

THANKSGIVING

The **Psalms**....

Psalms 7:

*17 I will give **thanks** unto Yehovah according to his righteousness,
And will sing praise to the name of Yehovah Most High. [ASV]*

Psalms 95:

*1 Oh come, let us sing unto Yehovah;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before his presence with **thanksgiving**;
Let us make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. [ASV]*

Psalms 100:

*4 Enter into his gates with **thanksgiving**,
And into his courts with praise:
Give thanks unto him, and bless his name. [ASV]*

And now, to the FULFILLMENT of our Thanksgiving:

Apostle **Paul**....

Colossians 2:

*6 Therefore, just as you received the Messiah Yeshua as Lord, keep living your life united with him. 7 Remain deeply rooted in him; continue being built up in him and confirmed in your trust, the way you were taught, so that you overflow in **thanksgiving**. [CJB]*

Colossians 4:

*2 Keep persisting in prayer, staying alert in it and being **thankful**. [CJB]*

And **James** reminds us of the most significant reason to give Thanks....

James 7:

*17 Every good act of **giving** and **every perfect gift** is from above, coming down from the Father who made the heavenly lights; with him there is neither variation nor darkness caused by turning. 18 Having made his decision, he **gave birth** to us through a **Word** that can be **relied upon**, in order that we should be **a kind of firstfruits** of all that he created. [CJB]*

Back to **Paul** again....

Hebrews 12:

*28 Therefore, since we are receiving a **kingdom** that cannot be shaken, let us be **thankful**, and so **worship** God acceptably with reverence and awe, [NIV]*

1 Thessalonians 5:

*16 Always be joyful. 17 Pray regularly. 18 In everything **give thanks**, for this is what God wants from you who are united with the Messiah Yeshua.*

[CJB]

So many **countless** good reasons to be **THANKFUL**, but what if and WHEN, because everyone will not always in THIS life, live in what we would humanly consider to be the “happy - joyful” zones of our life.

I feel we must consider BOTH the Joyful zones as well as the tearful zones of our lives because BOTH do make us who and what we are. It's easy to be Thankful in our Joy, but what about in our tears?

Is it possible to have a **thankful** heart, or have **thanksgiving** flow from our lips even as tears flow from our eyes? There's an anonymous saying; *“the deeper sorrow carves into one's soul, the greater amount of joy it can hold”*. This is truth. When we have experienced great depths of sorrow,- it's very true we will have a much greater appreciation and thankfulness of when we return to the higher points of our life.

Many may not realize that the proclamation of our national day of Thanksgiving was instituted during our nation's greatest time of strife and pain. If we step into our time machine and rewind to this time, we'll find ourselves smack-dab in the middle of our U.S. civil war, 1863, just after the battle at Gettysburg where over **51,000 brothers, cousins, and fathers died**. Nearly as many Americans died in this one battle as in the entire 20 year Vietnam conflict, helping to make the civil war our bloodiest and highest death war in U.S. history at about 625,000 **American family members**, as relatives fought against each other from the North vs South.

This was the setting in which our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, set aside and declared: “the last Thursday of November next, as **a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens**”. Mr Lincoln fully understood as he also stated **“No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great**

things.” Now don’t forget here that 16th president proclaimed this smack-dab in the middle of this terrible conflict, there were still two more years of battle and death that was ahead.... [continuing...] **“They are the *gracious gifts* of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.”**

“the deeper sorrow carves into one’s soul, the greater amount of joy it can hold”.

Do the youth of this and coming generations truly appreciate what our ancestors went through to establish/preserve the freedom of this republic?
— Time will tell.

Yet our wise God adds the Depth of “Enduring Character” to our Joy.....

Romans 5:1-5

*So, since we have come to be considered righteous by God because of our trust, let us continue to have shalom with God through our Lord, Yeshua the Messiah. 2 Also through him and on the ground of our trust, we have gained access to this grace in which we stand; so let us **boast** about the hope of **experiencing God’s glory**. 3 But not only that, let us also **boast** in our **troubles**; because we know that **trouble** produces **endurance**, 4 endurance produces **character**, and character produces **hope**; 5 and **this hope does not let us down**, because God’s **love** for us has already been poured out in our hearts through the Ruach HaKodesh [Holy Spirit] who has been given to us. [CJB]*

We all know the term “fair weather friend”? God is not a “fair” weather friend, our Father and our Brother are both “ALL” weather friends, as we all must also be in return....

“ETERNAL” CHARACTER is forged in Joy and in Tears. Listen to how James explains from the Living Bible translation:

*James 1:2-4 Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for **anything, strong** in character, **full** and **complete**.*

None of us have this strength on our own, but why would we want to bare the full struggle when we have a helper: HOLD TIGHT to our savior's hand, He does have the strength that we lack. I can't emphasize this enough. I personally am not still alive today because of my own strength, but because I held tight to my savior Yeshua's hand in my most painful time, as He held tight to mine!

THIS my dear brethren friends, is the pinnacle [the most successful point; the culmination] of JOY that cannot be broken into and robbed.

I want to go back to some of King David's thankfulness before concluding:

Psalms 136:

*Oh **give thanks** unto Yehovah; for he is good;
For his lovingkindness endureth for ever.*

2

*Oh **give thanks** unto the God of gods;
For his lovingkindness endureth for ever.*

3

*Oh **give thanks** unto the Lord of lords;
For his lovingkindness endureth for ever:*

12

*With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm;
For his lovingkindness endureth for ever:*

26

*Oh **give thanks** unto the God of heaven;
For his lovingkindness endureth for ever.*

President Abraham closed his proclamation by asking his fellow Americans to:

“pray with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.”

I offer up Thanks to our God as you gracefully stated, and to You also Mr. President.