

# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



November 1, 2013 - Vol. 5

**I**t's the season to be thankful, but it's always more blessed to give than to receive.

We are all looking towards the holiday seasons for different reasons. Many are thinking of spending time with loved ones, sharing gifts and food and good times. But, there are many who are dreading the holidays for various reasons. They may have lost loved ones, they may be alone, they may be unwell, broken hearted or even incarcerated. So, for this Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we will remember and cherish the memories of our loved ones, and let us be mindful of not only those who are close to us, but especially to those who are strangers to us. Let us make it our aim to reach out to those who are less fortunate, those who are hurting, those who are alone, those who are sick or brokenhearted, those who are behind prison walls, those who are unemployed, and for those who are far away from home and will not make it home for the holidays. Visit the sick and shut in, reach out to comfort the lonely and broken hearted, share with those who are in need, pray for those who are discouraged, and give God thanks for all things, for it's the season to be joyful and to be thankful, but it's always more blessed to give than to receive.

**T**here is so much to be thankful for, I get lost giving thanks to God, who gives me so much.

We have so much to be thankful for, yet we grumble and complain about so much. We are reminded in Philippians 4:6 to be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication and with thanksgiving, to make our requests known to God. Isn't it amazing that there are so many ungrateful people in the world, who have more than they need and still complain, when there are still so many less fortunate around them? They complain about how bad their life is, when someone else is struggling badly just to live, they trample others to get to the top, while someone else is barely able to stand. They hoard more, when others have so little. People who have plenty are unthankful, and people who have little are thankful. Why? When we have plenty we take it for granted, but when we have little, all we could think of is gratitude. I get lost giving thanks to God, for he gives me so much, and I am constantly saying, "thank you Lord". I know how to look for the good in every bad situation, and I know how to give God thanks for everything. So, instead of complaining about what you don't have, get in the habit of being grateful, prayerful, and thankful to God, for he is good! All the time God is Good! Trust Him!

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**I**n everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

The people who have impacted my life in many ways are too numerous to single out, but I want to say, "a big thank you!" Many times, the people who genuinely have your back wants no praise, but you being grateful, what to tell the whole world how good that person was to you, and at varying times, something will trigger the memory of the good that was done to you, pause for a moment, first to thank God for enabling that person, then lift that person up in prayer, and vow to pass it on, to pay it forward. John F Kennedy said, we should stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives. But do we remember to do this? No! We take people for granted, especially if they are closest to us, we feel that they are doing what they should do, and therefore should not be thanked. That is why scripture reminds us to be kind to strangers, for if we do good to those we love, what is the reward? So, in the effort of encouraging others to be thankful, we should ourselves be thankful to others. But, where do we start? We must begin first by thanking God for all the doors he opened for us, and especially for those he closed for us, for the stumbling blocks he rolled out of our way, and the stumbling blocks he put in our way and the storms he brought us though, for the struggles that built our strength, then, be sure to thank the many people who encouraged and supported us along the way, the people who stepped back so that we could go forward, and give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.



**A simple "Thank You" is more than enough. Thank you, Lord!**

**W**hen you understand how much God loves you, you will begin to love him more.

Do you know how much God loves you? Do you really understand the fullness of God's love towards you? Do you doubt God's love for you? God's love surrounds us like a shield, his love guides us, his love for us is unthinkable and unsearchable. We are reminded of this in first John chapter,4 verses 9-11, that, In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. But, we are incapable of that love, because we don't love ourselves, and each other, we condemn ourselves, and in so doing, we hate and condemn our brothers and sisters. But, know that God is love, that God has shown us the way of love for he first loved us, and if he first loved us, then , we should love him too and one another. So, the next time you are tempted to doubt God's love for you, the next time you are being unkind to anyone, the next time you feel betrayed by anyone, remember how much God loves you and PRAY. God, give me an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to do your will and to persevere, a spirit to know and love you more, instill in me how to love others, and to fully understand just how much you love me, and forever embrace me in your loving arms. Amen!



**UNCONDITIONALLY SHARE THE LOVE**

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People come to know God in different ways, but most people come to know God after difficult days.

“How did you come to know God? Will you be willing to share that experience with someone else? I always knew God and where to find him when I needed him, but I really came to know God, when I gave my life totally to him. It was then and only then, that my needs became greater than my wants, and when I had no other way of having my needs fulfilled, I had no other choice, but to rely on God, and in relying on God alone, fostered an intimate relationship between us, and when you come to know someone on an intimate level, you truly get to know them. I am so thankful to God, that he was able to look beyond my faults and meet my needs. I am thankful, that he loved me so much that he said, I will supply all of your needs according to my riches in glory in Christ Jesus. But I also understand that this was his way of bringing me closer to him. Since then, I have found in God a personal companion, a friend who never changes, and whose love for me will never die. My brothers and sisters in Christ, do not wait until after difficult days to know God, but if you wait until the difficult days to know him, tell someone else how and where you found him, and give God the glory and praise.



**Is the sweetest thing that could happen to you and me.**

Where there is no struggle, there is no strength.

Our strength is made perfect in weakness; someone once said, “You never know how strong you are until being strong, is the only choice you have.” Have you ever been defeated but bounced back with such force that you amaze even yourself? Because godly people should be resilient people, we should know that God will not give us more than we could bear, that he did not intend for us to be bowed down, but lifted up, to be the head and not the tail, and we should understand, that God will work all things together for good to those who love him, and as such keep His commandment. Therefore, we should go through the storms of life as a conqueror, knowing that for each victory, God will move us to the next level. My brothers and sisters in Christ, where there is no struggle, there is no strength. Our character is built on the trials we face, for after we have been through the storm and look back, we could say, that this one could have easily killed me, but instead it only left me broken and bruised, but I know that I will be ok, because my great physician knows how to bind up and break our bonds apart, he is the master potter, our God of second chances, and what did not break us, will make us, for our strength is made perfect in weakness. So, now that you know, what you know, whatever you are going through, don’t give up, but allow your struggle to build your strength, for when you have no other choice but to be strong, it builds your joy in the Lord, and the joy of the Lord is your strength. So, will you allow your struggles to break you down or to build you up? Will you take comfort in God and rely on him for sustenance? Will you be joyful in your next tribulation? If you do, God will take your yoke upon him and give you rest.



**Be thankful for life’s struggles, for they make you stronger.**

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# PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

**S**ongs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song:

Come ye Thankful People Come

Written by: Henry Alford, 1810-1871

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home, all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin, God our Maker doth provide, for our wants to be supplied, come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield, wheat and tares together sown, are to joy or sorrow grown, first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear, Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome, grain, and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home, from the field shall in that day, all offenses purge away, giving angels charge at last, in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.



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# **I n s p i r a t i o n a l Q u o t e s f r o m t h e D e s k o f J e w e l l y n G r e e r**

I am thankful for the little things in my life that mean the most to me, grateful for the little things that were done for me, and blessed because of the little things I am able to do for others.

I am thankful to God for all that I have done right so far in my life, and I am grateful for all the wrongs in my life that God has made right.

I am blessed every day with something new to thank God for, and that is why I am thankful for the blessings of yesterday that won't fit into today.

I am my greatest motivator, I could pick myself up and I could bring myself down just as easily, but I am thankful that God was there to pick me up every time I let myself down.

When I am thankful, I am truly happy. When I am truly happy, I am eternally thankful.

I am grateful, I am thankful, I am truly blessed, and I owe it all to God.



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**O**ur spotlight is on you. I have so much to be thankful for, where do I begin?

I am thankful for today, for tomorrow is not promised to me. I am thankful for the people who treat me differently, because it makes me treat people kindly, I am thankful for not having a car as it allows me to breath the fresh air and enjoy the beauty around me as I travel to and fro. I am thankful when I overhear others talking about me, as it means that I could hear. I am thankful that my best friend gave up on me, it gave me the chance to get by on my own. I am thankful that I was hurt, now I will think twice about doing anything that will hurt someone else. I am thankful that when I was sick I was hopeful, for God made me well. I am thankful for the disappointments in my life, as they turned out to be true blessings. I

am thankful that my mother and grandmother taught me how to pray, so now, I teach my children how to pray. I am thankful, for the heart that God has given me, for I am able to praise him. I am thankful to those people who have helped me, as I now enjoy helping others, and I am most thankful to God, for every breath I take, for every move I make, for every opportunity I have received. I am thankful that I have made more right turns in my life than wrong turns, but for the wrong turns I have made, I have been given a second chance to stop and recalculate my journey. Thank you Lord. When I am thankful, I am truly happy. When I am truly happy, I am exceedingly, abundantly, thankful.

*What Are  
You  
Thankful  
For?*

**Be sure to say, thank you God, for blessing me, each and every day!**

**C**hildren's Corner: Thankful children become thankful adults. Are you teaching your children to be thankful?



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Childhood songs that we have learned have been passed on for generations. Let's keep it going. If you have a song that you would like to share, email it. Here is one of my favorites as our featured children's song:

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Written by Frederick Whitfield, 1855

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ears, the sweetest name on earth.

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free; It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!

It tells me what my Father hath, in store for every day, and though I tread a darksome path, yields sunshine all the way.

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe, who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!



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**Match the correct answers to the questions**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
God healed ten lepers. How many came back to thank him?	It Spoiled
Moses was hidden by his mother to prevent him from being killed. Where did she hide him?	Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
God told the children of Israel not to save manna for another day. What happened when they did?	Satan
Who wanted to kill Jesus when he was a baby?	One
Who was Jacob's mother?	Herod
What is the only sin that cannot be forgiven?	Rebecca
Who told Eve that it was ok to eat from the tree of life in the Garden of Eden?	Thomas
One of Jesus' disciples did not believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Which one was that?	The river



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