

THE INSIDE RUNNING

As Jesus blesses us, our cup of blessing should overflow to bless others. Being a blessing to others is a daily decision to be generous in practical ways as well as with words of encouragement and affirmation.

The principle of blessing is life-giving and life-changing. Mike Connell's message this month goes to the heart of the issue. The key principle is to routinely position ourselves for blessing by aligning ourselves with the heart of God. This involves getting free from entanglements, especially spiritual, that could be holding us back. These things can trap us into a life of torment rather than release us into freedom and blessing. Check out Mike's 5 steps to blessing and change your life.

At Promise Keepers our heart is to see real transformation in men's lives. A man trapped in bitterness, for example, is not ever going to be able to live a life of freedom and success. Meeting regularly with other men can help us stay on course on our spiritual journey.

Mike Connell's last comment is a challenge to me – "Use words to create something positive." I want to do that.

Will you join me and be a blessing?



John
John Subritzky



October 2012

The Blessing of God

by Kevin Forlong

When you hear the word "blessing" or "blessed" what picture does it conjure up in your mind? Is the blessing of God spiritual or material?

The overriding message of the Bible is that God is knowable and desires a personal relationship with each person. The objective and outcome of that relationship is that each person who responds and walks in relationship with God will be the recipient of His blessings.

The blessing of God is primarily spiritual but it flows from the spirit realm and touches every part of your life - spirit, soul and body. It affects your values and mindsets. That blessing affects your marriage and relationships, your health and your finances. When the blessing of God comes on a person every aspect of their life and future comes under divine influence.

I remember years ago when I was considering leaving a career in the corporate world to take the pastor's role in a small church, I was asking the Lord to guide me in the decision. As I prayed, the Lord simply said to me that whatever I chose to do He would bless me in it. The bottom line is this, that if we choose to walk in submission and obedience to Him, His blessing is automatically forthcoming.

The very first thing God did after creating Adam and Eve was to bless them – Genesis 1:28. He blessed them and gave them a

mandate. In the Kingdom of God, **blessing is attached to purpose.**

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you... I will bless you... and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
Genesis 12:1-3

- You are blessed to be a blessing.
- The greater the blessing you receive, the greater the blessing you can be.
- The blessing of God is not deserved and cannot be earned or negotiated for, but it can be received by faith through the grace of God.

By definition the word "blessing" according to Dictionary.com means "the invoking of God's favour on a person"... "a favour or >





> gift bestowed by God thereby bringing happiness". Strong's Concordance of Bible Words says "to cause to prosper, to make happy, to bestow blessings on, to confer benefits on".

The life story of Joseph is a wonderful example of how blessing or favour works in someone's life. Joseph was blessed by his father as he was given a special multi-coloured coat. It was a gift expressing his father's love for Joseph.

The garment Joseph received is a picture of the blessing of God coming on the life of His children. The Father's favour carried Joseph through the challenges of his life. Even in slavery or prison that favour worked and caused him to rise to the top and eventually Joseph was catapulted from prison to being Prime Minister of Egypt.

The blessing is a real thing, it works. Favour is alive. It is not static but it is dynamic, it cannot be seen with the natural eye but it is a living, moving, spiritual reality. Blessing causes you to succeed when it looks like you should fail.

This blessing means that no weapon formed against you will prosper. It means you don't have to fear and you don't have to fight. It means you cannot be beaten, you cannot be overcome. The blessing means that if you will walk with the Lord, God will fight for you; God will help you on your life's journey.

Exodus 3 records Moses encountering God at the burning bush and his commission to lead Israel out of



What's on the DVD

FEATURED SPEAKER: Mike Connell - "Blessing Unleashed"

Mike has incredibly wide experience in ministry and pastoral work. His teaching is rich and full of revelation, and every message is powerful. This message on blessing has the power to transform your life. 33 min

DRAMA: Rebuild – A light-hearted look at the age-old frustration of why "nothing I do changes things!" 4 min

BONUS FEATURES:

- **My Story:** Blair Applegate – How an encounter with God at Promise Keepers more than 10 years ago brought the spark that transformed Blair's walk with God. 3 min 23
- **PK Music** – It is You 4 min 17
- **Field Rep** – Dave Blackley 8 min 30
- **Men's Ministry Webinar Promo** 3 min
- **Refreshed & Released Pastors' Conference Promo** 1 min 40
- **How to Access Extra Resources** 4 min

HUMOUR CLIPS: Valet parking; homemade horizontal bungee; wing falls off plane. 3 min

BETTER WORK STORIES: Russian truckers take on rivers and mud! 5 min

DVD ROM Access these using Windows Explorer on a PC or Command F (Mac)

ARTICLES: Including Derek Prince – Barriers to Blessing; Gary Smalley – Remarriage: Blending of Two Worlds; How to Feel Understood; Keep the Flame Burning; Francis Frangipane – A Thankful Heart; Nikki Bray – Four Lies About Marriage; Ian Buckley – You Bet Your Life

RESOURCES: Including Bill Subritzky pamphlets - Victory at the Cross; God's Blessings for Today • Break Free 2012 Photos CHC; The Call 2013 Advance Brochure; Webinar Brochure; Refreshed & Released Brochure • Weekly Studies • Study Questions • Bible Reading Plans

MP3s: Derek Prince - Thankfulness 55 min • Steve Sonderman - God's Plan for a Man 47 min • **PKUSA Classic:** John Maxwell - Recognising Leadership 47 min • **PKNZ Classics:** Seth Fawcett - God's Power Unleashed 34 min; Jim Hurn - Epic Battle for Marriage 34 min; Benny Tan - Passengers 34 min

slavery and into the Promised Land. A read of that passage identifies the following aspects of blessing:

- When God wants to display His glory He puts His favour on His people.
- The favour of God brings increase in influence and affluence.
- God blesses a person in order to bless a people.
- In order to access the blessing you have to go on a journey.
- The blessing is obvious and tangible.
- The blessing sets you apart for a purpose.
- To walk in blessing you must also walk in obedience.

Paul told the Thessalonians to put on the "helmet of the hope of salvation". Hope means a confident expectation of good. As a Christian it is only logical and sensible for you to have a confident expectation of good because the blessing of God rests upon you. You may be down, but you're coming up... that favour is working!

**PROMISE
#1**

A Promise Keeper is committed to honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Next Issue:
CREATION &
RECREATION**



Geoff Wiklund has a heart to see the wounded healed and to spark encouragement in pastors. This will be a time to grow together and come to a great place in God.

Wellington 7-8 November

Auckland 14-15 November

Christchurch 21-22 November

Limited to 40 places. \$40 per person. Open to men and women pastors.

Register today!



MINISTRY WITH MEN WEBINARS • PROMISE KEEPERS

Promise Keepers has created a powerful interactive course to equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to successfully promote and run a power-filled, dynamic Men's Ministry.

More details and "How to Build Your Ministry with Men" intro video on the website. Cost is \$99 per church. **New series starts 16 October. Register today.**