

DEPTHS OF GRATITUDE



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All scriptures are mainly got from the King James Version marked KJV, New International Version marked NIV and The Amplified Bible AMP, New Living Translation marked NLT, unless otherwise stated.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

INTRODUCTION

SELAH (Page)

1 A CLICHÉ? (7)

2 I WAS TAUGHT IT'S A GOOD THING TO DO (11)

3 I THANK YOU GOD FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE! (14)

4 YOU PROMOTED ME AMONGST OTHERS, THANK YOU LORD!
(18)

5 FOR WHO YOU ARE, I SAY THANK YOU! (30)

6 GOD YOU ARE GOOD. YOU ARE FAITHFUL, ALL THE TIME! (39)

7 HOLY SPIRIT, THANK YOU! (53)

PRAYER FOR SALVATION (56)

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (57)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

To you, Heavenly Father. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION

After a teaching on thanksgiving I anchored online, sharing some of my experiences and reasons to thank God, I became stirred and a bubbling in my spirit man arose by the Holy Spirit to think deeply on the mystery of thanksgiving and that more vital to this spiritual sacrifice is the reason, the motive, the source of your thanksgiving. So I began to write.

Not intending to be a quick read for you to feed your mind on the almost innumerable reasons to thank God, this short book is to help you have a deeper insight for which thanksgiving is important and how thanksgiving can become sustainable despite situations and

circumstances.

Trying times are upon us and those of great stamina and grace will stand. May our hearts continually be robust and generous in our thanks unto God always.

Shalom.

1

A CLICHÉ?

“Thank goodness”. “Lucky me”. “Fortune has smiled on me”. I’m sure at one point in time you have heard or used similar catch phrases or even these very examples.

Secretariat was one of the most valuable race horses, born in 1970, died in 1989 at age 19 after becoming a record-breaking champion on a number of races. Imagine a hall of famer horse! This stallion is arguably one of the most popular race horses in history (at least Alexander the Great’s horse wasn’t a race horse!).

Its owner and trainer Christopher Chenery, must have been proud of his buddy, Secretariat and

sure did not rationalize the premium care and attention this stallion needed in order to bring home some trophies and accolades.

What if Secretariat, in the prime of its life, became hackneyed: in other words, abandoned to lose its original effectiveness and power due to overuse or abuse or both? This would have dimmed the possibilities of a bright future for this magnificent stallion.

I think all of us at one point in time in our lives, have belittled our thanksgiving unto God, reducing its potency to a mere cliché. This diminishes the chances of our thanks rendered pleasing before God. We say thank you God sometimes without meaning or even a thought of

what we are saying. It has become like saying “Thank goodness”, “Lucky me” or “Fortune has smiled on me” passively. No acknowledgment of God in the heart of such a person who supposedly is thanking God.

Words spoken can actually be “empty”, void of substance and meaning where there is no heart-mouth connection established. Such sacrifices are unacceptable before God.

"Thank goodness". "Lucky me". "Fortune has smiled on me".

Isaiah 29:13-14 NIV

13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, *but their hearts are far from me.*

Their worship of me is made up only of rules

taught by men. 14 Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish." (emphasis mine)

Not to misunderstand me on this one. A thankful man can get so accustomed to saying “thank you Jesus” or “Praise God” and he can be known by that. You do not need to judge or assume other people’s intent. I’m more concerned for you, dear friend that your “thank you” will make Jesus smile upon you.

2

I WAS TAUGHT IT'S A GOOD THING TO DO

Sara grew up to attend church and she became participative in summer camp, the choir and other spiritual activities as well. Yet when she was asked why she should thank God, she said boldly “I was taught to do so and besides, it’s a good gesture showing Him courtesy”. Okay.

Psalm 92:1 NIV

**It is good to praise the Lord and make music
to your name, O Most High,**

Thank God for the teaching of His word we receive in church every other Sunday or weekdays and also via literary materials and other means on our faith too. Bless God for we reason and think alongside the precepts of the

word of God. A lesson we can add to our knowledge that as it is good to thank God, *we should watch out such that it doesn't become a "procession", a "normal thing" to do as a Christ follower.* It is truth for someone to know that Christmas is celebrated worldwide every 25th of December and though the fellow doesn't know its significance to the Christian faith, yet enjoys all the good food and presents more than even Christians.

Isaiah 29:13-14 NIV

13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. (emphasis mine)

Knowledge is good, however, a right attitude needs be added for Papa God to accept our offering unto Him.

2 Timothy 3:5a NIV

having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Guard your reward of thanksgiving with a heart of understanding and a right attitude.

3

I THANK YOU GOD FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE!

Thanksgiving expressed is an energizer for the giver to do more for the grateful receiver.

A young African boy greeted his father good morning and then handed him a brand new wristwatch he purchased with the little he had as a surprise gift and said “Daddy, happy father’s day”. His father was really moved and poured out pronouncements of blessings and ended gifting his son a new smartphone and another gift item I cannot recall at the moment.

Thanksgiving can and should be inspired by recalling from your memory the good deeds God has done for us in the past. We may not remember all, but certainly, we can still mention

the reasons we recall to God's hearing.

Psalm 103:1-2 AMP

**1 BLESS (AFFECTIONATELY, gratefully
praise) the Lord, O my soul; and all that is
[deepest] within me, bless His holy name! 2
Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the
Lord, O my soul, and forget not [one of] all
His benefits —**

Reading through the entire Psalm 103 in your bible, you will see multiple reasons David gave thanks to God. They are reasons yet valid to this day why we should give God praise. Do you know you can also write psalms unto God too?

Dear friend, ingratitude is a terrible attitude. It strains our relationship with God. Not thanking and praising the Almighty God for His goodness

and kindness in our lives is to such person's loss. Even as humans, an ungrateful fellow, slowly but surely, slims down his or her chances of receiving more favour from both past and prospective helpers.

Do well to appreciate the people in your life. Meditate deeply on the goodness and kindness of God in your life such as food in your refrigerator, a loved one who has just recovered from an illness, your account being credited supernaturally, despite that terrible traffic jam you're still grateful, protection from accidents and even situations like you making losses in your business and investments because He has assured you in that you shall recover whatsoever

you may have lost. Hallelujah!

Psalms 105:1-2 NIV

**1 Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has
done. 2 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell
of all his wonderful acts.**

Thank you Heavenly Father for all you have done
in the past and what you are doing in my life.
Thank you for my future is a glorious one.
Hallelujah!

4

YOU PROMOTED ME AMONGST OTHERS, THANK YOU LORD!

Were you ever selected from a crowd of contestants or applicants and awarded that contract or job offer you all hoped for? Have you felt the thrill of being favoured for little or no effort of yours amongst many better than you? I sure can relate very well on this with you.

You see, being the only one who may be doing well in life amongst all your high school mates is something many would thank God for, which is a very valid reason. A woman delivered from the company of the barren after many long years of expecting gives a boost for you to boast of your testimony and change of status. Glory!

Hannah, mother of Samuel the Prophet and Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus Christ our Lord had some things in common, a couple of which were,

- They were exalted amongst their equals.
Although through different modes of conceiving, they both bore covenant children by divine visitation.
- Their songs of praise were recorded in scripture for us to learn and have a peep into their hearts and into the kind of joy they experienced [1 Samuel 2:1-10 and Luke 1:46-52].

It is good to ponder and meditate deeply on the goodness and graciousness of God that He

considered you worthy of being alive and full of life despite the fact that many better persons are not a mile close to the standard of living and experience of mercy you boast and sing of. However, some key verses in each of their songs will teach us something very crucial.

HANNAH'S TEACHING

Part of Hannah's song goes thus:

1 Samuel 2:8-9 KJV

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them. 9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and

the wicked shall be silent in darkness; *for by strength shall no man prevail. (emphases mine)*

Please read through from 1 Samuel 2:1-10. This quoted text above is an expression of sincere appreciation and total acknowledgment that the God of Israel has glorified her and His faithfulness to those who trust in Him is guaranteed.

MARY'S ADMONISHING

Luke 1:48 NKJV

48 *For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (emphasis mine)*

Reading through Luke 1:48-55, one would be

persuaded to see the depth of joy in God Mary experienced as well as a deep piety and reverence for Yahweh. I really think and believe that Mary was knowledgeable of scriptures of Hannah's testimony. Mary eulogized the Lord God in quite a similar fashion. Her tone of surrender showed she had a heart poised to please God.

WATCH OUT, THE FLESH IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Did you notice as I did, that in all the words of Hannah and Mary as they praised and thanked God, there was no derogatory statement belittling their contemporaries or the many "unused vessels" in any way? I don't know if you

could also see from Hannah's praise that she did not even have the time to mention the name of her taunter Peninnah, the younger and junior wife of their husband Elkanah. She could have waxed an album of praise as we see a lot today and may have dubbed one track "God has silenced Peninnah"

You see, your thanksgiving may become somewhat of a "comparison thanksgiving". What I mean to say is that unwise people always look for the faults, shortcomings or reproach on others and make them yardsticks for thanking God.

Remember Jesus' parable of the prayer of a corrupt tax collector and a proud teacher of the

laws of God?

Luke 18:9-14 NIV

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: *'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector.* 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, *but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'* 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,

and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (emphases mine)

You stand a chance of bringing demotion upon yourself (see verse 14) if you lift up your soul in pride by feeding your ego, your carnal man with hype and praise for your effort. Let me remind you too that salvation or any gift you possess is not a result of your works. No Sir! You weren't even having a bodily form or even any iota of existence when God blessed you with Himself by Himself.

Matthew 25:34 KJV

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Ephesians 1:3-5 NIV

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

Repent from boasting in your dead, unfruitful works already, dear Christian! (Hebrews 6:1). Quit serving God in your human or mental power. It is by the Holy Spirit we serve God worthily and even in very basic issues such that if I lift a finger to clean the dust off of the chairs in my local church, I can only see God who gave me the hands, the health to do so for His glory.

I dare challenge your thinking today. Know it that

you priding in your heart silently in your ability to do good is nothing. That your brag in your heart that because you pray for long, study hard, sow seed, or do anything spiritual has brought you thus far is empty. Empty as a vacuum! Clear vacantness! What if God decided to ignore you and left you in penury? Guess what? He will still be God.

Job 13:15 KJV

***15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:
but I will maintain mine own ways before him.***

As Christians, we truly have no room for comparison or self-glory in our hearts and minds. Hallelujah! Every department of our hearts is filled with love, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Romans 5:5 KJV

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The problem is that we have failed to realize this and still give permission to vices such as pride, envy, strife, malice, lust and so on, to affect our mindset negatively. Renew and purge yourself by allowing the ministry of the Word to thrive in your spirit and soul.

2 Corinthians 7:1 KJV

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

We may yet be in need of victory over our

weaknesses or infirmities, surely we are changing into God's very own image as we allow Him. We are not without hope. Amen?

Amen!

5

FOR WHO YOU ARE, I SAY THANK YOU!

Spiritual intelligence is as a result of the Holy Spirit of Truth making bare and clear to one's understanding the power of Love and Grace in a most personal way.

HE LOVES ME

Why should the Son of God (meaning God in the bodily form of a man) lay down His life for mankind? We never deserved it at all yet He did it.

Romans 5:8 KJV

**8 But God commendeth his love toward us,
in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ
died for us.**

The destiny of mankind was utterly bleak and hopeless. All of a sudden, The Light shone upon our world and evil did not understand that the One full of grace and truth, Jesus the Messiah had a redemption plan to save us from death and pain that lasts forever.

Romans 5:1-5 NIV

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, *2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.* **3** Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** *And hope does not*

*disappoint us, because God has poured out
his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
whom he has given us. (emphases mine)*

My depths in thanksgiving increases because I am in Love, with Love Himself. Love gave Himself for me, why should I thank Him any less? Thank you Jesus.

I CAN'T HELP BUT RESPOND TO HIS LOVE
Love expressed is a two-way “something”. My response to a kind gesture, say, the gift of a car with gratitude is assurance to my giver that I appreciate the gift. So what are the ways we respond to Love, the person of Jesus?

We start by a process,

Romans 12:1 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead

with you to give your bodies to God *because of all he has done for you*. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. (emphasis mine)

This can be referred to as “yielding” or “surrendering” yourself to God for His purposes for your life to be revealed to and fulfilled in you. We do so in fellowship: by allowing our minds and hearts to be transformed by His word and as we pray too. Very vital.

Romans 12:2 AMP

2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire]

renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

The desire to respond to His love creates deeper and more sustainable reasons to thank God. My thanksgiving as it were, begins to carry more weight because I begin to have a mind shift into beholding eternal reasons to be grateful rather than only on earthly blessings and material needs. Don't forget that your time spent with God is an act of thanksgiving too.

I'M GLAD I WAS BORN TO THANK GOD

This truth will bless your life.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 KJV

16 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

This one got me! Anytime I lift up my heart in prayer to Abba in thanksgiving, I am in His good, acceptable and perfect will! Nothing beats the assurance that you are walking in line with God's will for you. Are you sometimes worried if you may be doing anything right at all in your life and in your walk with God? You can't be wrong whenever you are sincerely grateful to God, having in mind the various categories of reasons

we have highlighted in this book so far. Continue in thanksgiving. You'll touch someone in the supernatural realm that is ever ready to guide you. That's the Holy Spirit. Praise Jesus!

GOD, YOU ARE MERCIFUL

1 Chronicles 16:34 KJV

**O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good;
for his mercy endureth for ever.**

Some renditions translate the word *mercy* as *love*. We are talking about God's favour and lovingkindness, which are manifestations of the love of God. Glory to God!

Psalms 107:1 KJV

**O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good:
for his mercy endureth for ever.**

Psalm 136:1 KJV

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good:

for his mercy endureth for ever.

Dear reader, because of the mercies of God we have breath in our nostrils. Because of His mercy and benevolence, we have come thus far in life despite our inadequacies and acts of sin.

Lamentations 3:22 AMP

It is because of the Lord's mercy and loving

-kindness that we are not consumed,

because His [tender] compassions fail not.

God's mercy is a proof of His steadfastness towards us despite our decision sometimes not to respond to His love.

Malachi 3:6 KJV

6 For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore

ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Reflect on the numerous past mistakes, wrong deeds towards someone else, ingratitude or sinful episodes in your life and you will be amazed how because of mercy He has preserved us and His compassion is ever speaking in our behalf.

6

GOD YOU ARE GOOD. YOU ARE FAITHFUL, ALL THE TIME!

All that God is is good. Everything that proceeds from our Heavenly Father is good.

Genesis 1:31 NIV

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.

In God alone can we find a being in all His magnificence and glory to be consistent and only consisting of only Himself, no double standards. That's the holiness of God.

Looking at the situations of life, nobody can promise you a trouble-free life in this broken world. We have enough troubles on a daily basis

causing many to live in despair and pain. The educated as well as the illiterate both have reasons to cry.

Matthew 24:12-13, 21-22 KJV

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (emphases mine)

Even we Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, righteous in God's eyes are at risk of even having more reasons to be afraid or sorrow because that

is part of the consequences for following Jesus as a disciple.

Matthew 5:10 KJV

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (emphasis mine)

Matthew 10:22 KJV

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Let's take a look at some of Apostle Paul's numerous episodes of pain.

2 Corinthians 11:21-33 NIV

21 To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

What anyone else dares to boast about — I

am speaking as a fool — I also dare to boast about. 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. *I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in*

*danger in the city, in danger in the country,
in danger at sea; and in danger from false
brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and
have often gone without sleep; I have
known hunger and thirst and have often
gone without food; I have been cold and
naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face
daily the pressure of my concern for all the
churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel
weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not
inwardly burn?*

*30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things
that show my weakness. 31 The God and
Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be
praised forever, knows that I am not lying.
32 In Damascus the governor under King
Aretas had the city of the Damascenes
guarded in order to arrest me. 33 But I was*

*lowered in a basket from a window in the
wall and slipped through his hands.
(emphases mine)*

Friends, church leaders cry too! This could be because of their members or personal problems. Apostle Paul is admired by many of us. We want to enter realms of revelation as he did but he suffered too.

Galatians 6:17 AMP

17 From now on let no person trouble me [by making it necessary for me to vindicate my apostolic authority and the divine truth of my Gospel], for I bear on my body the [brand] marks of the Lord Jesus [the wounds, scars, and other outward evidence of persecutions — these testify to His ownership of me]!

The marks were not spiritual but marks as a result of hard beating and inhumane flogging he (Paul) endured as a Jesus slave.

Some of our pastors worldwide have contemplated suicide at one point or the other in their lives. From Paul's life you can see it is not promised to be easy. Do your research and see pain in this world you may want to wish were all fake news and stories.

“But isn't God seeing to it that His children do not suffer?” “Why is there so much evil in this world that even the earth, this physical earth is reacting and fighting back?”

Lois registered at a health centre not too far from her residence as she was pregnant with her first

born child, a baby girl as the scan had shown some weeks earlier. She was nervous and scared because of her friend Martha who barely made it out of the labour room despite expert medical care at her disposal. She had underlying medical conditions which made doctors shy away from her case too. An experienced nurse, Maggie knew what was going on in her mind and took extra time to teach her about what the outcomes could be but ultimately so that Lois could make an informed decision to believe she and her soon born baby girl will be alright. Lois's husband Matthew, ever loving and affectionate was always by her side to cheer her up but you know, he wouldn't be able to take the pain on himself

for her. She was designed for that and not him. It was her journey to make. She came out after some complications and loss of blood but she and her baby were safe and sound. Lois regained full strength after a couple of weeks. She made a statement and that's the crux of this story. She said "My greatest weapon in my experience was the knowledge I entered labour with; The faith-filled words of Maggie even before the pains of delivery started".

Friend, Jesus loves us and has put us in the know about the fate of this world and mankind. He is loving and affectionate just like Matthew. His love never fails. We have Maggie, a picture of the Holy Spirit who is there to be of comfort and

guidance in smooth and difficult times (see John 14:16, 26). Guess who you are in my short story? Lois. Your baby girl is a picture of the glorious heavenly agenda counting on you to persevere for it to manifest from your inside. Glory to God!

THE COMFORT OF SCRIPTURES

We have comfort of scriptures that all will be well. Thank God for His word unto us. He has not left us without hope in this world.

Romans 15:4 NIV

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Psalm 119:28 NIV

My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

We find encouragement that we have forerunners and men of the faith whose trials and tribulations were recorded for us to find comfort that we can also make it through hard times.

Hebrews 12:1 AMP

THEREFORE THEN, since we *are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth]*, let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed

course of the race that is set before us,

The cloud of witnesses we learn about are the men and women of faith we read of in the previous chapter, *those with testimony of God's faithfulness despite their dire and faith-stretching situations*. We can hear their voices urging us to stay strong despite what we are going through as we read their stories.

Jesus comforts us with some words of promise in scriptures, for which we ought to be most grateful for, beyond our current predicament. Some out of the many promises are referenced below. Jesus, in effect said to us,

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

Matthew 28:20 NIV

and teaching them to obey everything I

have commanded you. *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (emphases mine)

MY SUPERNATURAL PEACE IS WHAT I GIVE
YOU

John 14:27 NIV

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

YOU'LL BE WITH ME IN HEAVEN IF YOU
ARE FAITHFUL TILL THE END.

John 14:1-4 NIV

1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to

**prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and
prepare a place for you, I will come back
and take you to be with me that you also
may be where I am.**

God is good, all the time. Sin has made the world what it is. In your trials He is faithful. See, whatever you are passing through as a result of being a disciple of Jesus is for our process. If there are acts of sins in your life as a Christian that go and are not repented of, you are opening a legal avenue for unclean spirits to bring evil in your life. If you are not sure of your salvation, you need to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour and begin a walk with Him. Wade off every unnecessary ground for affliction in your life and decree freedom over your life and generation.

Get into the word and crush ignorance on its head. No more suffering for ignorance. Hallelujah. God is good. All the time.

7

HOLY SPIRIT, THANK YOU!

Dear Holy Spirit, thank you. Thank you for being Jesus to me as His disciples enjoyed. Your effort in transforming me makes me amazed at who I am becoming. The deep joy I have is because you came into my life, making me your permanent address on earth and also you gave me the keys to your home in heaven. No restrictions! I can have whatever I want in your home and share with others too.

You showed me how to exercise authority over the evil one and his schemes like sicknesses, worry, poverty, pain and all.

You are my Daddy, Teacher, Defender, Help... you know my heart, God.

You rebuke me of my wrongs, yet draw me close again in your arms because your love is always stronger. I know I have ignored you many times because of my sinfulness and insensitivity to your personality. I still want to say I am sorry for the dark times yet you hush me and ask me “when was that?”. Now I know you more because you are good at forgetting my past shortfalls.

Dear Holy Spirit, I won't say much here. The rest are for us alone and not for public ears.

It is God alone we can hope in for everything to be alright. We need Him to help us remain in His joy, to be able to say thank you, despite trying times. Challenges of life may have knocked you down but you are not out! Your sacrifice of praise

is the highway for divine intervention. Keep thanking God. It can only get better. Hallelujah.

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Please pray with me if you want to be born again and become a child of God:

Father God, I come to you today as a sinner. I believe you sent Jesus to die for my sins and make me your child. Jesus, I believe you died to set me free. I repent of my sins. Wash me in your precious blood. Come into my heart and be my Lord and personal saviour. Thank you for saving me. I am yours now and forever. Amen.

Friend, you are now a precious child of God. He loves you no less than he loves any other one of us. You just made the whole of heaven leap for joy.

As for anyone wanting to repent due to backsliding, in your own words speak to him to restore you and surely will restore your joy of salvation.

As much as God stirs you in your recreated spirit to pray, study the scriptures and live by His spirit, please do. That is God already at work in you! You can join any bible-believing and obeying church for fellowship and for sufficient spiritual nourishment for growth.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus' best gift to you is the gift of His Spirit. He said that He is more willing to give his Holy Spirit than we could ever want to receive Him. Hallelujah!

Listen to these words of Jesus:

Luke 11:9-13, KJV

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

You are a child of God! Are you willing and thirsty to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? He is the one who will guide you in your choices, help you to be prayerful, be there whenever you need Him and supply you all the help you will ever need to fulfil purpose.

John 14:16-17 AMP

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever — 17 The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.

The Holy Spirit is already here with us and is assigned to be with us forever. Don't wait till you get to heaven before you know the precious Holy Spirit. Jesus will baptize you right now if you are willing and thirsty for Him.

With excitement pray this prayer in faith;

Dear Father, I thank you for you always hear

when I call. I believe and I ask in faith to be baptized in your Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I receive right now as you give me utterance in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

Praise God for the infilling and begin to speak the syllables the Holy Spirit is giving you right now. That's the outflow of the rivers from your belly. Glory Hallelujah!

Pray in tongues for long! Rivers will rise and break dams to flood your world very soon. I'd love to get feedback from those who got saved and/or filled with the Holy Spirit. God bless you!

Shalom!

THE BOOK

Not intending to be a quick read for you to feed your mind on the almost innumerable reasons to thank God, this short book is to help you have a deeper insight for which thanksgiving is important and how thanksgiving can become sustainable despite situations and circumstances.

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