

Dear Friends,

This week is no doubt my favorite time of the year. Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas, Easter, and so many other special days, but Thanksgiving has become the one I look forward to the most. I recently asked a member of our community what they were most looking forward to this Thanksgiving and they said being with their family and eating good food. I must agree! I like both those things, and in that order.

When I think about the things I am thankful for, I could give you a list which would include health, my marriage, family, friends, and so much more, but upon further reflection, I am most grateful for God's faithfulness in my life. Like you, there are times in life where I do not understand what God is doing. The pain I see people experiencing is both overwhelming and incomprehensible. This past week, I talked with a person struggling with a situation that I went through nearly 25 years ago. When I went through that time, I felt like God had abandoned me, but he hadn't. He was preparing me to give an encouraging word to this struggling friend 25 years later. God works in our lives in the present because he wants to encourage our faith. He is also preparing us for moments that are in the far future.

A few weeks ago, the Lord spoke to my heart about giving a gift towards a specific need. I stepped out in faith and obedience. To my surprise, two weeks later the Lord returned that gift to me, increasing it more than ten times. We don't always know or understand how God works, and to be honest; I am glad I don't. If we realized it, I suppose it wouldn't be faith. What I know and I am always learning is that the most amazing things tend to happen right when I am about to give up hope. I am so thankful for God's faithfulness in my life.

What are you grateful for?

Lord, I am most grateful we can trust you. I pray this Thanksgiving season will be a reminder of how good you are even when we don't see the results of your work as quickly as we would like. I pray for those who will be traveling this season, that you would give them protection. I pray for those who will be in difficult situations, that you would provide them with peace. You are a good father, and I am grateful for your enduring love (1 Chronicles 16:34). Amen.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, Nov 19 | Chapel: Brittany Rosas | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, Nov 19 | Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel | 8:30pm

No other chapels this week due to Thanksgiving Break. Happy Thanksgiving!

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