

# Blessings

by Pastor Jim Preisig

One of the paradoxes of life is that oftentimes the more you strive to acquire and accumulate, the less satisfied you are with what you have. Rockefeller leaps immediately to mind. When asked how much more he, one of the wealthiest men alive, needed to be happy, he cryptically replied, "Just a little more!"

It is almost as if clasping our hearts and hands around things prevents us from opening our hearts and hands to all the blessings that God would shower upon us. And I don't mean in a material sense. The happiest souls I have known also happen to be the most generous. It strikes me that an open and generous spirit allows us to fully appreciate what we have and to receive from God what we most desperately need.

A dear friend described it this way. He said that his spiritual life had been stuck in a rut for years. He believed himself to be a Christian, but he was anything but generous and definitely less than satisfied. His life was spent building a bigger house and then filling it with the trophies of worldly success. Then the Word penetrated his heart and changed him. He became intentionally generous, and discovered incredible joy and blessing of being a blessing. He said it this way, "It was only when I surrendered my life to God and started to give of myself that I discovered God's best blessings." Today this gentleman has put his life in order – living and giving as a blessing in Christ.

We have been blessed – for a purpose. God has blessed us in order to be a blessing to others. Discover the joy! Open your heart and your hands and allow God to fill your life with His most precious blessings!