



## Daily Devotionals – November 24, 2024

### Gratitude That Transforms

#### Day 1: The Foundation of Gratitude

**Scripture:** *“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”* (Psalm 107:1, NIV)

#### Reflection:

Gratitude begins with acknowledging who God is. His goodness and steadfast love form the foundation of our thanksgiving. No matter our circumstances, God’s love never fails. This enduring truth gives us a reason to praise Him daily.

#### Story:

In the fall of 1942, during World War II, a small congregation in England gathered to give thanks despite their hardships. Food was scarce, the war had claimed many lives, and the future seemed uncertain. Yet, the pastor reminded them to reflect on God's past faithfulness. Their hearts lifted as they shared stories of protection, provision, and small mercies. One elderly woman stood and shared how her only son had been miraculously saved during a bombing raid. “We don’t thank Him for the bombs,” she said, “but for the shelter He provides in the storm.” Her testimony reminded everyone that gratitude doesn’t depend on perfect circumstances but on a perfect God.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your goodness and love that never wavers. Teach us to see Your hand in all things, even when life is hard. Help us remember that Your love endures forever, giving us hope and joy. Open our hearts this week to practice gratitude as a way of life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## **Day 2: Gratitude in Provision**

**Scripture:** *“And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.”* (Matthew 14:19, NIV)

### **Reflection:**

Jesus gave thanks even before the miracle of feeding the 5,000. His gratitude preceded abundance, showing us the importance of trusting God with what we have, no matter how small it seems.

### **Story:**

Sarah, a single mother of three, faced her first Thanksgiving after losing her job. With only a few cans of soup and a loaf of bread, she struggled to see how she could celebrate. That evening, a knock came at her door. Her neighbor stood there with bags of groceries and a warm pie. “I felt like God wanted me to bless you,” the neighbor said. Sarah wept, not just for the food but for the reminder that God sees and provides.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for providing for our needs, even in ways we don’t expect. Help us trust You when resources seem small, knowing You can multiply them for Your glory. Teach us to be content with what we have and to share it generously with others. Amen.

## **Day 3: Returning to Say Thanks**

**Scripture:** *“Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?’”* (Luke 17:17, NIV)

### **Reflection:**

Ten lepers were healed, but only one returned to thank Jesus. Gratitude often gets lost in the busyness of life, yet it is a powerful way to worship and draw closer to God.

### **Story:**

John had been through a tough season. After months of unemployment, he finally landed a great job. But in his excitement, he forgot the promise he’d made to God: to thank Him publicly. Months later, as he reflected on his journey, guilt struck him. He stood in church the next Sunday and shared his testimony of God’s faithfulness. “I should have done this sooner,” he admitted, “but God’s mercy is never late.” His gratitude brought healing and restored his relationship with God.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, forgive us for the times we’ve received Your blessings but failed to thank You. Make us like the one leper who returned, full of praise and gratitude. Help us to slow down and acknowledge Your goodness in our lives. Amen.

#### **Day 4: Gratitude in the Waiting**

**Scripture:** *“Father, I thank you that you have heard me.”* (John 11:41, NIV)

**Reflection:**

Jesus thanked God before raising Lazarus, demonstrating trust in God’s power and timing. Gratitude in the waiting is an act of faith.

**Story:**

Emily waited for years for her prayers to be answered. She wanted a family but had faced one miscarriage after another. She decided to start a gratitude journal, thanking God for the small blessings each day. Over time, her perspective shifted. She found peace and joy, even in the waiting. Three years later, Emily held her baby girl, Hannah, in her arms. “The journal prepared me for this miracle,” she said.

**Prayer:**

Father, thank You for hearing us, even when answers seem delayed. Give us patience and faith to trust Your timing. Help us to find gratitude in the waiting, knowing that You are always working for our good. Amen.

#### **Day 5: Gratitude in Trials**

**Scripture:** *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV)

**Reflection:**

Gratitude in trials doesn’t mean ignoring pain but recognizing God’s presence and purpose in the midst of it.

**Story:**

When Mark lost his job, he felt crushed. But he committed to daily gratitude, thanking God for the lessons he was learning. Months later, he landed a position that aligned perfectly with his passions and skills. “If I hadn’t gone through that valley,” he reflected, “I wouldn’t appreciate the mountaintop.”

**Prayer:**

Lord, help us to give thanks in all circumstances, even when life is hard. Remind us that You are with us in every trial, shaping us for something greater. Thank You for using even our struggles for good. Amen.

## **Day 6: Gratitude for the Cross**

**Scripture:** *“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them.”* (Luke 22:19, NIV)

### **Reflection:**

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave thanks for the bread and the cup, knowing they symbolized His suffering. Gratitude for the cross reminds us of the depth of God’s love.

### **Story:**

Anna’s Thanksgiving tradition was different from most. Before carving the turkey, she placed a wooden cross on the table and shared how Christ’s sacrifice gave her family hope through their darkest times. This practice kept their focus on God’s greatest gift.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank You for the cross. Thank You for enduring suffering so we could have eternal life. As we gather with loved ones, help us to center our gratitude on Your ultimate sacrifice. Amen.

## **Day 7: Overflowing Gratitude**

**Scripture:** *“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”* (2 Corinthians 9:11, NIV)

### **Reflection:**

When we give thanks and share generously, we inspire gratitude in others. Gratitude multiplies and glorifies God.

### **Story:**

The Johnson family decided to sponsor a struggling family in their community for Thanksgiving. When they delivered the meal, they were greeted with tears of joy. Weeks later, they received a note: “Your kindness inspired us to give what we could to another family in need. Thank you for showing us God’s love.”

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for blessing us abundantly so that we can bless others. Teach us to live with open hands and hearts, spreading Your love and inspiring gratitude in others. May our thanksgiving overflow into generosity that glorifies You. Amen.