

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT BEING THANKFUL

Psalm 100

Introduction: To be sincere, the heart has to be involved. Ever tell someone "thank you" and not really mean it? Sometimes those words are uttered and they are not even remembered by the person who spoke them. They just came out automatically. It happens to just about everybody in moments of being courteous but the heart isn't involved. Being sincerely thankful involves more than just uttered words. For instance a little girl was forced to eat something she didn't like and say "thanks" before she could get down from the table. After a time of silence and finally eating that which she didn't like, the little girl said, "I'm thankful that I didn't get sick eating that yucky stuff, now can I get down?" On the other side however, there are people who can find reason to be thankful who really don't have a reason to be thankful. There is a story about a man who had been an invalid all his life, strapped to his bed having to have oxygen continuously who was always happy. When asked about being happy, he replied that the nights made him happy for from his bed he could see the stars and he would gaze up at the stars every night and he even had his own names for them. So every night he would be surrounded by his "friends" the stars whom he knew by the names he had given them. He was thankful and happy.

I. ONE CAN BE THANKFUL THAT SOME BASIC THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED

1. God is still God and there is no other God.
2. We have been made in God's image, by Him, for His purpose of fellowship.
3. We, as Christians, are His family, His children, and He knows each of us personally.
4. We are like Sheep and God will care for us.
5. God is good and has only our best interests in mind.
6. God's mercy is forever and it never wavers and will never cease.
7. God's truth lasts for all eternity and will always be the same for each generation.

II. JUST TAKE A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE PAST YEAR

1. Has God blessed you? Take a look back.
2. Has God increased and enlarged your life? Consider these areas:
 - in opportunities?
 - in service to Him and His Church?
 - in ministry to Him?
 - in finances?
 - in responsibility?
 - in accountability?
3. Has God protected you? Think about it.
 - Has God kept His hands around you?
 - Has God kept Satan away from you?
 - Has God kept you from sinful habits?
 - Has God led you through temptations?

III. THINK ABOUT THIS: WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT OTHERS DO NOT?

1. Can you see? Countless cannot.
2. Can you hear? Many cannot.
3. Can you speak? Many are silent and cannot.
4. Can you walk? Remember seeing those in wheel chairs or on crutches?
5. Can you think? Institutions are filled with those who have lost their ability to think.
6. Go visit a nursing home and look at all those dear old people there, do you live there?

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you have someone you can be thankful for?
2. Take a look up at the stars at night and begin to give each one a reason you are thankful.
3. The God who has given you reason to be thankful up to this moment, won't desert you today or tomorrow or ever.
4. Just think, the God who made this world, made us, did so for the purpose of knowing us and being a part of our everyday lives and will one day bring us from here to a place He is preparing for us this very moment and there we will spend eternity with Him.
5. See, you have lots of reasons to be sincerely thankful and those are from the heart reasons.
6. Why not take some time with God and tell Him how thankful you really are.