

LIFE GROUP (25/02/2010)

LIFESTYLE OF BLESSING

Definition of Barak

Although 'barak' is classified as a praise word, it is rarely translated 'praise' in the King James Version, but rather as 'blessed' or 'blessing'. It also means to bend the knee, or kneel; by implication to bless God as an act of adoration. The word is also associated with receiving and giving benefits. Barak has three aspects to it:

(a) to bless God (we do when we praise Him).

(b) to receive blessing from God.

(c) to be a blessing to others.

Jesus is the fountainhead of everything good. He is the Saviour to mankind, the ultimate blessing (benefit) to humanity (Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17). When we acknowledge that Jesus is the source of all blessing, we have laid the foundation in our lives for a life that can reach others with the love and power of God.

SERMON TITLE: Productive Seeking

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 77

BACKGROUND: When we remember God - God remembers us! However the key is NOT just seeking God and spending time with him - It is critical HOW we spend time with him. The focus and tone needs to be in the right direction.

Vs 1-6: shows the writer spending time seeking God - but finding the results unsatisfactory and frustrating. *Musing and inquiry unchecked can lead to questioning.*

Vs 7- 9: Questions arise - Reject? Vanish? Failed? Forgotten? Withheld? These are all questions posed - the focus is on feelings - NOT the facts!

Vs 10 - This moment arrests the negative focus of questions and puts the focus back on God and the facts. This is a great example of "setting your mind on things above".

("To this I will appeal - the years of the right hand of the Most High")

Seeking God and spending time with him is a good thing however time spent focusing on the right thing, in the right way, with the right tone will be more productive.

It's important to arrive at quietness and confidence in God rather than frustrated prayers and seeking. More Activity may NOT equal more Productivity!

DO ANY OF YOU HAVE TESTIMONY OF CHANGING THE APPROACH OR TONE TO SEEKING GOD?

DO ANY OF YOU HAVE TESTIMONY OF THE RESULT OF THIS CHANGE? (ie answered prayer, calm, peace, confidence, authority, clear mind....?)