



# i'm blessed

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Kids Leader Training** – All Sunday morning leaders in Kids Ministry (adults & teens) need to come to our training on Feb 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 11:30 am. Please RSVP by Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast provided.
- **Special Guest Speaker - Johnny Baker** – We are excited that Johnny Baker will be our guest speaker here at Southwinds Sunday, 2/12. Johnny is the leader of Celebrate Recovery (CR) having taken over for his father, John, the founder of CR.

## MY STORY

How do you use the word blessing?

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**Have A Volunteer Read: Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 1:28; Isaiah 49:6**

**Point #1: Always God's plan to bless the world THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.**

“As the Bible's story begins, we see 3 key elements: people, place, purpose. We actually see these 3 things all through the Bible's storyline. People: God creates Adam and Eve. He does this so he can have a relationship with them. He walks in the garden with them. God puts them in a place, the Garden of Eden, so they can enjoy and take care of his creation. He also gives them a

purpose. Genesis 1-2 says ‘God creates Adam and Eve in his image’. What’s the first thing God does to humanity?” – **Michael Nolen**

**Why has our world lost God’s original plan for blessing and purpose through the key elements?**

“Adam and Eve choose autonomy over intimacy. Rather than doing life with God, obeying and trusting God, they decide they can determine right and wrong, and they eat from the one tree God told them to avoid.” – **Michael Nolen**

**Are you obeying God’s command by building him up or are you trying to make a name for yourself by building yourself up?**

**Have Another Volunteer Read: Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 1:3**

**Point #2: Always God’s will that God’s people REJOICE IN GOD’S BLESSING.**

“Now I want you to feel something. What I want you to feel is gratitude.” – **Michael Nolen**

“God has blessed you immensely, far more than you can ever imagine. I’m praying that as we meditate for a few moments on the incredible blessings of God in our lives, that gratitude will just well up within our hearts. So just think about this. In all the pain and violence and chaos of sin, God reaches out to call one man, a pagan named Abram, and says, ‘Through you, I’m going to bless the nations.’ God blesses his descendants. They become the nation of Israel, and what you see throughout the OT, throughout history, is this blessing spreading... from one generation to the next, from one country and one language to the next, from one era of history to the next... until it came to us. We are recipients of this very promise. You are blessed beyond what you can imagine. Again, I know the word blessed is at the top of the list of Christian clichés. Like, “How you doing, brother?” “Just blessed, brother, just blessed.” – **Michael Nolen**

**Why is it so easy to lose the heart of gratitude for all the blessings God has given us?**

“But the Bible is so clear that our greatest blessing is the new life we can have in Christ. If you think the material blessings God gives you are immense... wow... let's talk about spiritual blessings. We see this promise that God makes to Abraham being partially fulfilled throughout the OT. But the OT ends with this expectation, this longing for a Messiah to come who would fulfill all God's promises. And Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise of God. Jesus is the one who has come to bring the blessings of God's reign to the end of the earth.” – **Michael Nolen**

**When we think of God’s blessings, do we think of the new life with him or the things he provides?**

**Have Another Volunteer Read: James 1:17**

**Point #3: Always God's command that God's people LIVE TO BLESS OTHERS.**

“We’ve heard a lot of talk during this past few years of drought about reservoirs and rivers and water. As Christ-followers, we’re not called to be reservoirs of God’s living water, but rivers. In fact, that would be a good personal mission statement for every one of us, and for our church... Rivers, not Reservoirs.” – **Michael Nolen**

**How can you leverage God's blessings to help others in your career, life and in our church?**

**What are the dangers of becoming a spiritual hoarder?**

**APPLICATION**

Take time this week to identify the 2 enemies of having a blessed life and give them up to God.

- Comparison - If you spend your time comparing your life to other people's lives, then your gratitude will drain away.
- Entitlement - If comparison blinds us to what we have... all the blessings in Christ... entitlement says, “Yeah, I have it, but I deserve it. I worked for it. This is mine.”

**PRAISES**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**