

“INTENTIONAL GRATITUDE: BEING THANKFUL IN 2020”

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22, 2020

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INTRODUCTION:

2020 is an unusual Thanksgiving for us! Isn't it? Thanksgiving is not an easy holiday for a lot of people. Anybody in pain has a hard time being grateful. How do you be thankful at Thanksgiving when we continue to live with coronavirus, masks, social distancing, stress, and anxiety? How do you be thankful at Thanksgiving if the person you loved the most just walked in and said, "I don't love you anymore; I'm leaving you for somebody else." How do you be thankful when you have a chronic illness that just isn't getting any better? How do you be thankful this Thanksgiving when you've been laid off and fearful of your finances? How do you be thankful when your dream has collapsed? How do you be thankful when you are still reeling from the loss of someone you love and a person you care about commits suicide? Two thousand twenty could have been a hard year for you.

How am I supposed to be thankful this Thanksgiving? On the other hand, maybe you are doing well and have a heart full of gratitude. Maybe this time has been a wonderful blessing to you. The goal today is to inspire you to rethink, make a decisive choice, an intentional move toward gratitude. Think about it - intentional gratitude, being thankful in 2020. You might think of plenty of reasons not to be thankful. You might say "Let's just move on to next year." God has been speaking to me. Don't miss it. Don't miss how God might heal you and help you find new hope as you follow His principle of Thanksgiving in your life today! Let's do it. Let's celebrate Thanksgiving 2020!

The Bible tells us to **always be thankful**. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV), it says this:

*"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Break it down. What is God saying to us?

**GIVE THANKS** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL CIRCUMSTANCES** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR THIS** \_\_\_\_\_

**IS GOD'S WILL** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR YOU** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN CHRIST JESUS** \_\_\_\_\_

**INTENTIONAL GRATITUDE TO GOD - WHAT CAN I THANK GOD FOR?**

**1. I CAN ALWAYS THANK GOD FOR \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”*  
Ephesians 2:8 (NLT)

*“I will...not forget the glorious things God does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me. He ransoms me from hell. He surrounds me with love... He fills my life with good things... He is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it; He is slow to get angry... He never bears a grudge... He has not punished us as we deserve for our sins.”*  
Psalm 103:2-10 (LB)

**2. I CAN ALWAYS THANK GOD FOR \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*  
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

*“We know that in all things God works for the GOOD of those who love him and have been called according to his purpose.”*  
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

**3. I CAN ALWAYS THAT GOD FOR \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“I will never leave you and I will NEVER abandon you.”*  
Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

*“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you! When you pass through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned up; it will NOT consume you!”*  
Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God.”*  
Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

*“Thank the Lord and praise his name! TELL THE WORLD about his wonderful love!”*  
Isaiah 12:4 (Living Bible)

**INTENTIONAL GRATITUDE I CAN SHARE**

YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING FOOD: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON(S) YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

A SPECIFIC BLESSING YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

I PERSONALLY THANK GOD FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

- Inspire you to be THANKFUL with Thanksgiving Quotes from our Church family.

*“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God...”*  
Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

*“Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done.”* Colossians 2:7 (Living Bible)

- My Tribute: “How can I say THANKS for the things you have done for me?”