

## Choosing Content

by David Zerfoss  
from *Stress Less and Enjoy Each Day*

*But I focus on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.*

- Philippians 3:13

Life is lived here and now. Often we already have what we need, yet we look right past it hoping for something else to come our way.

*If I only had more money...*

*If I could own a house...*

*If I only had a bigger house, a better job, a nicer car...*

*If, if, if...*

*When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.* - Alexander Graham Bell

Living in North America we are afforded many exceptional opportunities to achieve and acquire many things. Yet we constantly hear stories of people who are extremely accomplished professionally and have vast riches or opportunities but are still incredibly unhappy. How can that be?

A common misconception among humanity is that riches will bring happiness.

**It's only a two-letter word, but that little word - "if" - stalls our growth and holds us back. When we "if" our lives away, we are giving away our power.**

We create a reason, an excuse, for why we aren't happy, fulfilled, and enriched by what we have today (and we have so much compared to most of the world). When King Solomon played this very game, he acquired everything under the sun and finally concluded that all of it "was all so meaningless - like chasing the wind" (Ecclesiastes 2:11). What could be less fulfilling than wind?

Countless individuals faithfully spend part of their pay cheques each week trying to win the lottery. They're looking for that ticket that will provide for a totally carefree, happy life. Yet how many times do these big lottery winners appear in the local paper a year or two later saying how they lost their house, their spouse, and their friends and that their life was ruined by that "win"? "If only I hadn't won the lottery!"

When we have an iffy perspective on life, we choose to ride down a road filled with stop signs rather than enjoying our present. You are stopped and can't move forward when "if only" starts your day.

Choose to start living in the present, embracing a spirit of gratitude, and you will suddenly realize that the signs around you are all proclaiming, "Go!"

*True contentment is a real, even an active, virtue - not only affirmative but creative. It is the power of getting out of any situation all there is in it.* - G. K. Chesterton

*God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.* - Saint Augustine

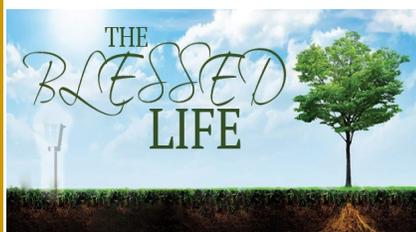
### Your Turn

Read Ecclesiastes 5. If money can't buy fulfillment, where can it be found? What have you accomplished or what have you attained that you never imagined you'd have or achieve? Who can you thank for these things? Are you missing out on enjoying what's happening in the present by living with an If Only mentality - wishing that something or someone else would come your way? .

# Hillside Highlights

[www.hillsidemoncton.org](http://www.hillsidemoncton.org)

April 30, 2014

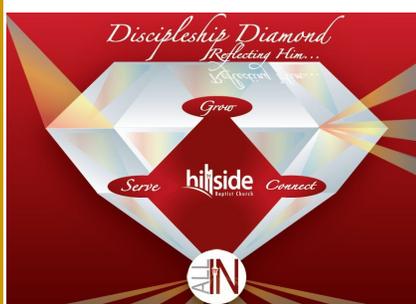


## This Sunday!

Don't miss week 2 of "The Blessed Life" series. Pastor Jerry's message this week is entitled "The Blessed Test". Join us for inspiring worship, communion and relevant teaching! And be sure to be reading the complimentary book you received on Sunday, more books will be available this Sunday if you weren't here to receive yours.



**Come be a part of the fun and fundraising on Sunday Night!** Our **Youth Mission Tour Team** are hosting a Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction starting at 5:30pm (doors open at 5:00). **Get your tickets** (\$10 each) before they are gone @ [hillsidemoncton.org](http://hillsidemoncton.org) — on the "Youth" tab click New York Silent Auction, you'll also see a list of auction items there!



## Upcoming Opportunities to Connect - Grow - Serve

► **Managing Our Finances God's Way** hosted by Terry MacPherson is a video-based small group study. Beginning this Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> for 7 weeks at 9:15am in the HYM Café **OR** May 25<sup>th</sup> & June 1<sup>st</sup> (2 weeks) 6:00 – 9:00pm, hosted by Joel Welch.

► **"Getting Started"** is a 75 minute snapshot of Hillside that's a great orientation for newcomers. Come, join others this Sunday @ 11am! You will learn more about our exciting ministry, vision, and how to get connected. It also includes a tour of our facilities.

► **"The Indestructible Marriage"** is video teaching by Jimmy Evans for all couples (Married, Engaged or Pre-Engaged) on 4 Monday Nights (only 4 weeks) 6:00-7:30 (May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>). The cost is \$10 per couple per week includes Child Care and supper (Pizza, Salad, and Dessert for adults).



Guys, our spring "Main Event" is **next Friday night**, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Come join your friends in our "Man Cave" from 6-9pm. Pastor Dave will bring a highly relevant message plus guest artist Tim Milner will be leading us in worship. And as always, these main events include food, friends, laughter, and honest conversations.



An evening of beautiful music paired with authentic stories tasty refreshments and shared with the best of friends! Experience Jason & Charmaine Grace Brown's powerful combination of poignant acoustic musicianship and stunning voices. On Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm) for ladies Grade 7 and up. The cost is \$15 each before May 16th and \$20 after or at the door! Tickets are available to be purchased online at <http://jasonandcharmaine.ticketleap.com/divine-ladies-night-out-may-22/> or in the lobby on Sunday



Wed. — PowerUP! (Kids 4 years old—Grade 5)

Thurs. — LIFT (Ladies Bible Study) 9:15am

Fri. — Ignition (Middle School) 7:00pm

Mon. — Monday Morning Bible Study 9:30am

Tue. — Mom2Mom 9:30am (Clothing & Book Swap) and final regular morning until Fall!  
— PALS (Pretty Amazing Ladies) 6:45pm  
— Ignition (Middle School) 7:00pm