



“THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS!”

By Mary Mayko

Thankfulness has been defined as gratitude for blessings and/or acknowledging benefits or favors from God. Even the modern dictionaries tell us that Thanksgiving Day is a National Holiday of giving thanks to God!

Ps.105:1-2 KJV “O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of His wondrous works.”

Ps.107:1 KJV “O Give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good and His mercy endureth forever.”

It is the time of year to think about Thanksgiving. What are some of your first thoughts when you hear that word? A grand feast of turkey and all the trimmings? The official start of Christmas shopping? A long list of preparations if dinner is at your hour house? Going to football games or watching parades on TV? A quick prayer as you sit around the table? Does anyone there share **why** they are thankful?

It is interesting that secular dictionaries tell us Thanksgiving Day is a time to **express our gratitude to God** for all His divine blessings! As Believers do we pause and reflect on His goodness and mercies that are new each to us? If we are in the habit of remembering and thanking Him daily, it will offset some of the stress that interferes with our desires to please God when so many demands are made on our time! God appointed special times for Israel to **stop activities and remember the LORD’S mercy and deliverance**. That is a **Biblical principle** that is still much needed today!

Mercy is an act of God and peace is the result of His kindness to us. In the Greek, mercy is expressed as an outward manifestation of pity, it assumes we have a need and God has adequate resources to provide for it. **Mercy is God’s attitude toward us in our times of distress!** As we reflect on God’s mercies, we see His provisions in our times of need and distress. How grateful we should be for this divine mercy that is **available through God alone!**

Thanksgiving is also provides a time for us to reflect on our Christian heritage in America and pray that God will protect this heritage so our children and grandchildren are aware of how blessed this Nation “under God” has been and still is in spite of all the evil that prevails around us!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Psalm 144:15 KJV “Happy is that people, that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD!”

Excerpt from: **“The Overflowing Cup” by Mary Mayko 2006**
Inspirational Ministries/ Moments w/ Mary- FCA 1105 High St Burlington, NJ 08016

“A THANKSGIVING OF COMFORT”

Rev. J.Kehl Golding Copyright 2005

Huge balloons and animated cartoon characters, parades ushering in an imaginary man, football games and stuffed torsos vividly describe the fourth Thursday of November in America!

What a far cry from the intended day our early settlers had in mind! Their idea was a day of thanking God for His provisions and the year's blessings!

How did we stray so far away from what they established?

They same way we do in all things!

Complacency and compromise!

This may seem like a harsh and negative statement, but actually it is a very comforting thought. The other side of this very thought is, “if I walk with the LORD and stay close to His Word, He will take care of me in every respect.” You can stand on His Word, while believing it! Read what Joshua says.

Joshua 1: 7-9.

“Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee: Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper wheresoever thou goest. The Book shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: For the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Our Nation was founded on Judean-Christian faith and principles. God blessed and prospered us as no other Nation in history! God blessed and prospered us as no other nation in history! Individually we have enjoyed freedom and a lifestyle like no other people.

Yet today, we see crime on the rise, discontentment, a lack of integrity and teachings, philosophies and alternate lifestyles all contrary to the Word! Believers ask, “What can we do?” Morally good people ask, “What is the answer?” We wonder how we can get back to our original moorings?

Hundreds of years ago the Psalmist asked these same questions: **“What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?” Psalm 116:12**

Then he happily declares: “I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all His people. I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the Name of the LORD.” Psalm 116”13-14, 17

Beloved, if you have not accepted Christ as your Savior, come to Him today without delay! Invite Him into your heart and find the peace, joy, and contentment that comes with a relationship with Him.

He knew we would need this. At the Last Supper in John 14:15-17 He made it clear that He would take care of that need. Look at what He says: **“If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: But ye know Him: for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you,” John 14:15-17**

When we accept Him as our Savior. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within. Then, Dear One, we can have a **joyful and thanksgiving heart!**

Excerpt from: “Echoes for Today’s Listening” by Rev. J Kehl Golding

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“MEMORIES, WHAT KINDS?”

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 145: 3-4 KJV “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and declare Thy mighty acts.” V.7 “They shall abundantly utter the memory of Thy great goodness and shall sing of Thy greatness.”

Thank God for so many memories! There are many things we really need to remember! Every event, place or person that has been a part of our past has produced a memory.

Memories are defined as the ability to recall or revive past experiences. A memory can be a mental image or picture within us than can bring pleasure or pain! Being able to remember is a good sign, for to enjoy a good memory over and over brings a fresh blessing! We must be careful that our lives are not consumed by living in the past constantly, for that avoids the realities and responsibilities of living each new day to its fullest!

Holidays have always been times when we recall the past, sometimes intentionally reliving pleasant memories with others or even alone, that brings a special glow to our hearts to motivate us to new actions to build more precious memories. At times, people have unpleasant thoughts of hurtful Holidays. They may dread this time of year! Sometimes we go to extremes one way or another! Certain sights, smells or sounds all trigger memories of some kind, so we try to recapture the good ones and avoid the painful ones!

In reality, all memories hold both pleasant and painful thoughts and images. If pleasant, they can help us remember to be thankful to God for all His blessings. If we are close to the LORD, even our painful times can help us recall His help, protection, faithfulness or deliverance in the midst of our suffering and losses. Recalling painful experiences in life are not to cripple us with distress or depression. Some place restrictions around themselves to avoid unpleasantness and lose out on many of God’s intended blessings! Hardships are a natural part of every person’s life. There are things that are too deep for us to comprehend and we may not know the reasons for happenings in some cases until we get to heaven! We need to put our trust in the One who knows how all things will work for our good!

Thanksgiving Time can bring special moments to recall blessings, comforts and deliverances in our lives. The Bible says much about building memorials and remembering all God has done for us! Tell Him how much you appreciate Him this year.

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