

The Thanksgiving Spirit

Thanksgiving is the unofficial beginning of the Christmas season. Decorating and shopping become high priorities the day after the Thanksgiving feast. Thanksgiving weekend is when we write the family Christmas letter in our family. It will be inserted with our pictorial Christmas card. Many of us write similar letters, and we all receive them from family and friends. There is a spirit of thanksgiving in our hearts as we recap the past year in our Christmas letter and look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

You have probably heard the phrase that Thanksgiving is a time for an "attitude of gratitude." The calendar artificially tells us it is time, yet it becomes natural as our family gathers around the table or on zoom and phone calls.

God blesses us every day in ways we don't realize. Christian author and mentor A.W. Tozer wrote, "Perhaps it takes a purer faith to praise God for unrealized blessings than for those we once enjoyed or those we enjoy now." With a stronger faith, we understand God is at work behind the scenes, in more ways than we realize. It is based on His unconditional love and abundant blessings for all. "*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever*" (1 Chronicle 16:34).



When we put pen to paper to write the Christmas letter, everything flows. The list of blessings is so endless that it is impossible to fit them all into the limited space of a Christmas letter. There simply is too much to mention, and that is just those we think of when we pen the Christmas letter. Isn't that a wonderful thought – God's blessings are overflowing, just as He said they would be? *The Lord will make each one of us overflow with blessing in such a way that there will not be room enough to receive it* (Malachi 3:10).

It has been said that God's blessings on our lives are His signature. He has plans for us, and He prepares us for success. God is at work in our lives, and He equips us to prosper as we serve and give thanks to Him. Trying to fit all of those realized blessings on a Christmas letter makes us aware of the extent of God's love for us. In retrospect, we take so much for granted. You can never list everything you are aware of, and God's unrealized blessing list for you is much longer. Are you ready to write your Christmas letter? Imagine that the signature on your Christmas letter is God's, and start writing. Happy Thanksgiving.

Question: In what ways has God blessed you?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for all you have done for us. The blessings you bestow on us are so abundant that we don't realize the extent of your love for us. We praise and thank you. Amen.