



## Be Thankful in the Difficulties

***"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself."***

—Matthew 6:34

This is a day that is not easy for everyone. Some people have lost a loved one—someone very special that they remember spending holidays with. We need to be sensitive and say a prayer for them today.

Some loved ones are out of work, though they have done their best not to be. Lots of people with different culinary opinions will be in the kitchen for tradition's sake and you might even be around some relatives that are not the easiest ones to love in there. The kitchen can be a unpredictable place. You might have a person show up at your door that has been hitting the bottle way too much, like this holiday is somehow meant to be one big football party! Let's face it; it's hard for anyone to take life sober without the Comforter living on the inside. Paul said, ***"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you"*** (Eph. 5:18). Enjoy some turkey and football, but God wants you to be filled with the new wine of His Spirit. Make that your elixir of joy! This is a great day to love the unlovable and to shine your light in Jesus! This is the season to give thanks to God, to walk in victory and to remain focused on Him!

In the crucible of God's measureless wisdom and in the ecology of God's awe-inspiring grace, your heavenly Father might allow some trouble for you today ...and for everyday of your life for that matter. Hey, we've all been blessed with difficulties before. Yup, you read that correctly, *"blessed with"!*

Try to think of the worst thing that could happen to us mortals down here on this planet. I think one of the worst things would be for us *not* to experience any difficulties at all. For if that were the case, none of us

would ever recognize our tremendous need for Christ. Therefore the Lord, in essence, says, *"My child, I'm going to give you sufficient difficulty today."* Yes, I know that might sound pious or hyper-religiously-monastic how I just typed that out. Sorry, but it's true. And why?—*"Kurt, that's just not positive on a day that should be a positive experience for all. Why be a mega-downer, dude?"*

God allows you to have enough difficulty to draw you close to Himself, but then He grants you enough grace to meet those difficulties every single day of your life! The Bible says, *"...as thy days, so shall thy strength be"* (Deut. 33:25).

God *"will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today"* (Matt. 6:33-34 nlt).

Paul said, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom... And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"* (Col 3:16-17).

*Give me a spirit of thankfulness, Lord, for numberless blessings given,  
Blessings that daily come to me like dewdrops falling from heaven. —  
Dawe*

Yes, *"be thankful to Him, and bless His name"* (Ps. 100:4). What is the difficult circumstance in your life like? If you have difficulty, thank God *in it*, not for it. Thank Him for allowing it to come your way to make you more like Jesus, as you draw closer to the Father.

Have you ever read about Corrie ten Boom in *The Hiding Place*? They eventually turned her book into an inspirational movie that became a challenge to thousands of people after World War II ended. Hearts and lives were stirred and changed as Corrie explained with moving simplicity, God's sufficiency to meet her needs in Ravensbrück ...even as a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. Ravensbrück was a hellishly-horrible women's work-camp during World War II, which was located in northern Germany, 90 km north of icy Berlin.

Not only was the work-camp smelly and filthy, there were countless fleas everywhere! Corrie's sister Betsie, who was imprisoned with her, insisted that Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 were God's will for them to apply: *"In everything give thanks."* But giving thanks in that flea-infested place seemed radically unrealistic to Corrie—that is, until she realized why

all the cruel worldly guards no longer entered their barracks anymore to make the Christians stop reading their one Bible, stop praying and stop singing those hymns. The guards selfishly wanted to avoid all the fleas! So, the prisoners were thus liberated a bit, while in captivity, so they could worship and thank the Lord. The fleas, yes, even those pesky troublesome fleas were agents of God's intervention!

*For all the heartaches and the tears, for gloomy days and fruitless years I do give thanks, for now I know these were the things that helped me grow!—Crandlemire*

So today, if it gets hot in the kitch, stay cool! Ask for God's beautiful grace to win-out and be victorious through it all! You'll be ok. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

In the Fisher's mighty hand,  
kurt



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