



## Something for the Heart: A New Year's Blessing. . .

***May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6: 24-26***

This famous blessing from Numbers is given in preparation for a journey. It is given as the Israelites are preparing to leave Mt. Sinai and head to the Promised Land. No doubt, the people are filled with hope and anticipation. In addition to the usual anticipation that comes with setting out on a new adventure, the Israelites know that they are heading to the land that has been promised to them by God. There is much to look forward to.

As we sit here, at the beginning of a new year, we, too, are filled with hope and expectation as we anticipate all that is to come in the new year. Each new year is like the beginning of a journey as we look forward to twists and turns and hills and valleys – and new adventures that we will encounter in the coming year. The year is ripe with possibilities:

- Some of you may have made New Year's resolutions, with the goal of making specific improvements in your life. (Some of you may have already broken them!)
- Some of you are anticipating major events – graduations, weddings, births.
- Some of you have long-awaited trips that you are planning.
- Some of you may just be looking forward to a new beginning after a painful or difficult 2011.

In fact, according to a recent Associated Press poll, that would be most of you. 70% of Americans say 2011 was a bad year. And yet 78% are hopeful that 2012 will be a better year for themselves and their families. With a new year comes the possibility of new beginnings.

And so this “travel blessing” is particularly appropriate for us today at the beginning of 2012 because it reminds us that no matter where the journey takes us – we do not venture forth alone.

God goes with us.

God blesses us.

God keeps us.

God smiles upon us.

God gives us peace.

So, may the words of this ancient blessing become embedded not only in your mind, but in your heart, as you venture forth into this new year: *May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord 's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.”*

Many blessings to you in the coming year.

### **Quick Quips**

*Count your blessings. Once you realize how valuable you are and how much you have going for you, the smiles will return, the sun will break out, the music will play, and you will finally be able to move forward the life that God intended for you with grace, strength, courage, and confidence. ~ Og Mandino*

*The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings! ~ Henry Ward Beecher*

*An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others. ~ A.W. Tozer*