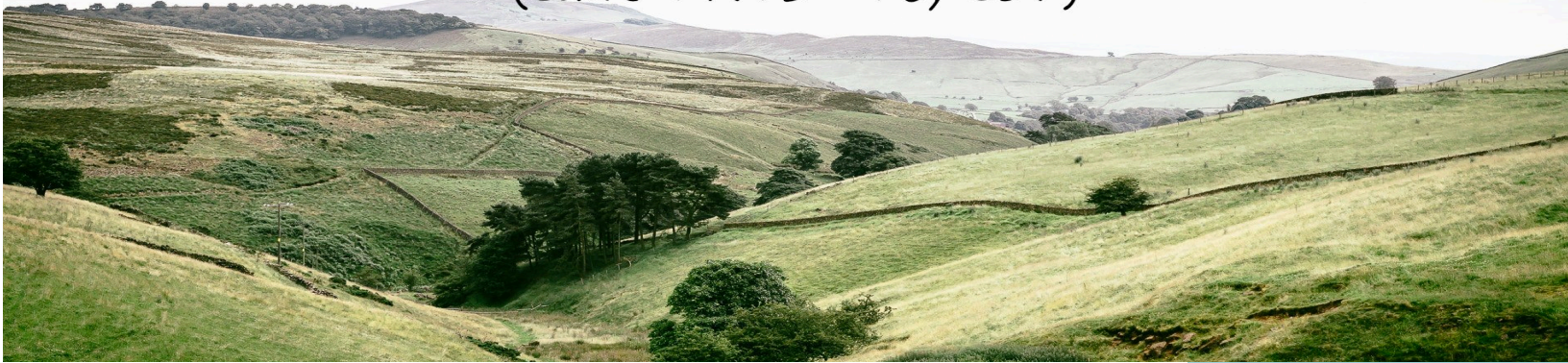




FAITH

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed,
turned back, praising God with a loud voice;
and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks.
(Luke 17:15–16, ESV)



Thanksgiving at the Seashore

There are two ways we fail to obey the command “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1Thes. 5:18 ESV). First, we forget to enjoy the milk and honey with which the Lord has blessed us. Second, we gorge ourselves on the milk and honey in a way that causes us to grow fat and kick against our Lord.

When the Israelites arrived at the Promised Land, they chose to stay in the wilderness and not enter the land flowing with milk and honey; they did not believe God could give it to them. Likewise, believers often do not experience God's blessings and fail to offer thanksgiving because they doubt God will fulfill His promises.

God promises many things. He promises that He will never leave or forsake us, yet we struggle with loneliness. God's Word says the Holy Spirit indwells believers, yet we often try to fight spiritual battles in our strength. He tells us that the Holy Spirit will produce fruit, but we do not think He is powerful enough to fill our hearts with love, joy, peace, and patience. He assures us that we will no longer serve sin, but we make ourselves victims of our sin.

Why do we run back to the wilderness when wonderful blessings lie ahead?

C.S. Lewis explained it in his sermon *The Weight of Glory*: “If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine

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what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased” (p. 26). We choose to wander in the wilderness rather than allow God to bless us or win our battles. Instead, we give thanks for our mud pies.

On a day intended for offering our thanks, Thanksgiving Day prayers are often empty and meaningless because people have not allowed God to bless them. They pretend that the pain of wandering is what they wanted, and they refuse to acknowledge that God has called them to more incredible blessings.

The Israelites missed out on the blessings of the Promised land because they chose not to believe God or receive His blessings. Likewise, blessings are merely a prayer away for believers who choose to accept them. Paul reminds us of the possibilities in Philippians 4. He states, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (v. 6 NIV). This prayer seems inaccessible to the heart, mind, and soul that does not believe God wants to bless His children with good things. So, accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask for the fruits of the Spirit, and thank God He has given them.

According to Scripture, Daniel prayed confidently for blessings. He prayed for deliverance for his people, and just as soon as the words left his lips, God dispatched Gabriel to tell Daniel his request would be answered (Dan. 9:23).

At Thanksgiving, our hearts are filled with genuine praise when we pray with confidence for our “holiday at the sea[shore].” When we ask the Father of heavenly lights for every spiritual blessing, He showers them upon us (Eph. 1:3). Pray with thanksgiving for everything because God wants to give us more than we can ask or think (Eph. 3:20).

However, thanksgiving has a certain emptiness for those who have tasted the milk and honey of heavenly blessings but have grown fat. They hoard the blessings, never experiencing the joy of passing them on and blessing others. Moses spoke of those Israelites who grew fat off the land (Deut. 32:13-15 at the right).

Every day there are many reasons to be thankful, but instead, we complain. We whine about the world’s ills instead of exalting the Sovereign God who is over it all. We forget what it was like to wander hungry in the wilderness of our unbelief. Paul told Timothy to be content with food and clothing (1 Tim. 6:8). James says we do not receive the things we ask for because we ask according to our pleasures (James 4:3). Instead, we ask for the biggest and best “mud pie” when He wants to give us every spiritual blessing. We pray for supplies stored up to eat, drink, and be merry in the future, but the Lord calls us a fool (Luke 12:19-20).

It’s interesting the Lord uses the analogy of growing fat to denote those who rebel after He has blessed them. We all grow fat in our physical bodies when we consume more than we need. In the same way, if we are not rich toward God, we grow fat. The blessings of our Father should produce in us a heart that desires to bless others.

A core heart problem is that if we believe we are deserving of everything, we do not like to share our blessings. However, when we recognize that we do not deserve the myriads of blessings we experience every day, it will be our joy to give back to the One who has blessed us. When we understand that our every breath is by God’s grace, every breath becomes an opportunity to demonstrate the same grace to others. Giving back should not be a duty or obligation. It is an opportunity to share God’s love. The Lord loves joyful givers (2 Cor. 9:7) because they are not growing fat. Joyful givers count it a privilege to receive blessings just to give them away. True giving can never be motivated by guilt. It is instead the natural response of the thankful heart.

So, this coming Thanksgiving, let us not hold ourselves back from the blessings of our Father. Let us run into His open arms and receive His blessing. The rest will come naturally.



This Thanksgiving
enjoy your holiday
at the seashore.

—Pastor Caleb



*“He made [Israel] ride on
the high places of the
land,
and he ate the produce of
the field,
and He suckled him with
honey out of the rock,
and oil out of the flinty
rock.*

*Curds from the herd, and
milk from the flock,
with fat of lambs,
rams of Bashan and
goats,
with the very finest of the
wheat—
and you drank foaming
wine made from the
blood of the grape.*

*But Jeshurun grew fat,
and kicked;
you grew fat, stout, and
sleek;
then he forsook God who
made him
and scoffed at the Rock of
his salvation”
(Deut. 32:13-15 ESV).*

Tobie Keiser

American Indian Missions

Tobie Keiser has worked as a missionary among the Native Americans for more than 30 years. She currently serves with American Indian Missions, Inc. in Sanders, Arizona.

AIMI is a faith-based ministry dedicated to reaching Native Americans with the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to become His disciples.

Bob and Bernice Faulkner were missionaries among Apache and Navajo children through Child Evangelism Fellowship. In 1988 they joined with some friends and supporters to form AIMI.

Missionaries provide ministries on the Apache, Navajo, Zuni, and other SW reservation areas. Ministries include youth and children’s clubs, sports

camp, horse ministry, leadership conferences, discipling schools, church plants and development, a Christian retreat center, and more.

Tobie's focus is reaching and making disciples of the Navajo youth. She does this through hippotherapy. This is a form of physical, occupational, and speech therapy where a therapist uses the characteristic movements of a horse to provide carefully graded motor and sensory input to the person.

“Our goal is building relationships, teaching, and training converts to be the church . . . standing with them until they can stand as the church on their own,” said Dr. Jason Koppen, AIMI Board Chairman, located in Flagstaff, Arizona.

For more information: AIMISW.com



“As an adult I bought a horse I loved; however, she had issues. I was introduced to Natural Horsemanship.”



Advent

Nov. 28 – Fri., Dec. 24

O come, O come
Emmanuel,
And ransom captive
Israel
Who mourns in lonely
exile here,
Until the Son of God
appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel.
Shall come to thee
O, Israel.
c. 8 A.D. translated in 1861
by John Mason Neale



“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in souls, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and look forward to something greater to come.”
–Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Faith Community Church



GRATITUDE

Based on Luke 17:11-19

Ten men banded under a common affliction.
Uniting them was that, and nothing in addition.

Thus, their hearts soon proved the breaking of their tie
When miraculously a man, hearkening to their imploring cry
Brought them relief—and only one of them, apart from the rest, returned
In gratitude. But between relief and return, what might be learned?

Ten hearts dwelt in the interim...so suppose: the ten at first rejoiced
In boyish ecstasy and a haze of danced-up dust, until one voiced
A heartfelt plea saying "Brothers, join me so we may return
To show our gratitude to that man!" And then the nine objected, each in turn:

First, the leader, interjecting, "He helped us so we may return to the life
We used to know without delay;" next someone adding, "I haven't seen my wife
And children in far too long;" the third saying, "I will not prolong
Resuming my duties. To do so would be lazy and wrong;"
The fourth exclaiming, "And why wait to satisfy our hunger and thirst?
The marketplace and public houses are waiting! I'm heading there first;"
The fifth fearfully stammering, "I am wretched, and that man was formidable.
I dare not go lest he afflict me anew;" the sixth saying, "I hear you babble
Happily, but that man only consigned to me a more uncertain fate
And suspended the sweetness of death;" the seventh reprimanding, "I hate
Your words. The man did merely a civic duty. I see in you only platitude;"
The eighth scolding, "I refuse to suffer your company or share in your gratitude!"
And the ninth simply informing, "He will be too busy for us and one like you."

Perhaps that's how he, though a Samaritan, was the only one to act the faithful Jew,
To believe that the healing of their leprosy was worthy of a "Thank you!"
And so, prostrate himself humbly at Jesus' feet and proclaim his gratitude.

—Riley Currado, senior high school student



Praying Hands or Study of the Hands of an Apostle is a pen-and-ink drawing by Albrecht Dürer, a German Printmaker, 1508 A.D.

It is stored in the Albertina Museum



"We go from supplication to supplication without taking time for thanksgiving."

—Pastor Caleb



"Shirat Ha Yam"
"The Song of the Sea"

"Who is like you among the powerful O Lord? Who is like You, powerful in the holy place? Too awesome for praises, performing wonders" (Exodus 15:11).

Part of Miriam's song of praise for Israel's redemption, Exodus 15



HOW DO THE DISABLED RESPOND? Part 2

Robyn Coggins

In the last issue, Robyn shared about her autistic son Noah and the concern she and her husband Greg had about his salvation. Continuing . . .

Since Scripture is clear that salvation is through Christ and Christ alone, if a child is cognitively impaired, they may never reach the age of accountability. What then?

Connie and Ron Davis' son Caleb is profoundly disabled. They found comfort and an explanation in Pastor John MacArthur's book, *Safe in the Arms of God*.

"He explains it this way," Connie said. "Everyone is born a sinner, but both the Old and New Testaments refer to children who haven't reached the age of accountability as 'innocents.' It's the same for adults who will always be intellectually innocent. God is gracious and just. He won't send one of these little children to eternal punishment."

In many ways, children such as Caleb and Noah are spiritual infants. Jesus demonstrated compassion for little ones. "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of heaven'" (Matt. 19:15 ESV). In 2 Sam.12:22-23,

David is confident that God will reunite him with his infant son after death. God will show grace and mercy to those who may never reach the age of accountability.

It's essential that parents of special-needs children trust God's plan for them—to understand they are "remarkably and wondrously made" (Psalm 139:14) by a loving Father. "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

"God made Caleb just the way He wants him to be, with limited mental ability," Connie said. "God has a purpose for this. He who began a good work in [Caleb] will perfect it" (Phil.1:6).

I've seen indications that the Holy Spirit is working in Noah. He struggled to read until he received his first Bible. Now he insists on reading aloud to us. After church one Sunday, I asked Noah what Pastor Caleb said in his sermon. He quickly replied, "wisdom." He was listening and responding to God's Word.

Raising a special-needs child is challenging—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But daily living out the gospel is trusting in God's character and the love He has for His children.



Who is the artist?



Puritan Prayer of Thanksgiving

O My God, Thou fairest, greatest, first of all objects, my heart admires, adores, loves thee, for my little vessel is as full as it can be, and I would pour out all that fullness before thee in ceaseless flow.

When I think upon and converse with thee, ten thousand delightful thoughts spring up, ten thousand sources of pleasure are unsealed, ten thousand refreshing joys spread over my heart, crowding into every moment of happiness.

Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions, ed. Arthur Bennett (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2002), 26-27.

Find the complete prayer online and enjoy it at the Thanksgiving table.



Cook, Clean, Change!

Rosie Cohen

By the time I was 18 years old, so many things had challenged my life. But I never doubted that the Lord was with me.

I was born in Bolivia, the middle child of three girls. When ready to begin school, my father asked if I wanted to attend Catholic or public school. I responded Christian because my friend went there. At school, we learned the stories of the Bible and Jesus. Soon I wanted to get baptized, but my father said no; I was too young to understand the seriousness of the commitment.

My younger sister needed surgery in Los Angeles. My father decided I would also go to help her. We stayed at my aunt Nellie's place. He left two weeks later. I was 14 years old and unaware that my father had farmed me out to my aunt as a servant and nanny. I cooked, cleaned, and changed diapers day in and day out. I had no school, no social life, no spending money.

Often, I was afraid because of an overly affectionate uncle. My sister and I left. Gilda went to another aunt's home, and I went to my cousin Eva's. Basically, I was on my own. After several months,

Eva's younger brother Max came from Bolivia. Soon a letter came from immigration ordering a hearing to determine if she could afford Max and me to live with her. Because my visa was expired, the judgment came down that I would immediately return to Bolivia. I pleaded and was granted five months to get my life together to remain in the states. I learned English, found a job in the PennySaver, and attended night school. I even bought an old car.

My husband Kenneth and I met at a friend's wedding. Two years later, a Rabbi married us at Ken's father's home. When our children were ready to attend school, my father-in-law wanted them in public school, but I wanted them in a Baptist one. Kenneth and I decided on Baptist, which caused significant conflict with his parents. Eventually, my family attended church together. In 1992, my son and I made a public profession of faith in Christ, and we were baptized.

This is only a tiny part of my story. But I can say today that God is my life. He is always with me. He gave His life for my sins; He gave His life for yours, too.



"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1 NKJV).



"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! . . . Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petitions, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:4).

Author Marva J. Dawn writes: "The Philippian passage [above] stresses that we 'in everything . . . with thanksgiving, present our requests to God—for what He is doing, for how His people have supported us—but certainly not for the evils that befall us . . . The [proper] practice of thanksgiving is one of the best ways I know to cease worrying."

Keeping the Sabbath Wholly, Marva J. Dawn, 1989, 24-26.



I WANT TO SEE JESUS!

Pat Killian

Hardship, devastation, and selfishness. It's all around, and I long for Jesus to return and make it right—to blot out the evil and take me home. First John 3:2 says that when Christ returns after the tribulation and “we will be like Him”—in glorified bodies, free from pain and agony. That sounds good, but I ask myself, “What is my true motivation to see Jesus?” Is it to escape the trappings of this world? Or the physical pains and mental agonies associated with this world? Or is there another reason?

Desiring Jesus to return and reclaim His Kingdom after the tribulation is a good thing. But I want my desires to be great. I want my motivation to see Him be out of my love for Him—to long for and know His truth, purity, and perfection

Our earthly definitions of love are inadequate; our love is filled with emotions and feelings. Biblical love is defined in John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep My commands.” God wants us to draw close to Jesus while still on this earth and long to see Him face to face where we will know pure love.

Colossians 3:1-3 tells us to “set your

minds on things above, not on earthly things,” and 2 Cor. 5 says we groan for our heavenly dwelling.

Many of us cling to the earth and think we will be spiritual in heaven. Jesus said in John 14:28, “You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you. If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I’” The verse implies that the disciples did not comprehend a divine love for Jesus.

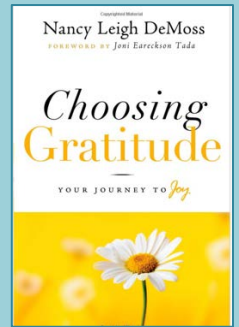
Is John speaking to us today? Do we understand divine love for Jesus? Do we long to see Him and not just escape this life on earth?

While on earth, we are to love Jesus with heart, mind, soul, and spirit (Matt. 22:37) and love Him with the same passion He loves us, “in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

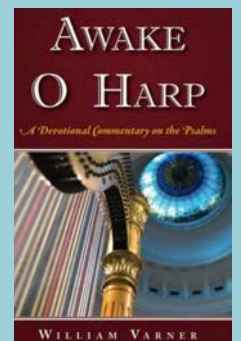
It's this kind of love from Him, and for Him, that causes a longing to see Him face to face. We will value seeing Him more than anything on this earth—our youngest married, a grandchild, a trip after retirement, or an accomplishment. Anything. We will treasure seeing Him! For this I am thankful.

Do we long to see Him face to face?

READ ANY
GOOD BOOKS?



DeMoss reminds us that gratitude is a choice, and if we fail to choose, we are filled with ingratitude and all the negative things that go along with it. When we do choose gratitude, we are reminded of all the beautiful gifts our Savior gives us.



Awake O Harp is a rich and encouraging study of the Psalms that focuses on the devotional impact of the book. Written by a faculty member at The Master's University, it allows the Holy Spirit to use academic knowledge to lead the reader into adoration, praise, and worship.



prayer changes EVERYTHING

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil.1:3-6).

Pray for as the Spirit leads:

*Lynn Grandinetti is bedridden with lung and heart issues.

*Nick Ford has stage 4 cancer and is choosing to not do chemo.

*Charles Groth as he recovers from a stroke.

*Sheila Carle's family member Barry Smith has heart issues.

*Ana Bice's family as Ana's brother Santos recently died.

*Sarah Mendoza's friend Allen continues to struggle with Covid.

*Natalie Lewis needs continued success with therapists at home.

*Roxie Reinholdson has upcoming knee surgery and her recovery.

*Jeanette's niece is a prodigal—homeless and ill and unsaved.

*Mary Smith has heart issues.



*The Gladny family has covid.

*Comfort for Laura Cox's family as her brother Randy recently died.

*Sheila Carle's grandson Josh needs prayer.

*Linda Foster's niece Mindy has financial challenges.

*Robert has stage 4 lung cancer.

*Baby Jordan Ludwig has ongoing health challenges.

*Dee Anne Jones' upcoming cancer surgery and her recovery.

*Baby Emmerit Porter is having needs to breathe on his own.

*Nicole Kornoff had a polyp removed, and it's being tested.

*Caesar's dad has liver cancer.

*John Isles is recovering from an ulcer.

* Many still struggle with Covid.

*The many who may lose jobs over the required Covid vaccine.

*Praise God for many answered prayers.

*Good News Clubs need to receive approval to use schools for the ministry of the Gospel.

*Help Awana leaders to successfully lead the children to the Lord through the memorization of scripture.

*Ongoing ministries at Faith

If you would like your prayer needs to immediately go out to church members contact Laura Cox:

chozengr17777@aol.com

UPCOMING*

Wednesday, Sept 29
Good News Club Training
2-3 pm

Saturday, Oct. 2
Men's Fall Kickoff
5-7:30 pm

Sundays @ 11 am
Biblical Counseling Course

Sunday, Oct. 10
Greeters Informational
Lunch
12:30-1:30 pm

Monday, Oct. 11
Grace Resources Golf
Tournament Fundraiser

Saturday, Oct. 16
Workday at the Park
Desert Sands Park
8 am-2 pm

Thursday, Oct. 28
Fall Festival
6-9 pm

Oct. 29-30
Men's Camping Trip
(Families welcome)

Sunday, Nov. 7
Daylight Savings Time
Ends—turn clocks back

Friday, Nov. 19
Serve at Grace Resources
5 pm

Thursday, Nov. 25
Happy Thanksgiving
Enjoy the Seashore!

Sunday, Nov. 28
First Day of Advent

*For more information:
Faithtoyou.com/info

The Christian Standard Bible is used
unless otherwise indicated.



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