

God will make our name great

September 28, 2008

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Let me begin this morning by asking each of you a question:

“Are you prepared for God to bless you, to make your name great and to make you a blessing?”

Take a moment to think about that.

You may not know how to answer it just yet, but I want to say this that He does want to bless you and to make your name great.

Before we turn to the scriptures, I want us to listen to a couple of prophetic words that were spoken over us as a church in May this year and one from earlier this month. In these prophetic words it is clear that God wants to bless us as a church, to raise our profile, to make our name great and to make us a blessing.

May 9, 2008

Elders time at the Geographical Training Time with Dave & Samantha Haggar
Life to the Nations Christian Fellowship - Endeavour Hills
Dave Haggar

I get a vision of a well and I feel like people are going to be drawn to the well and Jesus Christ is the well of life. There's a well that flows and Jesus gives us living water and I just feel like people are going to come for living water and I just sense a season of meeting needs. I sense a season of broken people coming and the spirit of God is going to meet people's needs for healing, for mindsets to be changed, people broken, people hurt, people crippled in various ways. I see the hands of Jesus reaching out, healing hands of Christ reaching out, dunamis power, I see dunamis power, I see you moving in signs and wonders, I see you moving in authority. I see you releasing the life flow of God on broken people. I believe God's going to raise up through that a mighty army. I believe people are going to come in broken and go out brave hearts. Isa 55 Come to the waters and drink.

September 9, 2008

Audrey Clark
City Edge Church - Burwood

Tony I felt the Lord gave me this word while praying this week. I have called this Church into being. I shall use it to spread my word amongst the young in this Nation. I will strengthen this church from within before I move. I need strong Christians who are willing to stand strong in the battles for souls, people who are committed to my word and follow its commands and ways. I will not fail you if

you do your part. Preach my word; teach my word, live my word. Do not shrink back. The rewards will be great reaching out to the Nations.

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Page | 2

This promise applied explicitly to Abraham, but it also applies to us implicitly as stated in:

Galatians 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

God's word to us who belong to Christ is that we also inherit this promise of God to bless us, to make our name great.

I was out on Thursday night with Ian, Ryan and John and we were discussing this passage of scripture and I asked each one of them this question:

Do you avoid greatness or do you seek after it?

Most Aussies don't like anything that sounds like self promotion and we therefore tend to avoid anything that looks like us putting ourselves out in front or promoting ourselves.

Dudley Daniel said that:

"Man is a strange being - he either avoids greatness like the plague or grasps for it like the supreme prize. Some are scared of it. Others chase after it. Both are wrong".

As Dudley says "Both are wrong". If this is the case, then how do we as individuals and as a church rightly approach greatness?

First of all, most of us when we think of greatness tend to think of fame and fortune in the mould of Hollywood. But this type of greatness is not what is being talked about here.

In this passage, it means to promote someone to a higher office or position. It can also mean to make large or to enlarge. To advance, to bring up, to exceed, excel, to grow, to increase, to lift up, or to magnify.

Second, there is a pattern.

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3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The pattern is this. God blesses us first and then from this He makes our name great.

It's when God blesses us that our names become great. He brings the enlargement in our lives so that people see our progress and our reputation increases. We are held in high regard. It could be at that time that we were promoted to a higher level of responsibility and profile within our work places or in the church.

Are you prepared for God to bless you and to make your name great?

Third, God is the one who does it. We don't do it. All we need to do is the respond to God as He leads.

You will notice from this passage that the only two things required of Abram was to,

- 1) Go from his country
- 2) And go to the land that God would show him

It's really that simple.

The rest of the promise was in God's hands. I will make you a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who curse you.

God has promised to make our names great by blessing us, by increasing our capacity, by promoting us. All we need to do is hear His voice and follow.

My recent testimony:

During this week at work, I applied for and got a promotion to the newly created role of Customer Service Manager. This is my first management role after being in the company for 21 years. This promotion I believe had its beginning two years ago when I was in a very nasty role, reporting to up to 4 different managers almost at the same time. It was very challenging and around this time a job was advertised internally at

work that I felt had my name all over it. But when I enquired of the Lord, I felt Him say “stay put”. To my surprise no less than three months later, one of my bosses called me into his office and told me I was being put 100% onto a new outsourcing project to China. Looking back I can see God’s blessing on me in that I got to take 3 business trips into China and had the great blessing of making a number of very close friends with my Chinese work colleagues and the factory workers. He put a love into my heart for the Chinese people and we are going to be spending some time with them on our holiday next week. My colleague lives in a typical old style Chinese house with her family of four generations. They are going to make a special meal for us and we will be the first westerners that my colleague’s grandmother has ever seen in the flesh.

Finally, why is it that God wants to make our names great?

The answer is found in verse 2, **so that you will be a blessing.**

God want to bless all the families of the earth through us.

Given this are you now prepared to be blessed by God - for God to make your name great so that you can be a blessing to others?