

A message to start the New Year

8 January 2017

(This message the Lord gave me only at the point when I said “Amen” in the opening prayer the morning of 8 January 2017 in our church. I had to lead and it was a surprise, but God deliberately did this, so there could be no interference from my rational thoughts and study. He wanted a pure message, breaking open the Word verse by verse. As I started to pray I put my bible down and it fell open “somewhere” in the middle. When I opened my eyes Psalm 40 was waiting. So, while I was still How awesome is the Spirit?!) Quoting from the KJV:

Psalm 40:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

God inclining to us reminds us of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:24. The word for blessing means to kneel down to bless. Likewise, God kneels down from heaven to hear our cry. He is compassionate, He listens, He cares!

Psalm 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

This reminds us of Psalm 23 – God has brought us this far and we need nothing more and no-one else. He brought us through trials and tribulations and in general the world agrees that 2016 was a very challenging year. Yet, the Lord brought us through this all. We had to endure hardships, criticism and we might have gotten dirty in the process. He lifts us up and set our feet upon the Rock, Jesus Christ. Ps 37:23 confirms that the Lord orders our steps and that He delights in us. Therefore, we do not have to fear!

Psalm 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

God has brought us to green pastures and gave us a song of thanksgiving and thankfulness. He has brought us this far and we can trust in the Lord. As one preacher said: God has already been in 2017, we have nothing to fear.

Psalm 40:4 Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

We do not trust in men, we can only trust in the Lord. We can make plans based on our experiences and what we think can happen and that is good, but at the end we do not know how things will turn out. God will not let you down. His promises will happen in your life. We do not have to compromise to please people, God has it all under control. Remain steadfast and do not make decisions out of fear this year. Have the faith to remember where the Lord directed you.

Psalm 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

It will boost our faith if we remember where we were and all the miracles and works God has already done to bring us this far. He has been faithful and we can use these experiences to motivate others, so that they can be bold for the future. To remain standing is also a victory, even if you can sometimes feel you are not moving forward and just receive resistance. Ref 6:11 – the armour of God is to remain standing and to resist the enemy.

Psalm 40:6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

God is not moved by your efforts and your human understanding. He wants you to trust and believe.

Psalm 40:7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,
Everything to do is written down already. Everything we do is written down in heaven too.

Psalm 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

David is delighted in the Lord and the Word. God's Word and Spirit was his strength and his joy. May we follow suit, to delight ourselves in the Lord. What happens when you delight yourself in the Lord? (Answer in Ps 37:4)

Psalm 40:9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

We can declare the goodness of the Lord boldly and in confidence before we have experienced this year. We believe and say that 2017 will be a good year, amen?

Psalm 40:10 I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

We call those things that be not as though they were. This means that we speak into situations so that they can change for the better. Whenever you see that something bad is going to happen, resist it with the positive. Not like New Age, but as a Spirit filled child of God declare the outcome that should happen (meaning the right one that we really need, which is right and righteous). Declare boldly in the Name of Jesus – this is what we are ought to do. We create with our mouths.

Psalm 40:11 Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

We continue to praise and pray to the Lord. We pray for God's mercies and kindness, so that we might have a peaceful life.

Psalm 40:12 For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.

A key to success is to do introspection, to continually submit and ask for forgiveness. For this we need to stay humble. Through humility we will overcome.

Psa 40:13-17: Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me.

Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.

Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me, Aha, aha.

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

We will then look back and see how the Lord led us through this time, so that others can see and believe in God. At the end of this year you will have a testimony, so look forward to 2017 and see how God will work a way out for you. Believe and stand fast. Let us bow down and pray and dedicate this year, our lives and all our plans to the Lord.

Neil Marnewick
Beulah Ministries
Uitenhage