

September 28, 2008

Praising God for 25 years of Blessings!

Blessed is the man, who makes the Lord his trust,
who does not look to the proud, to those who
turn aside to false gods.

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done.
The things you planned for us no one can recount to you:
Were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.
Psalm 40:4-5 NIV

Bless - to ask God's favor for

Blessing - a giving of God's favor, anything that makes one happy
or contented

Blessed - the happy condition of those who revere the Lord, do his will
and put their trust in him

How has God blessed me in the past 25 years of ministry with you?

Blessings of content

Blessings of relationships

Blessings in difficulties

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Develop discipline of identifying my blessings
i.e. journal of blessings; index cards

Number them!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. NAME THEM ONE BY ONE!

Through the Church

"(v.7) I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. (v.8) Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, (v.9) and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. (v.10) His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realm, (v.11) according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (v.12) In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (v.13) I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory."

Ephesians 3:7-13

New International Version

God captivated my heart and life through his great purpose

"It is through the church that God has done the seemingly impossible—reconciling and organically uniting Jews and Gentiles in the church."—NIV Bible note, p.1794, 1985.
What a blessing to work to fulfill God's purpose.

God liberated my heart & life through his consistent compassion

"A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean. Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing, he said. 'Be Clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured."—Mk. 1:40-41

&

"A large crowd—'I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.'" (Loaves & Fish)—Mark 8:1-13

It is an amazing blessing to share the compassion of Christ.

It's all about God's power which he gives us to use in His name.

"He (Jesus) said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But YOU will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"—Acts 1:7-8

This is the greatest blessing of all—Holy Spirit power to share Christ with others.

What a ride! Thanks Lord for 25 years.

Thank You Church for riding with us! You're the blessing!

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