

## Don't Forget to Flush

Everywhere I look I see "WASTE." There is garbage everywhere! We need to remember to flush! No this is not an article on recycling. Unfortunately the waste I am speaking of cannot be recycled. I am talking about the great wastes of time, wastes of words, and wastes of opportunities to be a blessing. We take so much for granted in our daily lives. We act as if our next door neighbors are invisible. We live as if our actions do not impact anything or anybody else.

God seems to have another message about to be unleashed over the Ohio Valley. It is a message that I hear in my spirit. It is the Rachael's Challenge message being proclaimed by the schools on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wesbanco Arena. It is the message of the Vineyard Church's "Be the Blessing" campaign beginning later this month. It is also the message of Joyce Meyer's Love Revolution which is to be released September 22. It is the message about to be proclaimed all about the friendly city of Wheeling, WV. God wants us to realize the importance of being a blessing and of spending our life's resources of time, talent, treasure, and words well.

In this time of uncertainty for our nation this blessing message is more important than ever. In times of fear and loss it is easy for Satan to get us off balance. It is convenient to excuse our anger outbursts on stress. It is easy to yell at our family members. It is easier to tighten our wallets and not give to those in need. It is easy to develop a "what about me attitude." It is easy to hold on to bitterness and unforgiveness. It is easy for us to drown ourselves in our jobs, computer games, sports and homemaking activities without a care for Jesus or the world around us. The last I checked, God calls these messed up priorities "SIN!"

No matter how hard times are or may become, we can all give something. Blessings can be most anything. It is not necessarily money. The author of the The Five Love Languages points out that some of us are blessed by words of affirmation. Others appreciate acts of service or quality time together. Some are blessed by gifts. Others are blessed by touch.

Sometimes a smile, a hug, or a kind word will brighten someone's day. Sometimes sharing a few berries or veggies from the garden are just what the Great Physician ordered. Sometimes doing a few loads of laundry or babysitting can make a huge impact for a busy mom. Maybe grandma and grandpa need their toenails trimmed. Maybe the "school nerd" needs the support of someone brave enough to stand up for what is right. Just maybe someone who owes you money needs your patience as they gather funds in this economic crisis. Just maybe you too can be a blessing by.....???

These messages of being a blessing and of loving one another are nothing new. They have been a part of Christ's instructions for years and years. Maybe like any good teacher he realizes that we must review for the exam at the end of the journey. In review:

Luke 6:28 NIV Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Hebrews 13:16 NIV And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

1 Timothy 6:18 NIV Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

John 13:34 NIV A new command I give you. Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Jesus asked me to remind you to flush! Flush the waste of time. Flush the wasted opportunities to bless. Flush the wasted words