

# Impact Magazine

May 2009



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***Changing the way the world sees God!***

# The Secret Power of Blessing

By Jim Richards

Of all the words Jesus ever spoke these may be the most challenging and possible the most openly rejected among His followers: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.* (Luke 6:27-29)

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century individualistic society the need to “one up” everyone is nothing more than a foolish impression of empty strength that seeks to hide insecurity and rejection. The wisdom of overlooking an insult is lost to a culture of low self worth. *A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.* (Prov. 12:16, NIV)

To follow Jesus’ teaching concerning our enemies is illogical to the carnal mind. To the foolish it is judged to be weakness. Yet the secret power of blessing is a missing ingredient in a society that is drowning in offense and pain!

Reactionary thinking leads to retaliation, retaliation leads to escalation, escalation leads to total destruction. *The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.* (Prov. 17:14) The problem with conflict is you never know where it will end. Will it end in harsh words, the loss of a friend, or road rage that costs someone his or her life?

While the wrong reaction to insult may not always lead to the loss of physical life, a wrong reaction **always** leads to emotional death and destruction.

The greatest fallacy about mercy, love, and forgiveness is that it is some type of kindness for the other person. We somehow think that we

are giving them a “free pass” for their unkindness toward us. Forgiveness by no means frees a person from restitution. (Matt 5:25-26) Mercy is not an approval of their action. Blessing someone who seeks your demise is not an attempt to be friends. All of these are responses that insure the offense cannot destroy your life!

In Luke 17:3 Jesus said, *So watch yourselves. If your brother sins...*



So why should I have to watch myself when someone sins against me? The person who has been wronged can so easily justify ungodly reactions; after all, we are the innocent party. Justified sin is still sin, and sin -even justified sin - still brings death and destruction.

It is alright to be angry, just don’t get into sin. It is alright to rebuke with the intention of restoration. But to simply act out of hurt never leads to restoration. Besides the straight-forwardness of this practical application, the wisdom of communication tells us not to attempt correction with an angry person, one who won’t listen, or a mocker. Prov 29:9 says, *If a wise man has an argument with a foolish man, the fool only rages or laughs, and there is no rest.* (AMP)

The loss of peace even when you’re right, or the escalation of

conflict even when you’ve been offended, is never worth what it costs. Many people destroy their health, lose their fortunes, and sacrifice their dreams on the altar of self-justified un-forgiveness! While holding tightly to the hurt that dissolves their life like acid eating through layers of flesh down to the bone, they insist their pain to be the work of the one who offended them! The wisdom of Jesus’ words provides the only means to the ultimate win-win scenario! But even if the other person never benefits from your kindness, you do - and the benefits are immediate!

*Forgive* literally means to *send away!* When Jesus says to forgive an offense He is telling you the only way to send away the pain. To send away the pain you must send away the offense. When we don’t send away an offense we are left only the option of holding onto it and the pain associated with it!

But sending the offense away is only the first half of one of the most incredible spiritual secrets of all time. How can I send away an offense that is so alive to me that it consumes my every thought and emotion? This is the secret power of blessing! The moment I begin to speak blessings I find the window of opportunity, the moment of clarity, the lifting of oppression that affords me the freedom to forgive (send away) the offense and the pain!

This is something that must be experienced to even make sense. I have found this secret to be one of the most powerful and freeing tools that I use more frequently than almost any other for staying in peace. This has taken me from rage to compassion and from wrath to peace more times than I can count!

*Continued on page 4*

# The Secret Power of Blessing

Six messages \$42 CDs ; DVDS \$89.95

There is absolutely no promise that life will ever be perfect or pain free, but we have the absolute assurance that we can rise above all the challenges that life brings. It is God's nature to restore life to every situation. He is the living God; He can restore life to any loss. He is the God of hope; therefore, there is always the possibility of a good outcome. He is the God of peace; therefore, in any situation we can have a peace that doesn't even make sense. He is the Provider; He can prepare a table in any wilderness. What others mean for our harm, He can turn to our good! *God turns the curse into the blessing!* We can turn weakness into strength.

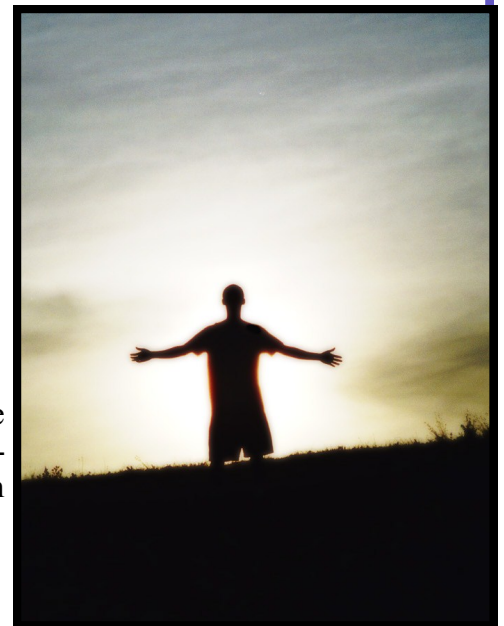
But we must know and apply His secrets for moving from death to life, from despair to hope, from pain to power. In these six messages you will learn just that. You will experience greater aspects of God's own nature. You will take on one of the highest elements of God's character, the power to bless!

Just imagine facing the pain of offense and rather than crumbling under the weight of rejection or succumbing to the life corruption of anger, you are able to speak blessings! Image being able to pronounce a blessing with all the compassion of your heavenly Father upon those who curse you! Then, in the strength of that blessing you will experience complete freedom from the power of those who seek your harm! Sound impossible? Well it's not! It is your divine nature in Christ! It is your new normal. It is you filled with the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Just imagine:

- Breaking free from the pain of the past
- Experiencing a flood of positive emotions in the face of conflict
- Releasing life affirming hormones instead of stress
- Experiencing the grace to live a fortunate, enviable, blessed life
- Turning every curse into a blessing
- Prophesying a good outcome for every situation
- Changing the way you see each negative circumstance

*The Secret Power of Blessing* will transform your life in ways you have never imagined. You can be more peaceful, more powerful, more joy-filled than you ever imagined. Unleash God's greatest secret power on your life and the world around you: the power to bless!



## Impact Ministries Canada

For years Canadian believers have responded so positively to the message of grace, peace, and faith righteousness. Through the church in Canada this message has been multiplied to the ends of the earth. I am so thankful for our World Changers in Canada who are committed to *changing the way the world sees God!*

For various reasons we have relied on the service of other ministries and organizations to provide bookkeeping, ministry communication, and receipting for our Canadian Partners. As much as I have appreciated the efforts, we have never been able to serve and respond to the needs of our Canadian World Changer Team in the manner we desired; but now the problem is well on its way to being solved.

Impact Ministries Canada has set up an office in Calgary and has made application to Revenue Canada for recognition as a non-profit organization. Starting next month we will be able to receive your contributions in Canada. When the application is approved Revenue Canada will recognize all contributions. Next month we will provide you with an address and contact information.

Also, because of the updates in our online service, you are now able to download your monthly World Changer Message as well as any teaching material. There is no postage and no waiting. We are constantly looking for ways to better serve you! *The best is yet to come!*

To bless is to speak favorably toward or about someone or something. To curse is to speak negatively or destructively about or toward someone or something. Jesus simply said of the fig tree, *No one eat of you again*. He didn't proclaim some mystical, exorbitant incantation. No! He simply spoke a negative. When we bless God we simply speak favorably of Him. It doesn't require ritualistic demonstration. It is just words, words that can potentially produce life and death!

While blessing and cursing are so simple and done without thought, they are deceptively powerful. Proverbs probably says it best. *A man's [moral] self shall be filled with the fruit of his mouth; and with the consequence of his words he must be satisfied [whether good or evil]. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life.]* (Prov 18:20-21, AMP)

Blessing and cursing are actually forms of prophesying. We are speaking the end or outcome we believe and expect! Too often we seek God to bless a situation then we curse it with the negative prophecies that emerge from our fears and frustrations.

When we bless others, speak well over them, speak a good end for them, we create the potential for a miracle in them and a miracle in ourselves. When we bless those who offend us, we open the door to freedom from the pain of the offense. In that small opening, fueled by an action that Jesus said would be so God-like, we suspend the power of offense. In that momentary gap of suspended emotions we have the opportunity to send away the offense and its pain.

People always ask, "But how do you do it?" We always suspect something to be harder than it is. I know this sounds too simple, but I first speak a blessing on those who have offended me. Then, the moment I feel the relief, I simply say, "I send away the offense and pain." I then allow myself to feel it leave. Then I express gratitude to my heavenly Father!

When we refuse to bless there is no escape from the pain of offense. It becomes a rot that eats away at our joy and peace. In those times of negative emotions our immune function is limited, creating the opportunity for sickness and disease. The negative emotions give rise to an acidic imbalance that is a breeding ground for nearly every imaginable illness! We then mistakenly think this is the product of the offense. We grow even bitterer at the person we blame for destroying our life.

But the culprit is not the offender. This is why Jesus warned us to watch out for ourselves when offense came and to send it away seven times seventy each and every day if need be! Blessing and cursing, even when focused on someone else, then becomes a way of life that we unintentionally focus on ourselves and our loved ones.

James says it like this, *For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.* (James 3:6-10) We train the tongue, and then we put our minds

in auto-pilot with little awareness that what we once spewed onto others is now polluting our own pool!

Verses 11 and 12 go on to say, *Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.* Once our spring yields salt water it becomes corrupted and all who drink from it are poisoned whether friend, family, or enemy!

Those who make blessing a way of life discover a new power and confidence in their words. The operation of faith is, after all, closely related to your confidence that your words will come to pass. In the midst of Job's complaining, blame shifting, and personal irresponsibility God said to him, If you will acquaint yourself with God, receive instruction, be at peace, and return to the Almighty (Job 22: 20-23) then, *You shall also decide and decree a thing, and it shall be established for you; and the light [of God's favor] shall shine upon your ways.* (Job 22:28, AMP)

When we return to God's ways of blessing and not cursing we create the future we have decided upon. We live in peace, prosperity, and joy. But we must remember that life and death are in the power of **our** tongue. God has set life and death before us through the power of blessing and cursing. It is up to us to choose life and to create the blessing by the words of our mouth.



# Limitless Power

By Jim Richards

In John 15:8 Jesus said, *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.* Answered prayer, miracles, healings, and a life lived in victory glorifies God. It is His utmost desire that this be the fruit of our life. A fruitful, abundant life allows us the emotional freedom to give ourselves to the purposes of God, to serve others and make our life count. The truth is, it is a poor reflection of who God is and how He treats His family when we live at a substandard level.

There seems to be many ideas about how we reach this place where we “bear fruit!” I don’t know that any approach is totally wrong, but it could be that certain approaches are easier. Instead of a life of formulas God desires relationship. He desires that all we have in Him be the outgrowth of our experience as sons. I have found that the more I spend quality time with God, the more His desires become my desires and the more I live the outcome He desires!

The psalmist said, *For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.* (Ps 36:9) True abundant life is with and in Him! It is not a formula, it is an intimate experience. In the peace of His presence we are able to see life with no agendas, complications, or limitations. We are able to see life the way He desires us to experience it! In His light everything becomes clear, understandable, and believable! In that light we always experience life!

In fact, Jesus teaches us that for the “organic” process of living a limitless life we must maintain the unity of who God is and what He does. He doesn’t give us a secret formula to get something from God; He identifies God and His presence with all that He has to offer! Jesus said this about experiencing the quality of life God is offering: *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.* (Jn 17:3) The ultimate quality in life is not what we can get from God, it is what we can have in God!

In John 15:7 Jesus said, *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.* The real key to experiencing the answer to our prayers is found in experiencing God Himself! When you experience God you experience the answer to your prayer!

When you experience Jehovah-Rophe, you experience the Lord who heals as **your** healer. When you experience Jehovah-Shammah, you experience the Lord as **your** peace. It is not what God has to offer as much as it is who God is. With Him is the fountain of life and in His light we see the light. We see the light of healing, prosperity, peace, and joy. We see the light of all He is and drink from that fountain. Within this concept is the secret of His name. Those who know His name and believe in His name know what that name brings. I know God as healer because that is His name. There is no separating His name from His works. But knowing the definition does not equate knowing by experience!

Ps 140:13 says, *Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.* When we know and believe in any of the names of God, we will embrace that name, acknowledge that name, and abide in the presence of what that name means. I cannot abide in the presence of Jehovah-Rophe and fail to experience Him as healer! It could be that too often we have sought what God has more than we have sought God Himself. In our desperation we may sometimes reject God while desiring His gifts. We attempt to abide in healing without abiding in the Healer!

The Bible tells us to believe *in* the name of the Lord. This preposition could be in, by, through, or with. When I consider what it means to believe *in* the name of God I have this image of being *inside* that name, being totally *immersed*, *covered* over, *filled* with, and *surrounded* by the name. That name becomes my high tower, my refuge, my shield, and my rear guard. There is no place that I do not see and feel that name. This may be similar to what Jesus was talking about when He said, *Abide in me and My words abide in you!* He may have been describing this wonderful feeling of being lost in Him!

In one of the Dead Sea Scrolls this passage of Scripture is translated something like this, *Surround yourself with me...* Calling on the name of the Lord is more than just saying a name; it is being able to attach to, immerse ourselves in, and be emotionally connected to the name and all that it means. Isa 40:31 says it like this, *but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.* In this passage the word *wait* means to entwine, or wrap one’s self around. As we wrap ourselves around God, abide in Him, and allow Him to abide in us we exchange our strength for His. We lose who we are in exchange for who He is.

Power is not just in the fact that we verbally say the *name*; it is in our capacity to totally immerse ourselves in the name and what it means. In the Dead Sea Scroll John 15 goes on to say *Surround yourself in me and surround yourself in the answer and you will have whatever you ask.* When we are surrounded with God we are surrounded with the answer.

This is the root and substance of believing in our heart: When our thoughts, feelings, and emotions are totally harmonized with the reality of God and who He is. In fact, when we believe in our heart we have no sense of separation from who He is and who we are. We discover what Jesus meant when He said we could be *one* with Him and the Father. There is no greater sense of abiding than totally losing all sense of self in Him!

The secret to limitless power is not in formulas or incantations. When I lose myself in an all powerful God, nothing is impossible. It is in Him, in His limitless love and limitless power, that we discover the sense of limitless that truly makes *all things possible!* It is here that fruit grows effortlessly. Lose yourself in God. When you lose yourself, you lose all the limitations that come from being you!

When people do the Heart Physics program the two primary realizations are an abiding sense of *Christ in me* and the unmistakable sense of *limitlessness!* Do whatever it takes to know God in a way that ushers you beyond all limitations!

*Heart Physics: The key to positive, painless, permanent, effortless change!*



## Conference: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 2009

*By Bev van Diepen*

Canadian winters are long and cold. This year, while the thunderstorms and snow squalls tantalized our hopes for Spring we got ready for the conference with Jim Richards focused on our "Born Identity."

Our venue was the Radisson hotel in Edmonton. The spacious banquet hall fitted with round tables and chairs, potted plants in bright Spring colors, lovely chandeliers, and a stage set the scene.

The conference ran from Friday morning, through Saturday with evening sessions both days, and finished with worship and teaching on Sunday morning.

What happens to people at a conference such as this? I am reminded of truths that I

have learned, I am challenged to live the truths that God is leading me into, and the worship brings me to God who longs to be experienced by us every day of our lives.



## *From tears of sorrow to tears of joy!*

I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma 17 years ago. Last night I heard about two acquaintances who had cancer return. That brought up some negative emotions-fear!

I did what Jim said to do when we went back to our rooms. I began meditating on who I am in Christ! Then I fell asleep.

I woke up after 5:00 a.m. and began picturing myself going thru the cross (Gal. 2:20) and seeing that Jesus conquered death, heal and the grave. I then saw myself in Him as resurrected. I was total bright "light." Over at the side the accuser wanted to fight, but said I wasn't "fighting fair." Because I saw that Jesus as the Son of man was perfect and illegally crucified, I was legally made right in Him. I am totally as he is: "Light and Righteous."

*As He is so are we in the  
world 1 John 4:17*

## More Testimonies:

- I've gained peace and freedom to be everything God has created me to be.
- It's given me hope. It has changed my works-righteous life.
- I love the Heart Physics: it has been big in my life.
- I'm thankful for the revelation about my identity in Christ, His love for me, and how I can look at others with that same love.
- I can rest in Christ. I gained clarity on healing. My life has changed 180 degrees.
- Yes, I am perfect in God's eyes through Jesus.
- This confirmed what I have begun to do: using the faith of God and taking authority over situations. Imagine, believe, and speak out the scriptures that pertain to what I want in my life.
- Because Jesus as the son of Man was perfect and illegally crucified, I was legally made right in Him. I am totally as He is: full of light and righteousness.

# Getting to the Root of the Problem

By Jim Richards

Everyone who works with people knows that problems are only solved when we deal with the root issues: the beliefs of the heart. Traditional legalism approaches every problem with the advice “This is what you need to do!” Actions that are not based on faith (Rom 14:23) are sin, i.e., self destructive. They create a vicious cycle of effort and failure.

If we conquer a problem by sheer willpower we fall into pride, self-righteousness, and what the Bible calls *will worship*. (Col. 2:23) If we don’t conquer the problem we fall into one of two destructive ideas: 1) I have failed God, or 2) God has failed me. If, by our willpower, we do have seemingly apparent victory, in time we will fail. Some day our willpower will not be strong enough. We will be too tired or discouraged. Whatever the reason, in time, we will ultimately fail.

Taking action inconsistent with our beliefs leads to a conflicted life. A conflicted state occurs when there is a contradiction between the thoughts of the mind and the beliefs of the heart. When we know, intellectually, that we need to modify our behavior, yet we have some core belief that causes us to repeat it, we become vexed and tormented. The harder we try what we do not actually believe in our heart, the more tormented we become!

Actions without faith in the heart are what the Bible calls dead works! They lead away from the place of grace to the place of legalism. In the Scriptures death is always synonymous with separation. Works that are separated from faith are not empowered by grace (God’s ability!) In time our efforts will fail to produce the desired effect which leads to the root of bitterness! *Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.* (Heb 12:15-16, NLT)

When people are facing problems, especially long standing or repeated ones, there is only the answer to one question that really needs to come forth. “What do I believe that keeps leading me down this path?” Beliefs of the heart are not always easily identified. Seldom, if ever, can we identify the destructive belief through an intellectual process. The same “thinking” that gets us into trouble is the same thinking that masks our problem and keeps us in trouble.

Even the few counseling programs that acknowledge the power of heart beliefs often take months or even years to even identify the root problems. In our Heart Physics Coach Certification you will learn unique approaches that help you discover (sometimes in a matter of minutes) limited beliefs. No more weeks and weeks of questions and answers in the hope of some grand discovery!

By identifying the faulty belief we can immediately begin the process the Bible calls “put off/put on.” ...*Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.* (Eph 4:22-24, NKJV)

Just today, in my time with God, I took a few minutes and identified a belief of my heart that was causing me some difficulties. I spent time putting off that belief and renewing my mind with my true identity in Christ. Then, there was another area where I faced a physical problem and in just a few minutes I was able to identify that it was a physical issue, not a belief issue. Again, I put on the new man. I sought physical healing; I didn’t have to deal with any limiting beliefs.

Solving problems can be incredibly easy when we 1) really want to solve them, 2) are willing to take an honest look into our hearts, free of judgment, and 3) will follow the biblical prescription for transformation.

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May 2009

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