

Be Grateful

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful” Colossians 3:15

Stop. Before you read the rest of this article, look around you. Now, look at yourself. Think about where you are, what you have and where God has brought you from. Consider all that God has done for you and given you not just throughout your life but, just today alone. What I am trying to get you to see is that you are blessed. Yes, you may not have everything you want. You may have some challenges, aches and pains but, when you stop and think about it, most, if not all of us, have more to give thanks for than we do to complain about. Each of us must understand that if we really want to get the most out of our life and our relationships, we must learn how to be (more) grateful.

What does God owe you? Nothing. What has God given you? A lot. What do we deserve from God? Death. What has God given us? Life. If there is one thing we need to be grateful for is our God and that He never gives us what we deserve. He always gives us what we need. We need to be grateful for the salvation that God has given us through Christ. Think about the mistakes you’ve made in the past...those times when you know you sinned. Now, imagine if God had not shown you mercy and grace and given you a second, third, fortieth chance. Be grateful.

Consider the people God has placed in your life. So often, we do not recognize the value of the people in our lives until they are gone. The people in your life are not there by coincidence...not even those who trouble you. God has strategically placed them there to help you to grow and become the person He wants you to be. Your family, friends and even your enemies...these people have helped you to understand what love is and what love is not. In many instances, God has worked through them to bring joy and encouragement to your life and keep you from falling. Be grateful.

Did you know that it is estimated that 100 people die every minute? While you have been reading this article, someone somewhere passed away. Life itself is a blessing. Having the opportunity and ability to wake up and experience another day is a gift that so many of us take for granted. So many show their ingratitude for the gift of life by wasting the seconds, minutes and days that God gives them. Just think, there are a lot of people that have left this world or are totally incapacitated that would love to have what you have right now...life. Be grateful.

So what are you complaining about? Look around you and see the goodness of God. Smile! Stop focusing on what you don’t have and be grateful for the blessings you do have. Make a commitment to recognize and appreciate the blessings that God has placed in your life. Don’t wait until Thanksgiving to show an attitude of gratitude. To truly enjoy life and get the most out of your relationship with God and others, you must learn to give thanks not just once a year but daily. Be grateful.