

# Live with a Thankful Heart

We must learn to be thankful for everything that God has given to us. Learn to be thankful for friends, family, hard times, good times, food to eat, shelter from the rain, storms, cold weather...or whatever. The Bible tells us to be thankful in all things. In every way possible, try to live each day with a thankful heart. Unfortunately, many people do not choose to be thankful, but being thankful opens the doors for God to bless us.

To be thankful, a person must realize that God is choosing to interact with them in their everyday life. Whether things are as good as what we desire or not, is irrelevant. God has given us all good things and He blesses us even when we don't deserve it.

Not long ago I was having a not-so-good day. I don't recall the events (nor do I desire to) but I was a bit agitated. It seemed nothing I did turned out right. I knew it was just an attack, but I was struggling to be thankful or positive. As I was preparing dinner, I was fussing about some things. Now I rarely act like this and I kept telling myself to "Stop. Think about what you're saying," but before I knew it, I was complaining again. I guess we all have our days.

In any case, as I was making gravy it splashed onto my hand and I screamed because the oil was cooking my skin. I ran to the sink and rinsed with cold water. My daughter saw what was happening and was deeply concerned. She asked if I was okay and all I said, "Yes." When I pulled my hand from the cold running water, there was barely a red mark where the gravy had splashed. There was absolutely no burn at all, and I knew I had just witnessed a miracle. I went on cooking dinner with not even a slight burning sensation. I began crying in thankfulness to the Lord and said, "Lord, I don't even deserve such an instant healing, an instant miracle after all my complaining. So, I thank you God. I thank you. I thank you God ..." I couldn't thank Him enough for what He did when I felt so undeserving. I did not excuse myself for bad behavior, instead I cried and repented for all my fussing and complaining. I never want my blessings and promises hindered because of my complaints.

What I do know is that God is still on the throne, seeing the good and the evil, and He hears all our complaints. I was so glad that He overlooked my faults that day and still showed me mercy. Truly He hears our every cry, our every complaint, our every confession, our every thought, and our every intent of doing good. And I am soooo thankful that He forgives and blesses us despite ourselves. He knows our hearts - better than we know it ourselves. I am still learning to live with a thankful heart.

Dear Jesus,

I thank you that you are faithful to forgive. I am thankful for the many times that you've given me miracles - even in my mess. I am thankful for the big things - but especially the little things that no one sees but me.

I am so thankful that you know my heart, you know my complaints, you know everything about me, yet you still love me. I ask that you heal my wounded heart and remind me to think of you every day and what you have done and be thankful. You have loved me though I'm not perfect. I pray that you will bless me, right where I am, and even in the mess that I've created.

Now Jesus, bring me hope when I have none. Help me to be encouraged and to encourage others. Help me to know what faith means and what love really feels like. Let the pains of my past be healed so I can move forward, knowing that you are my God. I pray for fear and hopelessness to go away. I know in my heart that I'm not worthy for you to be in my life, but I am comforted and thankful because you are - each and every day! Help me to be thankful, even in all the little things. Thank you that you are mindful of me when I've haven't been mindful of you. Help me Jesus to learn to live a thankful life. Amen!

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