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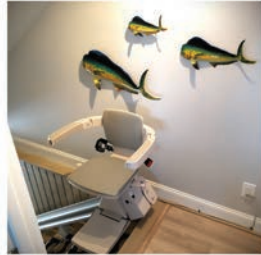
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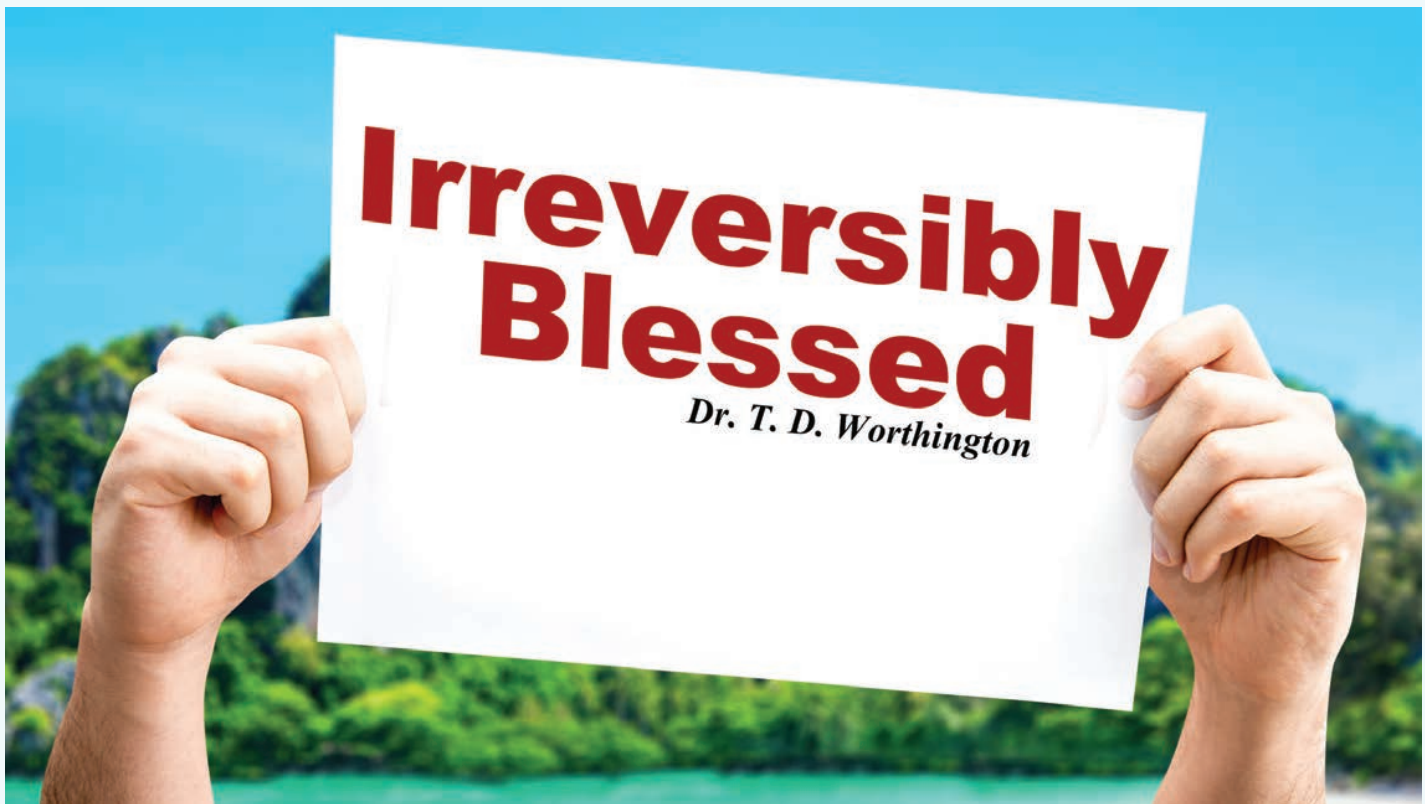
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“Behold, I have received commandment to bless; and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it. He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.”

Numbers 23:20-21

In Numbers 23, an evil king named Balak took a prophet named Balaam to a mountain peak overlooking the encampment of the people of Israel and said to Balaam, *“I want you to curse them for me”*. Balaam’s response is powerful, he said, *“behold I have received a command to bless; and he hath blessed: and I cannot reverse it.”*

It is important for you to understand that the blessing upon your life cannot be reversed. Verse 21 tells us why, saying, *“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, nor hath He seen perverseness in Israel.”* Through the finished work of Jesus

Christ, the same is true of you and I. When God blesses, no one (*no prophet, no sorcerer, no witch, no devil, no one*) can reverse it. You are irreversibly blessed! You can never be cursed. Therefore, you are equipped to be a transportable source of blessing where ever you go.

God has already blessed you through the power of the blood of Jesus. When your enemies say negative things about you out of envy, jealousy, or fear, know this: the Lord is your defender, it is God who gives influence to words, and He can cause their words to fall to the ground. I want this to sink deep into your heart. In Christ Jesus, you are irreversibly blessed. No weapon formed against you shall prosper. No matter how dire your circumstances may seem right now, put a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Why? Because the Lord has blessed you and no one can change that.

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”

Proverbs 10:22

Solomon, the writer of this Proverb says, the blessing that’s ON and IN your life also makes you rich. Wow! That’s awesome. That’s encouraging. That’s empowering! It’s not just what you DO that makes you successful, it’s what is ON and IN you, the blessing upon you, makes you rich. That may not always be in the form of money or worldly assets, but you are wealthy. That means wherever you go, whoever you meet, whosoever’s hand you shake, when you go food shopping, when you go to the gas station, you are a blessing going someplace to manifest something great; something healthy, awesome, and powerful. Something that could be life changing for someone!

The blessing isn’t a thing, it’s not a car, it’s not a house, you may

not be able to hold it in your hand. The blessing is an empowerment that touches every single area of your life. It's something tangible and supernatural. If you touch something it gets affected for good. Sometimes I am prompted to even pray over the gas pump. *"Lord, may the next person that touches this gas nozzle after me be blessed (salvation, health, peace, etc.)."*

Sometimes things last longer if you touch them. Your very presence brings blessing. You have something in you that will make you rich in every area of your life. Your health is rich, your family is rich, your money is rich, and your days are full of riches. **Job 36:11** says you'll spend your days *in prosperity and your years in pleasures.*

So, when you wake up tomorrow, see yourself as rich in every way. Look at yourself in the mirror and say, *"I'm a blessing going someplace to happen"*. On your way to work say, *"I'm a blessing going someplace to happen"*. When you walk into that classroom or appointment say, *"I am a blessing going someplace to happen"*. For some, because you are blessed, people will respect you. For others, your boss may favor you and even your competitors might esteem you highly. They know that there is something special about you because good things happen when you are around!

I experienced this blessing when I was working in retail. After I became a Christian, I started asking God's blessing on my secular labor. As I worked hard, I also kept confessing that I was blessed by the Lord, and I experienced

divine favor in the business world. My bosses could see that there was something different about me. It's almost like every department I worked in, every store I went to, any area placed under my responsibility began to flourish. I was drawing a very good pay and large bonuses. Soon, God called me into full-time service. When I broke the news to my boss, he almost cried. I never knew how much I meant to him until then. Even 5 years later, he called and asked if I would like to come back. It was only then that I realized I had been a great blessing to him by the grace of God. Are you a blessing to your boss? You ought to be—if you are a child of God.

Dear friends, because you are also called by the name of the Lord, wherever you go, you are a blessing. His irreversible blessing is upon you. Spiritual people around you will look at you and know that you are a blessing going someplace to happen.

The essence of maturity is found in doing cheerfully, the things that you don't particularly want to do. Sometimes you need to bless those

you may not want to bless. The Lord said, *"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"* **Matthew 5:44.**

Peter says, *"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."* Don't hit back, or strike back, or talk back. *"But contrary-wise render a blessing."* Instead of giving it back to them when people treat you poorly, give them a blessing instead. It's your privilege and duty to bless people. The Bible says, *"knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."* **(I Peter 3:8-9)**

Part of God's eternal purpose for you, is that you should be a blessing. Now that reaches right back into the very character of God. Blessing comes from the very heart and character of your loving





heavenly Father. If you wanted a summary of God’s character, you could look at **Galatians 5:22**, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance...”* That’s a miniaturization, a telescoping of the concept of God’s character. And that is what is evidenced in our lives when you and I are Spirit-filled people of blessing.

Peter said that, *“Ye should inherit a blessing...”* Now remember, it’s part of God’s gift of grace. God’s gracious way of dealing with you is to give you a life that is characterized by an atmosphere of blessing. And that atmosphere of blessing, is an extension of the very heart and character of your loving heavenly Father. So, when you walk into a room, people feel somehow the presence of God; they’re blessed by it. Now that doesn’t say that there won’t be trials, or illnesses, or pain, or suffering in your life. All of that is part of living. I am not saying that you will always feel blessed.

I am not saying that the blessing you bestow on others will always be apparent, but it can still be there. So, why not use it...use it wisely...and use it often.

Part of the reason I am sharing this is selfish. I want you to bless me! I need your blessing. It will also serve to your benefit. Referring to Israel, God said in **Genesis 12:3**, *“And I will bless them that bless thee...”* I think the same is also true for you and I. God will bless you more if you bless others more, and that includes me!

Oh, the joy of waking up in the morning, and being glad that you’re alive to serve God for another day. No matter if your body is aching; no matter if arthritis has swollen those joints until it’s a real labor to even put one foot on the floor. No matter if there’s problems with the family, or with the job, or with the community; no matter if you’ve got trials to face. Never let the devil convince you that you are not blessed, and since you are blessed, you need to understand

that the blessing you have is so powerful that it cannot help but overflow into the lives of others—*unless you quinch it on purpose.*

My face may not glow as did the face of Moses when he came down from the mountain, but there is a glow about me that is powerful enough to bring light to any one, or anything, that is fortunate enough to be in my presence. The same is true of you. You are irreversibly blessed! Therefore, it is your privilege to bless others. Have you thought of your life in that fashion?

Indeed, *you are a blessing going someplace to manifest something great.*



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.

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Darkness

When we were children, most of us were afraid of the dark. We didn't like walking into a dark room by ourselves. Being outside at night seemed spooky, especially without an adult. If a storm came... well, we just hoped and prayed the lights didn't go out. We were afraid of the unseen, not knowing what could be lurking in the shadows.

Regardless of the fear we had as children, we usually weren't quite as afraid with a parent, another adult, or sometimes even another child by our side. Someone to

comfort us and guide us through the dark. Someone to look in the corner of that scary closet or under the bed to reassure us everything was safe and sound.

As the storms of life come and go and the darkness of the world seems to be closing in at times, **Go-Mix Christian Radio** is here to be a comfort. We are here with you, encouraging you to keep fighting the good fight and running the race the Lord has called you to run. We can't take away the darkness of the world, but we can shine a little light and remind you that morning is on the way. The darkness won't last forever. Our God is in control.

As we continue to do what we can to shine a light for Jesus, we are so thankful for your continued support. The summer months can often be a time when financial giving

gets overlooked due to vacations, household projects, and other activities the warmer weather brings. Many are now also contending with inflation and the higher price it brings for gas, groceries, and other simple necessities of life. We understand the burden and the sacrifices many of you make to give to this ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness. It never goes unnoticed.



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Still Warm From The Breath of God

When you hold the Bible in your hand, you're not just holding a book. When you open it and read it, you're not just reading words. You're not just taking in information. You are taking in life... still warm from the breath of God.

Have you ever noticed something missing in the conversion experience of many folks? There was no great orator. There was no preacher that converted these people; sometimes not even a personal witness. What powerfully changed their lives forever was the Bible itself, as energized by the Holy Spirit. When we pick up a Bible, I wonder if we realize just how much power we are holding in our hands. These aren't just words on a page. This is more... much more... than a collection of ancient stories. This is the story of God and His people. It is the story of ... us.

In an age of electronic, global, instantaneous communication, people are looking for and finding a lot to "tickle" their itching ears. What they hear may sound sweet but has no nutritional value whatsoever. At **GoMix Christian Radio**, it has never been our intention to replace your need for the Bible. Our mission has always been to be just

another tool to make the Word of God available to more people.

In these perplexing days, we look around us and have questions about the direction of our nation and our world. We wonder what the future will hold. But when we hear God's Word, we are reminded that kings and countries, political, economic, and social systems do not control our fate... only God does. When we hear about God sending His Son into our world and when we hear about Jesus calming the storm and walking on the water, we know that God is in control. He is a God of comfort and love. He has a future and a hope for us. He still reigns. He still speaks. His Word still offers us what we need for such a time as this.

When you hear the Word of God or hold the Bible in your hand, you're not just hearing or holding a book. You are beholding a miracle. You are not just hearing words. You are not just taking in information. You are taking in life... still warm from the breath of God.



When one of my grandchildren gives me a hug and says, “*I love you, Grandma,*” it brings joy to my soul. There is something contagious about children. If you ever take a child to visit a nursing home or a retirement home, you will understand. A quiet, somber place will come alive.

Sometimes my grandchildren would visit with me when we went to the nursing home to see my mother-in-law. The residents were usually sitting in the hallway. When they saw the children, they lit up with a smile that warms your heart. The grandchildren would go down the row and give each one a hug. The people there looked forward to their visits so much. They were little angels in the residents’ eyes.

Well, the residents did not always see my little angels when they lost their halos. Yes, they lose them

quite often. I am not talking about the times they spill their drinks or embarrass me in public. I am not even talking about the times they wake me up at night for a glass of water. I have many examples due to my experiences as a mother, grandmother, and school teacher. I can even pull from the memories of my own childhood.

For example, the children argue over the rules of a game. There are ten different ways to play a game as simple as Uno. I am amazed at how much arguing can occur over a game of checkers. Many children get very upset if they do not win. Another issue I see quite often is the desire to be first. It is not just about being in line first, because the older children are too mature for that one. One only has to listen to a conversation to see which children want to be the center of attention. Unfortunately, it can be the whole

group. Life has to revolve around them. Isn’t that wanting to be first? Children have a lot of trouble with what I call the “*I*” syndrome.

It is hard for children to realize that the world does not revolve around them. Isn’t that the definition of “*selfish?*” When babies are born, selfishness is all they know. They cry to eat, to be changed, and to be held. It does not matter how tired their parents are or what they have to do the next day. The babies want what they want, and they want it now.

As our children get older, it is our responsibility as parents, grandparents, and teachers to teach them how to be “*selfless.*” That is definitely a tall order. We must realize that their future depends on it. The quality of every relationship depends on people accessing and acting upon the needs of others.

Unfortunately, the main reason we have a difficult time teaching our children to be selfless is that we are not selfless. The examples of selfish adults are endless. There are extremes. Some adults are spending their money on alcohol or other entertainment instead of feeding their children. That is very sad, and they don't deserve to have children. But most of us do not fall into that category.

Where do we fall? Are we in debt up to our eyeballs because we have no restraint? Do we spend money on luxuries when we have bills to pay? When we do not spend money correctly, it hurts our spouses and our children. It also puts undue pressure on the household, and it shows we care more about ourselves than we do others.

Do we take advantage of our spouses and manipulate them to get what we want? Do we consider their needs ahead of our own? Do we respect and cherish them as we should? Do we always expect them to be understanding and do for us; but when they do not feel well or have a full plate, do we assume they can handle it?

Many parents push their children aside because they have things to do. Moms and dads don't have time to listen to their children and spend time talking to them about the small things. Some parents consider their children a nuisance and an aggravation. Oh, parents don't say it, but they show it with their actions.

But then there is the opposite extreme. Some parents never discipline or hold their children



accountable. Moms and dads also give the children what they want in an attempt to make them happy. If the children are happy, then the parents are happy. This is just as selfish. They are not willing to upset the children because parents don't want them to cry or feeling disappointed. It takes hurting and disappointment to build character. The word "no" is very important. It is needed in everyone's life to become responsible adults.

How can we teach our children not to be selfish if they do not have good examples to follow? They don't see us putting others ahead of ourselves. Giving to others can be as simple as the way we drive, as well as how we respond to our children and our spouses. Instead, we want what we want. If that is a problem, then so be it.

We are all selfish in one way or another, but the biggest thing we are selfish over is our time. We want to do what we want with our time. We don't want anyone to tell us what to do. Many times we don't pray or read our Bibles because we don't want to take the

time. We say we are too tired, but what we are saying is other things are more important.

Paul teaches in **I Corinthians 15:31b** that he dies daily. This verse tells us that he had to struggle with being selfish and thinking of himself. Every moment of the day we must continually give ourselves over to God. I find myself having to fight the urge to be selfish so many times every day. I start thinking about what is good for me and what I want to do instead of what God wants me to do. There is that word again! "I" is such a dangerous word. It robs us of so much joy. We must erase the "I" in our lives and replace it with "no." Dying to self is only possible if we put Christ in the place of the "I." The more we say "no" to ourselves, the closer we will be to Christ. His desires for us will become our desires. Let Jesus live in you!



Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.



Ignoring Ministry

Dr. Randy Spaugh

What if I were to tell you that just down the road there are people that are lonely, getting over health issues, or having another problem. They don't know what the next procedure or steps might mean. They find themselves temporarily homebound when they have never been homebound before, or maybe they just need a word of encouragement. They probably know Jesus personally, or they could not get through the tough times. What if a call from one of Jesus' Disciples (you) was just what they needed? Most churches are not equipped for such a ministry, but you might be. You have a chance to do unto others what you hope someone would do unto you. The difference you make could be immeasurable.

I hope you will begin to recognize a ministry of serving others that you might normally find yourself

too busy to accomplish. It may be the very thing Jesus would want you to do. Let me make some suggestions that may help.

First of all, on our Facebook post we may simply say "praying" as a reply to someone that shares a need. While I cannot see anything negative about doing this, why not pick up the phone and call them instead? We may be afraid of not having the right answers or a needed verse of scripture to meet their needs. Don't get ahead of yourself. You don't have to have all of the answers. Right now you can listen. Often the person just wants to share with someone their greatest needs. You can call them just to let them know you care for them. Let them feel that someone cares enough to listen to them. Beware of giving advice, unless

you are certain it is from the Lord.

Secondly, let me give a personal word of advice. Our household once had a multitude of cards that said, *“Hope you will be feeling better soon.”* All I had to do was find the right card, sign my name, and put it in the mail. I had done my duty with little effort. I threw all those cards away. I bought some appropriate note cards and wrote my own messages. I found that most people wanted to know my thoughts more than the message of the greeting card company. My message was probably homemade, but it let them know I cared. I shared a message I genuinely wanted to share. I imagine you will eventually end up saying something awkward. Remember that you are not here to be right or impressive, but you are here to care.

Thirdly, let me get even more personal. I recently had a medical procedure. I was given a booklet by the hospital telling me exactly what to expect after the surgery. It was very well done. A Christian friend sat down with me to look at the booklet. Suddenly he said, *“Did you read this paragraph? That happened to me, and it scared me silly. I did not read the booklet carefully enough before my surgery.”* He pointed out several such paragraphs, and I was thankful for his sharing. The Holy Spirit allowed him to be there just for such a moment. When we allow a friend to get that close the Holy Spirit can work wonders. This is another blessing that might happen to us because we care.

Another point that needs to be made is that care is not only something we give to another, it is something we sometimes receive. We need care



and the Holy Spirit can prompt someone else to reach out to us. It is often easier to care for someone else than to receive that love ourselves. Yet, they are simply following God’s guidance. Put aside your pride and be prepared to be blessed by someone else.

Finally, let me end on this note. In the past two years, we have heard of so many in the hospitals and nursing homes who have been sick and were not able to be visited by loved ones at all. Some have even died without the presence of loved ones. Do not underestimate the value of caring or receiving care. Don’t ever pass up such an opportunity, even if it appears to be unimportant at the time.



Dr. Randy Spaugh is a long-time contributor to PathPointe Magazine and a Retired Pastor now residing in Kinston, N.C.

And Finally...



Kindness Remembered...

Little things can really mean a lot. It's difficult to pinpoint just one time in my life where someone has been kind to me, because there have been so many times! Whether it's people bringing food and sending notes of condolences after losing a loved one, a friend stopping to pray with me when I'm having a hard time, the lady in line in front of me that paid for my groceries one day, a stranger asking to help fix a flat tire, or a neighbor texting me a copy of a devotional she knew I would enjoy... they all mean so much!

A. A.

I go to church with several of my nieces and nephews. They are all young and like to share different colorings and Sunday-School crafts they make at church. One day, I got home from church and emptied my pockets on my nightstand. When I did, I found a note. In crayon it said, "You are the best Aunt and I love you very much." To this day, I couldn't tell you which child gave it to me. I don't even remember putting it in my pocket at church. What I do remember is how good it made me feel when I saw it. It's a great reminder that it often costs nothing to give encouragement and love.

T. J.

Several years ago, I was going through a rough patch in my life. I really needed some encouragement. I wondered what would make me feel better. I thought to myself how nice it would be if someone sent me flowers. So, I bought flowers! I decorated vases and made cards. I then "delivered" the flowers to several shut-ins and others that I knew around my community that also needed encouragement. The response of gratitude was overwhelming. The messages of thanks I received

warmed my heart and lifted my spirit. It was so much better than simply receiving flowers for myself! I have since done this several times and I hope to continue in the future.

J. W.

I was young, had several small children at home, and was living on my husband's pastor salary. At the grocery store one day, when we got to the check out and my groceries were rung up, I had put more on the check-out belt than I had the money for. As I started to select items to remove from my purchase, the woman behind me held up her card and said, "I've got it! Please don't put anything back." I was in tears as I bagged my groceries and blubbered a heart-felt thank you to her as I left. This was years ago, but the incident still brings tears to my eyes.

L. G.

"My Favorite Hymn"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your favorite hymn. The deadline for submission is
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