**Thank You Prayers**

**The first recorded American thanksgiving took place in Virginia, and it wasn’t a feast. The spring of 1610 at Jamestown ended a winter that came to be called “the starving time.” The original contingent of 409 colonists had been reduced to 60 survivors. They prayed for help, with no way of knowing if or when any might come. When help did arrive, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, they held a prayer service to give thanks. *(Reader’s Digest: Strange Stories, Amazing Facts, p. 198)***

**Two angels flew to earth. Each carried a basket, and wherever anyone stood in prayer, the angels stopped and went in. Schools, houses in the ghetto, expensive condos -- all were visited. Very soon the basket carried by one of the angels grew heavy with the weight of what was collected, but that of the other remained almost empty. Into the first were put prayers of petition. “Please give me this. . . Please give me that. . ." Into the other went the “Thank you" prayers. The second angel was very sorrowful to return with an almost empty basket. *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**After my daughter and her family returned from their vacation in Florida, we probably went a little overboard complimenting the pictures of everybody playing on the beach. That night when 4-year-old granddaughter said her prayers, she ended with, “And thank you, Lord, for making us all so good-looking.” *(Bivian Collins, in Country magazine)***

**A 4-year-old was asked to give the blessing before Thanksgiving dinner.  As family members bowed their heads in expectation, the child began. First, the youngster thanked God for each friend, naming them one by one. Then the child thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and aunt and uncle. Next, the tyke began to thank God for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then the child paused. Everyone waited -- and waited. After a long silence, the youngster looked up. “If I thank God for the broccoli, Mom,” the child asked, “won’t God know that I’m lying?” *(Good Clean Fun web site)***

**Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy.” *(Stuart Hample, in Children’s Letters to God)***

**If the only prayer you say in your life is thank you, that would suffice. *(Meister Eckhart)***

**Governor William Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth: “Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.” *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1458)***

**I moved to Nashville in 1954, ready to start making some records of my own. I made my first appearance at the Grand Ole Opry not too long after. I stepped out onto the stage so shaky I was afraid I was going to break a guitar string on my first note. I took a look out at those wooden pews that I’d first sat in years before, all full of people looking at me, and said a short, silent prayer: “Lord, thank you for putting me where I’ve wanted to be for so long. You are too good.” *(Porter Wagoner, in Guideposts magazine)***

**In our parish Joseph came to school with his head in a cast. He was very self-conscious about it, and when it was his turn to lead the prayers, he always said, “Let us pray that God will hurry up and get this thing off, we pray to the Lord.” Finally, he came to school without the cast. This time his prayer was, “Gee, God, I’m sure glad that thing is off. Everyone tells me I’m beautiful now. Thanks a lot, we pray to the Lord.” *(Sister Mary Ora, in Catholic Digest)***

**Wife: “You and Herb are going ice fishing tomorrow? You’ll freeze!” Blondie: “Naw, ice fishing is a macho thing. We can handle it.” Daughter: “Mr. Woodley said he can’t make it tomorrow. He has the sniffles.” Blondie: “Sniffles? Why that lily-livered wussy!” That evening, while kneeling beside his bed after his wife goes to sleep, he says to God: “Thank you, dear Lord.” *(Dean Young & Denis Lebrun, in Blondie comic strip)***

**A mother drove to the pharmacy to get a prescription for her ill daughter. She returned to her car to find her keys locked inside. She got a coat hanger from the pharmacy, then quickly prayed, “Lord, help me. I don’t know how to do this.” Just then, a dirty, bearded, tattooed man approached her. The woman thought, “Great, Lord. This is who You sent to help me?” The man asked if he could help. “Yes, my daughter is sick. I must get home to her. Can you open my car with this hanger?” “Sure.” In seconds the car was opened. She hugged the stranger and said, “Thank you. You’re a very nice man.” The man replied, “Lady, I ain’t nice. I just got out of prison for car theft.” The woman hugged the man again and cried out loud, “Thank you, Lord, for sending a professional!” *(The Lutheran Witness)***

**I have lived to thank God that not all my prayers have been answered. *(Jean Ingelow)***

 **One of the most breathtaking sights in San Diego is sunset on the beach. As the sun sinks slowly into the horizon, hundreds of seagulls stand and turn quietly to bid farewell. Pelicans fly by in perfect formation, skimming just the top of the waves in their sunset salute. On the bridge across from the beach, thousands of birds line up on the electrical wires, all sitting and facing the sun, saying goodbye to the day. Perhaps they are also silently praying “Thank You, God, for knowing and caring when even one of us falls. Thank you, God, for declaring that even the sparrows shall be fed.” *(Laurie Beth Jones, in Jesus CEO, p. 28)***

**Mother says to child: “Instead of always asking for things in your prayers, remember to say an occasional thank you prayer. For your family, for our good health, for this house, the fun we have, for your school, all your friends.” Child: “Thanks, God, for everything Mommy said. Amen.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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