



Things to be Thankful For

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Scripture Meditation

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess His name.”

Hebrews 13:15

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

II Corinthians 9:15

30 Day Gratitude Journal

Write about an act of kindness shown towards you during a holiday season.

30 Day Gratitude Challenge

Pay it forward at a restaurant (pay for someone else’s meal).

Prayer Concentration:

Pray a those whose family members are deployed.

Prayer of Gratitude

Lord we thank You for the power and presence of Your Spirit. Guide us with the Your Spirit so that as we are blessed, that we will also be a blessing to others. In Jesus Name we pray, **amen.**

Observation

As I consider things that I am thankful for and the alphabet that fits me, it is the letter “I”. Having selected the “I”, it is not one “I” but three. The first is indwelling. In plainer words I speak of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I am reminded of the occasions that I felt this powerful presence. It was in 1975 in Burkeville, VA. There were four of us in a room, two missionaries (both elderly white men), myself and a young lady. One of the men laid hands on me and prayed. A power went thru my heart like a lightening bolt. Just to make sure that I was not the only one that felt it, the young lady said she felt the same thing. I have been thankful for that presence and power to this day.

The second “I” is Integrity. It is because of that presence that this second “I” reaches me with greater strength, especially, in the times in which we now live. The Word seems to not matter to a lot of folks nowadays. We’ve got politicians (some Christian) serving us a steady diet of lies and obfuscation with a side order of hate for good measure. On the contrary, it is very refreshing to associate with people that value this “I” as much as I do.

My third “I” is insight. This affords me the opportunity to better activate the previous two “I’s” - to determine what it is that God would have me do in His service. I am thankful that these “I’s” help me to rightly divide the Word. They help me to live vicariously with those who are sick and those who mourn. If the truth be known, these “I’s” are a blessing, and they are also a burden. I am reminded of our Lord in the garden when the weight of what He knew was to come was so painful that He was sweating drops of blood. Ministry and that kind of insight is a blessing as well as a burden, in my opinion, both of which I am grateful for.

Questions to Ponder

How do you show God how thankful you are for His love and goodness?
