

“WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.



AAAAAWWWHHHHHHHHH Thanksgiving; my favorite Holiday! This time of year always takes me to a place of peace, comfort and reflection. It makes me all warm and fuzzy on the inside – there is no financial pressure to get in debt, there is no long list of people to shop for, no late night gift wrapping, and no added concern to be politically correct when verbally acknowledging the holiday.

Dictionary.com defines the word “thankful” as grateful and appreciative. The Greek transliteration of the word “thankful” in Strong’s Concordance is “eucharistos”. In Helps™ Word Studies it states, the word “thankful” means “thankful for God’s grace working out what is (eternally) good; grateful, which literally means “graceful (thankful) for God’s grace” (what brings His eternal favor).” So even though my brother passed away the day after Thanksgiving in 1985; even though my mother passed away in May 1999; even though I had to announce to my family and friends my decision to divorce my ex-husband on Thanksgiving Day in 1999; even though me and my children had to move out of our home as a result of my divorce; even though I lost my job two weeks before Christmas in 1999; and even though my Father passed away two days before Thanksgiving in 2003, I still have so much more to be thankful for. I got to spend one last Mother’s Day with my Mother. God blessed me with a brand new job, which allowed me to be able to purchase a brand new home for me and my children and a brand new car to travel back and forth to work. And I got an additional four and a half more years with my father after my mother passed away. Now that’s eternal favor! I’m grateful for my incredible journey thus far with the Lord! Through each test, each trial and each tribulation in my life, God was there with me to see me through. He never left me alone. He was right by my side. I realize now that everything I’ve gone through, am going through right now and will go through is all for His glory and honor. My tests will become my testimony. And for that I say, “Thank You Lord!” Now tell me, “What are you thankful for?”

When I find myself focusing on all that’s wrong in my life, and constantly dwelling on what I perceive as a state of lack in my life, or when I bemoan what I feel is a burden in my life that has unfairly been placed on my little shoulders, I stop and reflect on the mercies of God that I experience every morning. I remember everything He’s already brought me through. Then I remind myself that my God is BIGGER than any situation, any circumstance or any opposition that could ever come my way. As if it happened only yesterday, the day my mother passed away she told me three times, “God won’t put on you any more than you can bear!” I didn’t understand why she kept telling me that. But apparently, she knew that if I kept on living that further up the road, I would experience life’s challenges. She knew she would not be here to guide me. So with her last breath and ounce of strength she desperately wanted me to know that if God brought me to it, He would take me through it! I stand firm on those words. And for that I say, “Thank You Lord!” Now tell me, “What are you thankful for?”

I will forever be thankful to God for blessing me as He has already done, is now doing, and yet will do. I thank Him for my life, my health and my strength. I thank Him for providing my daily bread. I thank him for his awesome favor over my life. I thank Him for allowing my gift to make room for me. I thank Him for opening up the windows of Heaven and pouring out blessings I don’t have room enough to receive. I thank Him for the shift in the atmosphere that I see unfolding right before my very eyes. And I stand in awe at His sovereignty and His supremacy!

I encourage you today stop speaking negatively into your life! Instead, seek God in your every situation. God will get the glory if you keep the right attitude and allow God to grow you up in Him. Now tell me, “What are you thankful for?” Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!