

## *Thanksgivings Past*

As I was thinking upon Thanksgiving, as we all do at this time of year, I began to reflect on all the many blessings that the Lord has surely provided. The greatest of these blessings is, of course, salvation and a life in eternity with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I am grateful for my wife, Trish, our kids and the grandkids (all 17 of them). However, I also began to get a little nostalgic. I have been in the faith now for over 40 years. I know that many who may be reading this may be in the faith longer than that. However, there may be many who are comparative “new” in the faith.

As I was putting together a “Thanksgiving Greeting” to all of you, I began to remember “Thanksgivings Past.” I remembered the wonderful corporate gatherings of believers who came together to simply give testimony and to give thanks for all the wonderful things God had done for us as children of the Most High God. I particularly began to get really nostalgic concerning some of the songs and hymns (yes hymns) that we sang with grateful hearts of praise. Unfortunately, many of those songs have gone by the wayside. The unfortunate thing is that many of them truly expressed what was in our hearts but for some reason they have been labeled “old” so we no longer recognize their value in worship. Those songs helped put into words what our hearts were thinking. Many of them were so very “theologically sound” compared to many of the tunes we have and sing today.

In light of that, below are lyrics to a few of the wonderful songs and hymns (yes hymns) I remember singing on Thanksgiving. They are filled with wonderful reminders concerning why, we as believers in Jesus, are to truly give thanks, not just on Thanksgiving Day but every day. I encourage you to take time and read the lyrics below. They may make you “nostalgic” just as I was. I encourage you to sing them unto the Lord as well as any other song of thanksgiving that may come to mind concerning your own “Thanksgivings Past.” I know there are so many of them. If you are not familiar with some of the songs below, I provided a link so that you may refresh your memory or maybe listen to them for the first time.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxhQO3XRMQc>

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by.  
[Refrain]

When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.  
[Refrain]

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.  
[Refrain]

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErwiBz1QA4o>

Great is Thy faithfulness  
O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not  
Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been  
Thou forever will be

Pardon for sin  
And a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer  
And to guide  
Strength for today  
and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
And all I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me

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Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me

GIVE THANKS - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC0fkWA2INw>

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,  
His Son  
Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,  
His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"  
Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

TO GOD BE THE GLORY - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>

To God be the Glory great things He has done  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath  
done.

Stanza 2  
O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.  
(Refrain)

Stanza 3  
Great things He hath taught us, great things He  
hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.  
(Refrain)

How can I say thanks for the things  
You have done for me?  
Things so undeserved,  
Yet You gave to prove Your love for me;  
The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude.  
All that I am and ever hope to be,  
I owe it all to Thee.

Just let me live my life,  
let it pleasing, Lord to Thee,  
and if I gain any praise,  
let it go to Calvary.  
With His blood He has saved me,  
With His power He has raised me;  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done.

To God be the glory,  
To God be the glory,  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done.  
With His blood He has saved me,  
With His power He has raised me;  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done.

AMAZING GRACE – (I think you all know this one. Sing it to the Lord your way.)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Let us always be grateful for the things He has done and thank Him in advance for the things yet to come.  
From our family to yours, may you all have a very Blessed Thanksgiving!!!

God bless you, Trish and Ray

*"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. <sup>3</sup> Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." - Psalm 100:1-5 (KJV)*