



### **Declaration**

*Please read this Scripture and have a 1-min exhortation before getting people to stand up and make the declaration.*

#### **James 3:3-6**

**3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.**

**4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.**

**5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!**

**6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.**

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE : Just as a horse is controlled by a small bit in the mouth, a large ship by a small rudder, and a little fire can consume a large forest - so is our tongue. The words we speak have a powerful effect on our own lives. In vs 6, James talks about the power of an evil tongue. An evil tongue defiles the entire body and effects the entire course of a man's life and is inspired (set on fire) by hell. But on the contrary we can say this about a good tongue - a good tongue blesses the entire body, blesses the entire course of a man's life and is inspired (set on fire) by God's Word.

### **Sunday March 22, 2015 Blessed to be a Blessing**

God desires to bless His people. But God blesses us for a purpose.

God blesses us so that we can be His channels of blessing to the world. Generosity, kindness and service are ways we fulfill this calling.

### **God's Call On Abraham**

#### **Genesis 12:1-3**

**1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.**

**2 I will make you a great nation; 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."**

Spiritually, we are Abraham's seed and we inherit this promise (Galatians 3:29)

God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to those around us.



There are many ways by which we can be a blessing to others.

**Romans 12:6-8**

**6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.**

We see that God has graced and gifted people in different ways. The exhortation is to use these gifts and grace God has given to us to serve Him and people.

Consider some of the gifts and graces listed above:

ministry or serving  
exhorting or encouraging  
liberality or giving  
mercy or showing compassion

Here are just a few ways that we bless those around us:

**#1, Through service**

We bless others by serving them, doing things for them, helping them in practical ways.

When we serve people - at home, at church or elsewhere, we do it to bless their lives. In your workplace as you serve in your organization, serve your customers, or other people - do it with the motivation of being a blessing to their lives.

*The world perceives those serving as lower than those being served. In God's Kingdom, the one who serves is the one who is stepping into greatness.*

**Matthew 20:25-28**

**25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.**

**26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.**

**27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—**

**28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**



## **#2, Through kindness**

We bless others by being an encouragement to them and being compassionate to them (exhortation and mercy). We demonstrate care and concern.

We compassionately identify and engage with people.

**Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.**

**Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

You show kindness by listening patiently, by speaking words of kindness, by deeds that encourage, cheer up a person, etc.

## **#3, Through generosity**

We bless people through generosity.

**Acts 20:35**

**I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "**

However, we need to be careful in what we give and to whom we give. In some situations it is better to give in kind, rather than in cash, in case people do not know how to manage money given to them. Also, we don't want people to abuse other's generosity or become dependent on people giving to them.

## **#4, Through Creativity/problem solving**

When we take on problems and bring solutions we are blessing people. Some problems we solve can literally bless thousands of people.

Joseph provided a solution by the wisdom God had given him to sustain Egypt and all the neighboring lands during the seven years of famine (Genesis 41).

*Lets just talk briefly about three realms (or spheres) where we can be a blessing:*

### **A, Blessing the Church (your community of believers)**

God blesses us so that we can be a bless to others - to those in the Church, the House of God or the family of God.



**Romans 12:13** distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

**Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Think of ways you can bless your local church body.

Think of ways you can bless the wider Church in the city.

Think of ways you can be a blessing to the wider Body of Christ across our nation or even in other nations of the world.

Think of ways you can serve, demonstrate kindness, express generosity and solve problems for God's people.

*As a local church from the early days, we determined to be a blessing to the Church in our city and nation through several ways:*

A, We give our **publications** away for free mainly for the benefit of many thousands of believers in places where they do not have access to Christian books or where they cannot afford to buy these for themselves.

B, We give **financially** to help others in doing the work of God.

C, We travel to places, share, preach, teach the Word of God as part of our **missions** work. We try to go to places/cities where there is a need for equipping and strengthening of God's people.

### **B, Blessing your sphere of influence (the world around you)**

We should look beyond and outside the Church as well, to bless others who we engage/interact with often, e.g. those in our community, our workplace.

Think of ways you can serve, demonstrate kindness, express generosity and solve problems for people in your sphere of influence.

**Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*As a local church, we make attempts to look for ways we can be a blessing to people in our city:*

A, Our **Catalyst** is one way, we as a Church are able to influence young lives, the lives of students in many schools with the truth of God's Word and values that will help them in their future.

B, One of the reasons as a Church we started **Chrysalis Counseling** is to help people in our city who are going through real life struggles and problems.



C, **Karunalaya** is our effort to help young girls, especially those who are orphaned or underprivileged, get an food, clothing, shelter and education and prepare for a future.

### **C, Blessing the world beyond**

We also need to think intentionally beyond our sphere of influence to regions where people need our help.

Think about the world beyond. In a connected world, this has become easier to do.

Think about people who do not have what we have in terms of daily life, necessities, education, health, etc.

Think about the spiritual needs of people.

Pray and ask God for ways you can serve, demonstrate kindness, express generosity and solve problems for people beyond our daily sphere of influence. Then step out, reach out and try to make a difference.

Jesus told us to go into all the world - regions we normally don't engage with - to make disciples, to touch lives and to make a difference.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>