	75
You Can't Rush Happily Ever After	87
III. RETHINKING SIN	
East of Eden	113

We're Blankets, Not Sheets of Steel	131
We All Live Downstream	141
Bodies, Babies, and Baptism	153
IV. REDISCOVERING JESUS	
Why Do We Need Jesus?	167
Why the Cross is a Blessing	177
V. LIVING INTO BLESSING	
Practice, Not Perfect	195
Serpents, Doves, and Eyeglasses	205
Acknowledgments	215
Bibliography	217