

# Seven Blessings of Salvation

**Psalm 21:1-7, 2 Thessalonians 1:11, James 5:16, Deuteronomy 28:2, Psalm 112:7-10**

We often don't understand or acknowledge the fullness and revelation of the gift of salvation, but in truth salvation is nothing without a saviour. If we take Jesus out of the centre of our salvation we are left with a lifeless religion that is driven by dead works. We are to exalt Jesus when it comes to our lives and to place him rightly at the heart and centre of our salvation. When we do this we realise that God doesn't offer us a salvation and journey epitomized by meagre rations. He gives us a salvation that is plentiful, full of blessing and opportunity, fulfilment and peace.

So many times in our lives we focus on our circumstances rather than on our salvation and walk with God. When we do this all we see are the facts, which can be discouraging. If we rather choose to focus on the word and promises of God we start to see the truth, and as the Bible says 'The truth shall set you free'.

How well are we doing in partnering with God and seeing his desires and blessings come true in our lives? Are we delighting ourselves in the Lord, and living in accordance with his promises? If so then our hearts desires will line up with his. We shouldn't settle for second best. Dream large and aspire to big things, believe for God's best and have a sense of the impossible. Have desires so big it would take the miraculous to accomplish. What are the prayers on our lips that need breakthrough? Prayers for healing, deliverance, health and long life, dominion over things that rule us, protection against supernatural opposition? We know with God all things are possible. Let's have faith-filled prayers of expectation and believe for an overflow of God's presence that will follow us in our daily lives.

Here are some of the blessings that accompany our salvation - God giving us our hearts desires, miraculous answers to prayer, being overtaken with God's blessing and goodness, to be the head and not the tail, health and long life, an overflow of God's presence and supernatural protection.

Let this coming year be shaped by meditating on God, his word and promises and let the blessings that accompany salvation be your testimony in 2016.

## *Church Highlights*

- Vision Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Heart & Soul Night Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February

## *Pray Together*

- **Salvations - that people come to know Jesus.**
- **Pastors Brian and Bobbie Houston.**
- **For the multiplication of Connect Groups and Connect Group leaders.**

## *Nation Builders*

We can make a difference as a connect group by praying for the Nation Builders causes we support and by giving together. Our offering extends the reach of our church locally to reach and influence the world for Jesus.

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*Questions to promote conversation and connection, help believers develop a biblical world view and grow as leaders.*

**Read** Psalm 21:1-7

### **Desires of the heart**

- Q What are the desires of your heart for this year?
- Q **Read** Proverbs 16:1-3. What does this passage suggest to us about the nature of our desires, how we work with God with our desires, and how he brings them to fruition?
- Q How can we help those we lead to foster, shape and pursue their desires in a godly way?

### **Miraculous answers to prayer**

- Q What miraculous experiences have you had with prayer?
- Q **Read** James 5:13-18. What are some of the things that this passage says about prayer?
- Q How can we help those around us to build their faith and confidence in God? (**Leader's Tip:** *Perhaps get people to think about what others did that helped them*)

### **Overtaken by God's blessing and goodness**

- Q Share with the group about a time when you experienced God's blessing and favour.
- Q **Read** Deuteronomy 28:2-6 & Ephesians 1:3-8. These passages describe physical and spiritual blessings. What do you think of the relationship between the two?
- Q What are the things we need to do to enjoy God's blessings?

### **Dominion**

- Q What do you think of Ps Brian's statement 'God has called you to be the head and not the tail'? Discuss further.

## **Pastoral Care**

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people through life's challenges
- With their permission, should anyone in your connect group experience sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, or surgeries, please contact our church office:  
Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500, Newcastle 02 4927 1888

Q **Read** Romans 6:6-8. What do you think it means to 'no longer be slaves to sin' and to 'live with Christ'?

Q How do we help those around us overcome life impairing habits and persistent sin issues?

### **Health and long life**

- Q What is the balance of our responsibilities and God's blessing when it comes to our health and longevity?
- Q **Read** Psalm 91:14-16. How can we apply this passage to our own lives? Are there any conditions we need to meet?
- Q Did you make any New Year's resolutions to do with your health? How can our Connect Group support you in this?

### **Overflow of God's presence**

- Q What comes to mind when you think of God's presence?
- Q **Read** Exodus 33:14-16. From this and other passages, what consequences come from the presence of God being with his people?
- Q What can we do to cultivate the presence of God in our own lives and amongst the people we lead?

### **Supernatural protection**

- Q Describe some of the times or ways you have experienced God's protection.
- Q **Read** Isaiah 54:17. In what ways do you believe the promise in this passage is applicable to us today?
- Q How can we encourage those in our sphere of influence to trust for God's protection in times of opposition?