

“AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”

Psalm 106:1 - “Praise the Lord; O give thanks for God's goodness and mercy that endure for ever!”

I have found that the season of the Christian's faith journey between Thanksgiving and Epiphany is an incredible opportunity to recount your blessings. Psalm 106 focuses on David as he recounts the ways that God blessed Israel, in spite of themselves, prompting him to conclude that God is worthy of our thanks and praise. It is true that this psalm is a historical narrative of the many ways that God blessed Israel, even as an apostate nation that was stubborn, unfaithful, and sinful. The psalm recounts God's blessings from the point of Israel's liberation from Egypt to their arrival in the Promised Land. As Israel's history is recounted, it exposes their sin and clearly demonstrates the charity and mercy of the Lord in their experiences.

As Christians living life today in the midst of tremendous conflict, turmoil, and uncertainty, the challenges to maintain clear perspectives on our faith are imperative.

We have come through some major challenges to our lives and to our faith. It is clear that it is very difficult today to maintain an attitude of gratitude as we live from day to day. There are great similarities between the travail of the Israelites and our situations today.

David's own recounting of God's actions, as he assessed each one slowly and meticulously, revealed what the people could not understand and did not remember. His investigation showed that in moments when they felt God had forsaken or abandoned them, God was actually blessing them. Thus the phrases “understood not” and “remembered not” became the informative phrases used to indicate their frustrations with God.

There are some things in our lives that are harmful to maintaining an attitude of gratitude. We soon forget that God is in the blessing business and that God's blessings are new every day. We soon forget that it is by God's purposes and not ours that we are set apart for the work that God has ordained us to do as Servant Leaders. We are stubborn to the point of believing that we are responsible for the blessings that God bestows upon us in our lives.

God has been good to us! This is why each day, I won't complain. And when I see God's blessings in my life daily, then I have the foundation upon which I can build an attitude of gratitude that will carry me each day, until I realize that in Jesus all things are focused.

***IN MEMORY OF
THE LATE
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