



November 2018

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

...*the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day* (2 Corinthians 4:15-16; my emphasis).

Let's consider: *the GRACE that is reaching more and more people MAY CAUSE THANKSGIVING to overflow to the glory of God.*

When the Light of Jesus Christ illuminates dark and miserable places, the bonds of lust and greed that enslave thankless and ungrateful captives are loosed and they are transformed. Grateful people who have been liberated from dungeons of *self-centeredness* by the Light of Christ are filled with joy and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) while the *self-absorbed* grumble, grouse and complain, engulfed by the darkness of pride. They are ingrates, empty and hollow spiritual shells, always grasping for more, never satisfied with their lot in life.

The grace of God produces an overflowing thankful heart and a generous spirit. The grace of God produces thanksgiving, and thanksgiving overflows, so that it shares and passes along goodness and blessings, all to the glory of God. Grace causes thanksgiving because grace transforms us from miserable scrooge-like people obsessed with ourselves into *self-sacrificing* Christ-followers who serve others in Jesus' name.

Our thanksgiving is produced by the magnificent and unending *grace* of God, personified and revealed in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, from his wooden manger to his rough hewn cross and finally to his empty tomb. True thanksgiving is not about filling our sensual desires with meat and drink and material comforts, but for the privilege of following Jesus and serving him. As we follow and focus on Jesus, thanksgiving overflows out of our lives into the lives of others.

And now, let's turn our thoughts to: *Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

When we focus on Jesus, we are gradually, day by day, more fully delivered from the dull and miserable ache of unrequited desires whereby we seek in vain to fill ourselves, while we are forever doomed to remain empty and unfulfilled. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18) he matures us into his humble, grateful and loving servants.

The more we concentrate on filling the abyss of our own appetites the more blind we are to the true riches of God. The more our thoughts are centered on our own hurts, pain, disease and loss the more we tighten our grip on the few possessions we "have." *Our natural desire to keep all that we can and protect our own self interests is a vain pursuit* wherein we clinch our fist, harden our heart and walk away from the grace, mercy and love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

It's also natural, when we realize that we are outwardly *wasting away* to turn inward and live in the past, either bitter about the hurts and pains of our past or continually preaching to others about how everything used to be better, more moral, good, pleasant and "right" (whatever that means!).

“Outwardly wasting away” includes reliving pleasant memories of the “good old days.” We remember the house and the town where we grew up, the elementary school we attended and the crush we had on a classmate—we recall where and when we had our first job. We think of our young love, and of the joys of marriage and children.

But no one has a perfectly wonderful past—your past and my past was not just like the fictional town of Mayberry from the old Andy Griffith show with its simple life, filled with pleasure, happiness and security. *Life is not a television show centered around a fictional town named Mayberry.* The past includes pleasing nostalgic memories as well as painful things and people we would rather forget. Faces are part of our past—faces of people we once knew and fondly remember as friends and there are also faces in our past we would rather forget.

The grace of God causes thanksgiving because God redeems our past, bringing healing to our brokenness and meaning to our present lives. No matter how painful any part of my past or your past was, the grace of our Lord and the healing presence of Jesus, the Great Physician, comes to us, healing, comforting and giving us hope.

As we *waste away outwardly*, we have the assurance that we are being *renewed inwardly, day by day*. Therefore, by the grace of God, we give thanks. We give thanks even though life in the here-and-now is always filled with challenge and upheaval. Change is inevitable for humans—we are all in transition. Christ-followers are being transformed—we are being *renewed inwardly, day by day*.

The grace of God brings thanksgiving because God is present in our lives, right now—Jesus is with us, now and forever. God in the flesh will never leave us. Jesus, the incarnate God, is next to us, with us and for us...always and forever.

The grace of God brings thanksgiving and it produces an overflow of gratitude so that our focus is on Jesus, who lives in us in such a way that our heart and soul desire to serve others in his name.

The grace of God brings thanksgiving and produces, by the life and indwelling of our risen Lord, a deep and profound compassion on our part for all humanity...so that they are part of our prayers and our focus. **Gratitude produced by God’s grace includes thanksgiving for the lives of others whom God is transforming and compassion for those who are enduring suffering and pain.**

By the grace of God, that brings thanksgiving and gratitude to our lives, when we visit a grocery store or walk through a mall, we look carefully at the faces in the crowd. In any large gathering we join, chances are we will see at least a few people who have just lost their jobs.

The grace of God lives in us in such a way that Jesus empowers us to love our neighbors as ourselves—his love in us helps us know that there are many in any crowd who have just heard traumatic news from their doctor or from a friend or family member who just visited their doctor.

As Christ lives in us, in any large gathering of people we will be in close proximity with the recently divorced/separated and newly married. We will share the joy of children who are anticipating the next grade level of school and lovers in love who walk by hand-in-hand.

As we participate in society at large, we rejoice as we see new mothers pushing their precious children in strollers. Conversely, our hearts go out to grieving senior citizens, so many of whom lose their wives or husbands after many decades of marriage.

By the grace of God we are thankful and delighted knowing when we are with people we don’t know there are faces in the crowd of some who were just promoted and those who achieved a new

credential and qualification in their career. There are people with whom we mingle who just welcomed a grandchild into the world. What a joy it is to share our lives with others!

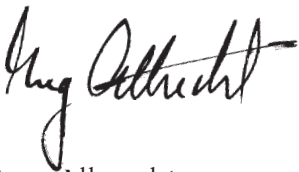
We give thanks because our journey with Christ is indeed a journey to a better land and a better world, but most of all we are thankful because he is with us. We are on the Jesus Way with him and he is with us. Life in Jesus is a continuous attitude of gratitude.

May we all, wherever we might be, be thankful for the grace of God. If you are not living in the United States, join us in thanksgiving, allowing our national Thanksgiving to remind all of us that *though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

When November and December arrive it means CWR/PTM has almost made it through another incredible year of serving in the name of Jesus. At the same time, these two months are always filled with prayerful anticipation and expectation—we normally see an increase in donations during these two months—our budget is constructed so that we rely on year-end, over-and-beyond donations at this time. Whether you give once or twice a year, or regularly and consistently throughout the year, know this—your generosity is empowering our collective work to thrive.

THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, for your dedication to our ongoing work of sharing Jesus. **THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU** for your prayers and your generosity. **THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU** as we, together, give thanks for the supreme, amazing grace of God and for Jesus, our Lord and Savior, for *in him we live and move and have our being* (Acts 17:28).

In Jesus' precious name,



Greg Albrecht
President, Plain Truth Ministries

PS. Here are two notes of thanks to CWR/PTM—and **THANK YOU** for continuing to support this ongoing ministry with your heartfelt prayers and faithful donations!

How blessed and comforted I feel to have released many old fear-based false concepts of God to a clearer understanding of his love for us all. I am so thankful for each and every one who contributes so much and for all those who benefit so deeply from your efforts at CWR/PTM. May God's blessings continue to abound.—Arizona

I live in a large apartment complex. When I have finished reading your monthly letters and magazines, I put them in the reading room so that others may spiritually benefit. Then I pray for all those who will pick them up and read your Christ-centered messages. Thank you for all your work and may God continue to bless all those involved in this life-changing ministry.—Email

CWR/PTM Prayer List—November 2018

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

Please pray for me. I fell and hurt my right shoulder and arm. After going to a chiropractor for several months, I still can't use my shoulder and arm like I should. I was hoping for full recovery by now.—Wisconsin

Please pray for me as I am having trouble with my sugar levels and my left foot won't heal.—North Carolina

Please pray for my granddaughter who suffers from severe migraine headaches and ended up in the hospital. She is unable to work and is having trouble getting disability. She's been suffering for about 20 years.—Pennsylvania

My son was in a rollover accident with various injuries. Thankfully none of them were serious, but he was cheated by the insurance company. Please pray about this situation.—Florida

I'm suffering with severe depression and I can't find the motivation to do much of anything. Please keep me in your prayers.—Wisconsin

Please pray that I can get relief from the pain in my left hand and wrist and right knee.—South Carolina

Please continue to pray for my brother who has back problems and numb legs and feet from a previous back operation. Also continue praying for my eye problem and blood pressure problem.—Maryland

Please pray for my wife and I as we are going through a very difficult lawsuit with no end in sight. Your work of CWR/PTM has encouraged us to be Christ-followers and we know He is in charge and we are not.—California

Please pray for a close family member who is bipolar. I know that she needs the comfort and peace of mind which only our heavenly Father can give her.—Minnesota

Please pray for my nephew, who is battling stage four Hodgkin's Lymphoma, for a complete healing.—South Carolina

Please keep me in your prayers. I can't seem to get rid of whatever is keeping me sick all the time.—Illinois

Please pray for my grandson who is serving a year in a correctional facility.—Alabama

Please pray for me that God will heal my spine deformity which causes me much pain. Also thank you for praying for me about my heart palpitations. I do not have them anymore, praise God.—Florida

Please pray for my daughter, who will be having surgery soon. Also please pray for my son's health and for him to become financially independent from us, as he is struggling with his business.—North Carolina

Please pray for my granddaughter who has had seven concussions. She has been in sports for years, but had to drop out of college at mid-semester. Please pray for God's healing as she does physical therapy.—Minnesota

Please pray for an elderly friend to recover from a blood infection and get back home from rehab soon.—Maryland

Please pray that my wife's stomach ulcer will heal. Thanks for all you do, and keep up the good work!—Texas

Please pray for my wife as she has developed osteoporosis and it's painful and hard for her to sleep.—Washington

My daughter is about to get out of the army. Please pray for her to get a well-paying job.—South Carolina

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.