

## Daily Devotional, November 16, 2021 In All Things, Give Thanks

***Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100***

A very good friend of mine taught me a long time ago, that “You never go wrong when you say, ‘Thank You.’ We thank people for holding a door for us so we don’t have to touch the doorknob in the age of Covid-19, or just out of politeness. But it’s even better when we truly mean it. Wouldn’t it be better if we truly appreciated others and showed it? For example, when:

We thank the grocery clerks when they hand us the receipt and the baggers who bag our items.

We thank the servers in the drive-through lane when they hand us our food.

We thank the person who compliments us on what we are wearing. (Not that this EVER happens to me!)

We thank our neighbor when he blows away the leaves on the street in front of our house as well as his own.

We thank the delivery person who makes our lives convenient by bringing our items right to our door.

We thank all kinds of people for all kinds of things.

And we are reminded to thank God for everything. Not only our family, or our health, or our friends, or our jobs, or our pets, but everything.

Above all, we are called to give thanks to God when we come through “His gates” and into “His courts.” One of the things that it is possible to lose in this ongoing global pandemic, due to the dreariness it brings and the sight of less people in the seats, is the feeling of sheer gratitude when we walk into the Sanctuary and express our thanks to God—for life, sustenance, the assurance of His love and forgiveness, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life, and the promise that God will never leave us or forsake us.” (Hebrews 13:5)

As we approach Thanksgiving Day next Thursday, I urge you all to come to worship this Sunday (it’s perfectly safe!)—and express your thanks to God for all of the good things you have been blessed with in your lives. And thank God for those who surround you in faith and love.

***Prayer: Faithful God, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. You have blessed me in ways that are uncountable. I ask that You enlarge within me a spirit of gratitude so that I may give You thanks this day and every day. In the name of Jesus, who gave Himself for my salvation, I pray, Amen.***