

Giving Thanks - by Lorelei Pepe

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever".- Psalm 107:1

How often during these difficult times do we stop and give thanks? How about thanking one another for the small things that happen daily? Rudeness in my opinion seems to reign more than kindness. So what happened to helping a stranger, or a neighbor and being respectful and kind in this crazy world?

After Covid, being isolated so long I believe people were so happy to be in the world again, they were kind and were actually nice to even strangers. But as time goes on and distractions occur people forget and become self-absorbed once again.

And what about thanking God? Our most heavenly and high Father and Lord? Do we just take him for granted? He gives us our breath and life everyday we wake up, but that is just expected. Instead of reaching for the cell phone, first thing, why not reach for your Bible, or the Daily Bread to help you pray and guide you through the day. I know after my prayers and self Bible Study I am inspired to write. I know this gift comes from God and the Holy Spirit. I am blessed to write and praise the Lord.

I am one of the few people that love the great outdoors and all the seasons. I get excited when I see the sunshine streaming in my windows in the morning, looking at the trees swaying in the breezes and hearing the sweet voices of the birds. I love the change of the seasons, especially fall, with the turning of the leaves that gives us a beautiful palette of colors.

I remember when I was very young, my mom emphasized to us how important it was to write a "thank you" note for every gift I received, no matter what the occasion was. I still doing that and feel it is so much more personal, than just an email. I enjoy getting the "snail mail" and thrilled when someone reciprocates to me in the same way. Technology is doing away with that now and writing seems to be a lost art. Even with this AI technology, you no longer even have to think for yourself. Very sad in my estimation.

And I think back to Jesus, who lived the simplest life on this earth, He was humble, and not materialistic. He never worried about clothing or food or where his next meal would come from. He walked the lands preaching and teaching simply the words of the Bible. All who met him, were never the same. They recognized his presence, and his faith which was unshakeable in times of trials and separation. Yet, he gave thanks constantly and trusted in his heavenly Father.

So with the time of Thanksgiving approaching I give thanks to him first and realize how abundant our lives can be with him in it. Let us be more like him in every way.

I praise dear Lord Jesus, for life and everything that he has granted me. I hope others think about him in this way, and remember to pray. That's all it takes!