

Thanksgiving
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As you read this, I pray you are preparing to have a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration.

This year has brought unforeseen challenges and struggles:

*Many continue to be sick or will get sick.

*Many have lost their jobs or have lost pay through reduced hours. Many who continue to work feel helpless as their jobs have changed or shifted and they don't seem to accomplish much. Many live day-to-day, not knowing if their job will be there tomorrow.

*Our world is divided now, more than I have seen in my lifetime.

*Depression is at a high level.

*Secularization impedes more and more upon the church as people turn elsewhere for hope, satisfaction, and gratification.

Psalm 69:30 says, "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving."

Suffering happens. It happened in Old Testament times and it happens in New Testament times. But the blessing is that the same God of our fathers is with us today, watching over us and caring for us in all things.

Not every day is Thanksgiving. It's easy on a day like this holiday to stop and think of our blessings, but what about the day after or even today? Life happens, but we are called to a life of thanks. May God remind us that every day should include a place of thanks to our Holy God.

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This is easy to say when discomfort and suffering are not hanging over our heads. Yet our God knows what we need, and somehow He provides. May the peace of God bless you in all your uncertainties.

God does not abandon us, even in the struggle. Christ is the constant reminder that God is faithful, and we can trust in Him through all things. May it make your Thanksgiving this year a little bit more encouraging. Amen.