



Gratitude-I

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples. "Take and eat it," He said; "This is my body." Then He took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. "Drink it, all of you," He said; "This is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 25:26-28

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What am I thankful for?

Prayer Focus: Persons who don't know Jesus

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-II

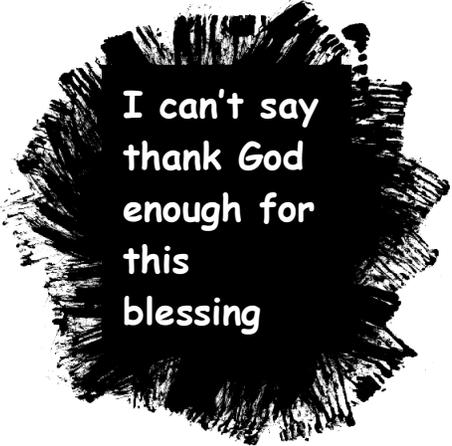
A Thankful Life

Are you thankful? I mean – Do you live life with a thankful attitude? Think about your life for a moment. Do you live with a thankful spirit? Think about the people around you in life. What would they say about how you live your life?

Gratitude is a hallmark of the Christian. Gratitude expresses itself in thanksgiving. It deepens and enriches our relationship with God. We're needy and thankful for the blessings we've received. Thankful for the very love of God. Thankful just because God loves me!

Imagine how God feels when He sees that our hearts are truly thankful. I can just see that loving smile. His heart is warmed. I love Him so. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Jesus. Thank you.

How have you expressed your thankfulness this week?



**I can't say
thank God
enough for
this
blessing**



Team Devotional Guide

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the father.

Gratitude-2

Ephesians 5:20

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How do we develop a thankful heart?

Prayer Focus: Thanksgiving for our blessings

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-2

Thank You for Being There

What a wonderful blessing it is to be a sponsor on a Cursillo/Walk to Emmaus! Your heart is warmed as you help usher that friend, that loved one up close to the heartbeat of God. What an experience – to help make a disciple!

In Kairos, being a Host is very unlike it is in Cursillo/Walk to Emmaus, and for good reasons – you didn't select the participant you will host. The participant's environment is totally alien to your environment. You don't live in the Christian Community that the participant will join! In fact, everything in Kairos is aimed at encouraging the resident to form a community with other residents instead of with team members.

The prison is the environment in which they live and in which they must find Christ and Christ's community. It is a natural reaction to want to form community with Kairos team members. Natural, because it is "safe" as compared to taking a chance at being vulnerable to another inmates.

As a Host, you help the participant feel comfortable, safe at being part of the Christian community. Make sure that your time with the participant on Thursday night and Friday morning isn't rushed. Let it be friendly and natural. Remember – you are helping find a home in a new family, the family of Christ in the prison.

Host Activities – Getting Started

Thursday afternoon

- *Greet participant with a warm smile*
- *Take the participant to get some refreshment and be seated*
- *Review the introduction card together*
- *Make mental note regarding their grasp of the language and their ability to read.*
- *Give them your undivided attention – make them feel "special"*
- *Give the participant a friendly goodbye at the door*



Team Devotional Guide

Gratitude-3

When one of them say that he was healed, he came back, praising God or a loud voice. He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked Him

Luke 17:15-16

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Do you need Christ's healing?

Prayer Focus: Kairos Brothers & Sisters who are thankful even though they are in prison

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-3

God's Special Time

When I first heard that Kairos means God's Special Time, it reminded me of the Bible verses "to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." The special timing of events are designed by God and He Himself arranges and promotes these events so that His will may be done.

I've come to understand that God may use a string of occurrences to bring about His special purposes. When God told Philip to go to an intersection along the desert highway, He didn't tell him who he would meet there. Likewise, the Kairos men who came to me here in my prison desert didn't know me either, but God knew us both and through their obedience, both of our paths came together in God's Special Time. Love spoken is love heard, but love in action is what shook the ground. One man's obedient actions can change another man's eternal destination and wayward course. And, so it is with Kairos.

God sent someone who took the time to make a difference for me. The Zack now has greatly evolved from the Zack I once was – the incorrigible is now the encourager. Not by simply hearing God's love but by experiencing it in action. I may not possess the voice of that angel, but I am a living testimony of the impact that many have had inside these prison walls.

An S.O.S. is not just for the Coast Guard, but for anyone who hears to respond. So, let us not pass by on the other side of the road, but like the Samaritan, stop and make a difference in just one man's life. Who knows, maybe this is your designed God's Special Time!

If my prodigal past took me from my first love (God) through the night life, the Marine Corps, the streets, drugs, crime, and prison, and then through redemption back to God, then there's also hope for many others in prison.

Zack Smith

Kairos # 16

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Team Devotional Guide

Gratitude-4!

I have shown you in all things that by working hard in this way we must help the weak, remembering the words that the Lord Jesus himself said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.

Acts 20:35

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Why is giving a better way than receiving?

Prayer Focus: Persons who live with open hands

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-4!

The Source of Life!

Have you ever been to the Dead Sea near Jerusalem? To its north is the Sea of Galilee. It's alive with life and activity. Kids play in its waters. Fishermen make a living from its abundance.

The Water of the Sea of Galilee flows south through the Jordan River to the Dead Sea. Nothing lives there. No one plays in its waters. It is dead! Same water as the Sea of Galilee, but instead of life there is death. Why?

The Sea of Galilee receives its waters, then gives them away to the Jordan River. The Dead Sea receives the very same water, but it holds on to it. The Dead Sea has no outlet. It receives and keeps. The Sea of Galilee receives and gives.

*The difference between life and death? **God intended us to receive and give.** In the giving away, we find life. When we seek to hold on – to gather the stuff of life, we find death. We are out of step with God.*

That's the way it is with Agape love. Love first received, then given away. Given freely – and given away freely. No strings attached.





Team Devotional Guide

Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.

Gratitude-5

Matthew 11:28

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How does Jesus give us rest?

Prayer Focus: Correctional officers

My prayers go out for...

Gratitude-5

Double Blessings

There she was – hurt. You could tell just by looking. Don't know what happened to her in the past, but she was hurting now. Look at her eyes. Empty. No life there. Just going through the motions.

I wonder what happened to her that left her like this. I wonder, was she deserted once? Has she been let down? Let down over and over? Let down so many times that now, she expects to be let down.

“Move along,” she says. She's a guard. No, a correctional officer. That's what she is to Kairos – correctional officer. But she may not be that to the residents.

For many officers, there is a long trail at being disappointed by the residents. They become jaded – cynical – and frustrated. It wears on you – you know? They may even become hard hearted, even cruel.

She's really more than a correctional officer, you know? She's a Child of God! Even if she's not a believer, she is still God's child. And she deserves more!

What, you ask? How about prayers? Prayers – for her Spirit – for her Salvation – for new eyes to see – for a new heart to love.

How about encouragement to lift her up? How about love – to wash her clean for Christ? How about respect? Kairos Team Members need to be respectful to the officers, and to love them.

Come to think about it, you have a chance to minister to the incarcerated and to the incarcerator! What a blessing!