

Thanksgiving

There have been many changes this past year for me and each change has brought new blessings into my life for which I'm grateful.

I'm thankful for a new vehicle.

I'm thankful to be able to serve Christ's community.

I'm thankful that I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. And that light is welcoming a daughter into my family.

I'm thankful for new relationships that have developed over the past year.

But there are on-going things in my life that I am very grateful for.

I'm grateful for my amazing wife.

I'm grateful for my job.

I'm grateful for my home.

I'm very grateful for each of you in my church family.

I would like each of you to share a few things that you are grateful for.

[Discussion time]

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

It's good to give thanks for all of these things. And on Thanksgiving Day we have a kind of built-in reason to give extra thanks (because we don't have to go to work or school). But I think it's important to remember that God doesn't tell us to thank Him once a year. We should be thanking him daily, at least, for all of the many blessings he provides us every single day.

I think it can be easy to get accustomed to some gifts. Like the gift of food to eat, or clothes to wear. We almost come to take some gifts from God for granted. I like to think of Thanksgiving as less of a reminder of what things I am grateful for, and more of a reminder that I should be constantly giving thanks for those things.

So how can we give thanks constantly throughout the day, every day? Well, we can do it by living out our thanks in how we live our lives and interact with others. Showing our gratitude to those we see every day is, I think, the best way to show our thanks to God.

Matthew 25:40 - Most certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

So as we go through the next year between Thanksgiving Days let's remember to not just give our thanks to God each day for the many blessings and gifts He gives us but let's also live our thanks to Him in how we treat and interact with each other every day.