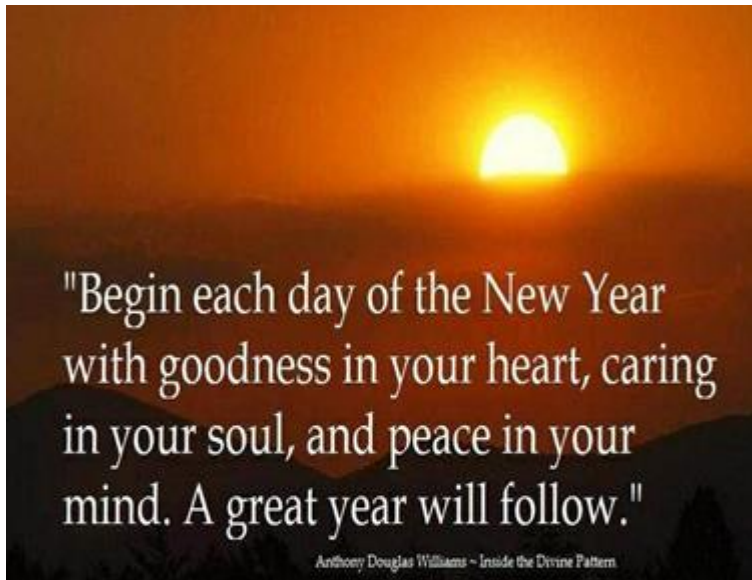


Stewards of Grace Ministries Monthly Newsletter for January 2017



This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Learning to walk with the spirit - We have been going over all the things we can be doing in and for the Kingdom of God; but I was recently reminded of one thing we can be doing that would make a tremendous difference in the lives of the people we know and love. It is so simple and so easy that we can begin immediately. We don't have to learn anything new or memorize anything - and it's as natural as speaking: It is called "The Blessing." Let me back up a little... We as children of God have much the same needs as the rest of the people, to survive and succeed in the world that has fallen into the hands of the great enemy of God. True, satan was defeated at the cross and in actuality holds no power over us... unless we believe his lies about us. Satan's power now lies in the deception he uses to obscure God's intentions, plans and purposes for our lives. In the Old

Testament there are examples of fathers blessing sons and daughters, speaking good and success into their lives, encouraging them to do the righteous things and to stay away from the corrupting influence of those who want to drag us down. Proverbs calls this "seeking Wisdom" and in **Proverbs 1:2-4, 7, 8** it says **2 Written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going; 3 A manual for living, for learning what's right and just and fair; 4 To teach the inexperienced the ropes and give our young people a grasp on reality. 7 Start with God - the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning. 8 Pay close attention, friend, to what your father tells you; never forget what you learned at your mother's knee.** (Mssg Bible) This tells us to look to our parents for their storehouse of wisdom... and also their **BLESSING**. But in this modern world, there is such a lack of encouragement that we are far more likely to encounter teasing, mockery and sarcasm and this even from our own family. Many parents don't realize they are as God to their young children who take their words as final and true. Such unkind, false statements can cripple a child's emotional development and hold him back from a normal life. This leaves a real void in our emotions, and many children grow up into adults who just continue the same tortuous behavior they were treated to and end up constantly wounding their own children, not knowing any other way. But we can break that cycle; even in those who are not blood family. We begin to bless those who need it most. Think of up-lifting, encouraging things you can say to those who are having a hard time. You CAN make a difference in others' lives. Even those who are older. And if there is no one to bless you... well, just go to your Heavenly Father. He is still in the blessing business, and will give you exactly what you need. So, even if we have never gotten a blessing from our Mothers and Fathers here on earth, you can still look into the Bible and find all the blessings God gives those who love and follow Him. We do not have to sit out in the cold and dark. Our Loving Father invites us into His presence, to drink of His well and then become wells He causes to burst out of our very own bellies; thereby quenching our thirst along with anyone nearby who needs a

drink of His Life-giving water. **John 4:14** *But whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. The water I give will become a spring of water flowing inside him. It will give him eternal life.*” God’s particular blessing started when He picked Abram - who obeyed His directives to leave his family and go where God told him. **Gen 12:2...***I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 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.*” Now, in today’s world we do not have to physically leave our families, but we will have to LEAVE BEHIND OUR OLD MIND-SETS about how God sees us and also how God sees our family and friends who don’t know Him. When we bless others, we are asking our wonderful God and Father to interact with the people who may not even know about our Loving Father. This opens a door through which many hurting soul could take it’s first steps into a lasting and rewarding relationship with our Savior. Because of experiencing rejection we have built up walls that keep the hurting out; but this just leads becoming lonely, depressed and scared. We need to begin tearing down the old walls and rebuilding the new protective walls that keep all the negative thoughts and actions out! While God likens us to a wall, it’s not the wall that’s the challenge. The challenge lies in **changing the heart** around which the wall was constructed! God brings His plumb line alongside the heart of a man as well as a nation. We are admonished in the book of **Proverbs 4:23** *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.* Our tendency has been rather to guard and keep our mind and intellect, as if life’s issues were really centered in our education. In To whom or what do we give authority in deciding our beliefs about life? The answer to all the questions of life and how to live are to be though in God’s revelation of Himself in His word and in His Son, Jesus Christ. **Job 28:12** *“But where, oh where, will they find Wisdom? Where does Insight hide? 13 Mortals don’t have a clue, haven’t the slightest idea where to look. 14 Earth’s depths say, ‘It’s not here’ ocean deeps echo, ‘Never heard of it.’ 15 It can’t be bought with the finest gold; no amount of silver can get it. 20“So where does Wisdom come from? And where does Insight live? 21 It can’t be found by looking, no matter how deep you dig, no matter how high you fly. 23“God alone knows the way to Wisdom, He knows the exact place to find it. 25 After He commanded the winds to blow and measured out the waters, 27 He focused on Wisdom...28 Then He addressed the human race: ‘Here it is! Fear-of-the-Lord that’s Wisdom. Prov 2:6 And here’s why: God gives out Wisdom free, is plainspoken in Knowledge and Understanding. Prov. 9:11 t’s through Lady Wisdom, that your life deepens, and the years of your life ripen. 12 Live wisely and wisdom will permeate your life; mock life and life will mock you.* Now you don’t have to think up elaborate “prayers” to say over your family and friends. **Genesis 49:1-29** tells of Jacob’s blessings to his 12 sons: **28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.** Just become aware of the situations surrounding you and begin to say things like May your day be wonderful; May you get that job you’re after; May this relationship work out for good for you. May God bless your day. Have a blessed day. This small snippets of may even be part of your good-bys to your family and friends... and it can become as natural as giving a hug before you send them on their way. Even on the telephone, you can begin to bless those you talk to. It may take a little effort to remember to bless, but they will thank you for doing it. This will also encourage you to begin to look for the positive things going on around you - and even begin to lift your own spirits. This is how David encouraged himself in the Lord (1 Sam 30:6): He remembered all the promises God had given him and spoke them into existence. At times, that’s all we have are God’s promises to stand on - because everything seems to be going the other way. Learn to encourage yourself: write down the promises of God for the area you are in need and go over them every day, or more often if necessary. God is not a man that He should lie. He will keep his promises: Deut. 28:1 “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I

command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2
And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of
the Lord your God. Remember that **YOU HAVE A CHOICE:** To believe the God who created you,
and obey Him fully, or to believe the destructive lies of the enemy and give in to his
suggestions to try to do things your own way. Happy New Year!