

LWML *Texas* District

November 21

Meditation

Thanksgiving and Grateful Hearts

American Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday for many people. They appreciate the extra couple of days off work, football games, cooler weather, the sales in stores, the parades, the abundance of food, the extra family time, or maybe the memories from childhood when the family was all together.

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:28). Things of this world may pass away, but the kingdom of God is forever.

Thanksgiving Day is not always a joyful experience: families fight, broken families, family members have passed, little money for a feast, health challenges, no rest from work, and sometimes hard memories. Yet, despite the joy or difficulties, we can remain thankful for things that are not of this world! We can be thankful for all that we do have and have received through Christ Jesus.

We are reminded in Ephesians, *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:20).* Giving thanks always? And for everything? Ouch!

Frequently this can be quite the challenge. Sometimes we are able to see something and be reminded to be thankful that this is simply a season that will pass, albeit never fast enough in our eyes. We can be thankful for the struggles that make us stronger in faith. We can be thankful for the blessings of daily life, of growth, or change that can stretch us to see how God is working in our lives. God sustains us. As we carb load on Thanksgiving, we can thank Him for so many blessings such as worship, prayer, and meeting our daily needs.

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