

Sir Knights

A mother, with her hands full of bags and a young son in tow, was walking out of a grocery store when her son spotted a youth group selling chocolate bars for a dollar. As expected, he began begging his mom to buy him the candy. His mother explained that she had spent all her money on groceries and had no extra money to buy the candy. An elderly man, overhearing the conversation, pulled a dollar bill out of his pocket and offered it to the boy. Surprised, but grateful for his offer, the mother allowed her son to accept the dollar, and then asked, "Now what do you say?"

The boy looked back and replied, "Can I go buy the candy bar now?"

In 1863 Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a National Holiday. Since that time it has been a day of thanks. However, for many, it is simply the beginning of the Holiday Season; A day for football, or a time to gather with family and friends and enjoy a holiday meal, or the day before Christmas shopping officially begins. While these are all good, we should think about what Thanksgiving is, and how to incorporate it throughout the year, and not just one day in November.

The Bible tells us to "Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people." (I Chronicles 16:8)

We have a lot to be thankful for, but it can become all too easy to just accept those things as a part of our lives without considering to offer up thanks for them. We owe thanks to our Lord and Creator for all that He has blessed us with. God blesses us in more ways than we can count. Even in times when we cannot see such blessings there are still things to be thankful for. Psalm 68:19 says, "Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."

If you read all of Psalm 68 it becomes quite interesting. While it is intended to be used as a song of worship by God's people, it offers reminders of difficulties, oppression and pain suffered from time to time. It is a reminder that God blesses us both in good times and in bad times.

Often in difficult times it can become hard to see God's blessings in our lives. I remember years ago when I was laid up with a fractured hip and covered with road rash following losing an unintentional jousting match between my Harley and a station wagon, I found it difficult to be thankful, until I began to look for the ways that God had protected me and blessed me both during and after that accident. It is in times like that when we need to make an effort to look beyond the negatives to find such blessings. And believe me, they are there. God always gives blessings, even when we cannot see them.

As Knights Templar, and followers of Christ, we should be thankful for all that God has done, and continues to do, for us. And we should be displaying that thankfulness through both gratitude to God, and service to those around us who need to experience the love of God.

This Thanksgiving season, in fact, throughout the year, try to look to see where God's hand is at work in your life and offer up praise and thanksgiving to Him. And always remember that a thankful heart is a joyful heart.

Always and All Ways in Christ

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