**Bible Study 2/29/2012 Brentwood Bible lunch Fellowship**

**“Removing Barriers to Favor” – Zech 1 v 16-21**

**Appetizer – How bad do you want the Lord?**

**Luke 18 v 1-8 (The Persistent Widow)**

**Luke 19 v 1-5 (Zacchaeus)**

**Mark 10 v 46-52 (Bartimeus)**

There are barriers that block our blessings everyday. Let us briefly explore some of the spirits, which exist in our lives that block our blessings.

A. A Covetous Spirit (Joshua 7:16-26) we read the horrible story of Achan whose blessings were blocked when he disobeyed

God and coveted a robe, silver, and gold. He robbed God. (Malachi 3:10) When God commands anything, He attaches a Promise every time. In this text there was a blessing for obedient giving and an unselfish heart, but a covetous spiritual barrier blocked this blessing.

B. A Worldly Spirit (II Timothy 4:10) is a barrier to blessings. Demas loved the things of this world so much he left Paul alone and thereby forfeited his blessings. The blessings which the world gives cannot compare to God’s bountiful gifts.

C. A Prayerless Spirit (James 4:1-3) can be a barrier to blessings. To receive a blessing we need to know what to pray for and stop praying selfishly. When there is no prayer life there are no blessings.

D. An Unforgiving Spirit (Luke 23:24) Jesus, dying on the cross, had a forgiving spirit which God received and He died thereby giving us the blessing of eternal life.

E. A Negative Critical Spirit (Matthew 7:1-5) can be a blessing blocking barrier. We must stop always judging and criticizing others. Criticism is the poorest substitute in the world for service. Learn to look for the positive and the good in others which will open up the flood gate for your blessings.

F. An Indifferent Spirit (Acts 18:12-17) has blocked blessings for many who have been confused about their “blessing drought.” To receive a blessing you must be concerned about the welfare of others.

G. A Spirit of Self Glorification (I Peter 5:6) can be a blessing blocker. A humble spirit to the service of God and others will increase your personal blessings.

H. A Spirit of Disobedience (I Samuel 15:10-35) is a barrier to your blessings. Saul was disobedient to God’s divine plan and lost his blessings. Ask God what He wants you to do and be obedient to what He says and the barriers to your blessings will be destroyed.

**What is next ?**

When God reveals these barriers then immediately remove them. How?

1. Recognize that there is a barrier.

2. Accept that you created the barrier.

3. Learn how not to refrain from constructing future barriers.

4. Learn the lesson God may have intended for you to learn by withholding the blessings.

5. Ask God to assist you to remove the barrier.

6. Prepare to receive your blessings, then give God thanks and praise while you share your blessings with others .