

Try implementing a “Moment of Thanksgiving” into your life

By Guest Columnist Jehu Brabham

It’s hard to believe, but Thanksgiving and the holiday season is upon us. And is there a better way to start this wonderful season than with these lyrics of a great Christian hymn:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what Got has done!



Special to The Clinton Courier

Dear Lord,
You are an awesome God, and, when we count our blessings, we can truly see what You have done. Lord, we come before You this Thanksgiving season acknowledging every day should be a day of Thanksgiving. We are thankful for all You give us, for all You do for us, for all You teach us. Thank You for guiding us to live our lives in Your will, in Your purpose, in Your plan for us. Thank You for Your protection from worldly influence and danger. Thank You for health and happiness. Thank You for bringing us gently to a deeper knowledge of You and Your grace and love. And thank You, Lord, for the blessings of precious family and friends who will be with us to enjoy this wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving season together.

Thank You, Lord.
Amen.

This time of the year, our hearts should be filled with joyful thanks. However, I often wonder why so many who live in America and have life so good seem to be so discontented, dissatisfied and unhappy. How can we have so much of this life’s goods and pleasures, freedoms and privileges, resources and comforts, yet be so miserable? The secret of a happy life is not to get what you want, but to live with what you’ve got and give thanks to our great God for all we have.

For most, Thanksgiving Day is an event on the calendar to acknowledge and be thankful for what God has given us. However, the Thanksgiving spirit should be practiced every day. I have been trying to practice what I call, “A Moment of Thanksgiving.” I start each day crawling up into Almighty God’s lap and acknowledging my thankfulness for all the blessings this new day of life will bring. Then, before I go to sleep each night, I make sure I express my thankfulness for something God has blessed me with that day.

Friend, I encourage you to try this “Moment of Thanksgiving.” Surely, you can begin the day and end the day thanking our great God for the blessings He has given you. Let’s see, now. What about thanking him for life, family, friends, physical blessings, health, church, community? I have found my outlook, attitude and joyful appreciation of life is so much better when I practice my “Moment of Thanksgiving.” So, why not give it a try?

Let me go on to say, a thankful attitude toward the Lord in everything we face opens our spiritual eyes to see His loving hands at work. One of the greatest privileges of being a Christian is to have the capacity to give thanks, regardless of what happens. I have found that one of the great joys of the Christian life is to give thanks regardless of what happens. Give thanks to God for His love and mercy. Thanks to God that He has not left or abandoned us. Thanks for holding us in the hollow of his mighty hand during the hard times of life. It is easy to be thankful when things are going our way, but a Christian can rise above any situation to thank God for causing all things to work together for good. A Christian can...

Be thankful you don’t already have everything you want. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don’t know something; this gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times; during those times, you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes; they will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you’re tired and weary, because it means you’ve made a difference.

In closing, let me urge you to say to your family, as I say to mine, a heartfelt thank you, and I love you to my wife, Cheryl; sons, Grant and Cole; daughters-in-law, Anna and Catherine; grandsons, Kaden and Knox; granddaughter, Caroline; Mamaw Bryant; Cindi and Ricky Brown; Caren and Gary Taylor; Whitney and Gray Williams; Sadie and Mac; Hannah and Chase Williams; and Charlie.

On behalf of our family, I offer to Almighty God our prayer of joyful praise, thankfulness for times of fellowship and friendship, and all the blessings He has provided for us, done for us, and taught us. Lord, thank you for kindness, mercy, compassion and grace. Most of all, we rejoice and thank you for giving us that vast, sustaining and boundless love. You are truly an awesome God!

I wish the Clinton community a blessed Thanksgiving and happy beginning to a joyous holiday season. I pray that each of our lives will be full of light and hope, so our actions will be full of tenderness and love. May God richly bless you and keep you in His constant care.

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