

Wednesday in the Word
A Thought For Thanksgiving
November 24, 2021

If there is a basic prayer it may have to share space among a few others. The best, most basic prayer is the desperate "Save me!" Jesus loves that one because it is in no way presumptuous. It's an urgent plea to a proactive Savior. He responds with an immediate "Yes." Another, just as urgent but less focused is "Help Me!" No guarantee of a happy ending for that. God is not fooled by a well meant but short lived demonstration of intensity. Jesus is greatly pleased by prayers of praise. He deserves and commands them. The most diverse prayers are those of Thanksgiving. We can be thankful for blessing in our lives. We can be grateful for the many good gifts we receive. We ought to be. We thank God for the restoration of friendships and family relationships. There is a difference between thankfulness for the things God gives and thankfulness for God Himself. We are moving in the right direction if we're growing toward Him in such a way. The Heart of God is that His lost sheep are found. He tells us in Luke 15, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." The Lord's deepest conviction is that none would perish. 2 Peter 3 tells us, 'The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.' It could be said that our Blessed Heavenly Father Himself is most thankful for the salvation of the souls of mankind. We know His angels are happy about that. Luke 15:10 'Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.' That's how heaven responded when you got saved. Learning this about God and His Holy Messengers teaches us a valuable lesson. Our greatest joy, our deepest thanks ought to be over the salvation of a soul. As we surround tables of bounty this year and list our thankful thoughts, may we top that list with the grace of God that has answered "Yes" to the sinner who has sought eternal life through the sacrifice of our precious Jesus. Our thankfulness too, should be for God's allowance for us to play a part in such wondrous proceedings. Whether we prayerfully support the efforts of others or sew seed to fertile soil or water the fresh sprouts of the gospel or, God bless us, if we get to kneel beside a sinner and rise beside a brand new Saint. May we pray that as Jesus opens doors we might have the wisdom to recognize the opening and the boldness to slip the Good News into the slot. Colossians 4:3; 'Withal, praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ.' We can thank God for including us in someone's salvation but more so we can thank Him for letting us be fortunate enough to bring joy to God Himself. Thankfulness is truly one of the most beautiful of basic prayers and it occupies a position of consistent intention to those who are humble and in tune with the Creator of Life.