

In Everything Give Thanks

“Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Recently, it occurred to me that giving thanks for the blessings God has bestowed on us can have both a bright and a dark side to it. God’s gifts to us come with the responsibility and obligation of attending to the needs of those who have not received those same gifts. At the same time that we are thanking God for the positive circumstances in our lives, there are many who are living in want and misery. Does God love us more than them? When we thank and praise God for the blessings we have received, without the desire to “pay them forward” and help those in need, we are revealing an incorrect understanding of why God blesses us in the first place.

God doesn’t bless us with health and prosperity because we are more deserving, or because He loves us more than those who do not receive the same blessings. Instead, God blesses us in order that we might be financially and emotionally better equipped to help those in need. God withholds the gifts of health and prosperity from others, whom He loves equally, in order that they might experience what I would call “blessings in disguise.” Adverse circumstances teach us many lessons which help us to grow spiritually and better identify with the Christ, who humbled himself and became obedient to God’s will for his life, which was to sacrifice himself for the sake of others.

We are one of the means by which God reaches out to those in need. We all share the divine nature. We are all quite literally the “body of Christ.” So, if you are wondering why “God” doesn’t bless everyone equally, you are asking the wrong question. The question you should be asking is how “you” as God’s agent can more effectively reach out to those who desperately need your help.

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