

RADICAL GRATITUDE I suppose one of the most genuine ways to develop a sense of gratitude is to go through times of privation and then in those times find God's loving care come through. I have been reading the life of George Muller by Roger Steer entitled: *George Muller: Delighted In God*. George Muller was the German pastor who came to Bristol, England and founded a number of orphanages which depended solely upon God for resource. No appeals or public campaigns were used to raise money for the children's housing, food or clothing. The story of God's miraculous provision for these children and the faith of George Muller, is a marvelous and inspiring story. In chapter 9 the author reviews the period of direst struggle which began in the summer of 1838. Muller's diary recounts the story:

August 18, 1938 I have not one penny in hand for the orphans. In a day or two again many pounds will be needed. My eyes are up to the Lord. Evening. Before this day is over, I have received from a sister 5 pounds. She had some time since put away her trinkets, to be sold for the benefit of the orphans. This morning, whilst in prayer, it came to her mind, I have this 5 pounds, and owe no man any thing, therefore it would be better to give this money at once, as it may be some time, before I can dispose of the trinkets. She therefore brought it, little knowing that there was not a penny in hand, and that I had been able to advance only 4 pounds, 15 shillings and 5 pence for house-keeping in the Boys' Orphan-House, instead of the usual 10 pounds.

Aug. 23. Today I was again without one single penny, when 3 pounds was sent from Clapham, with a box of new clothes for the orphans.

Muller was later to look back on the period from September 1838 to the end of 1846 as the time when the greatest trials of faith were experienced in the orphan work. They were not years of continuous difficulty: rather there tended to be a pattern of a few months of trial, followed by some months of comparative plenty. During the whole period, according to Muller, the children knew nothing of the trial. In the midst of one of the darkest periods, he recorded, 'these dear little ones know nothing about it, because their tables are as well supplied as when there was 800 pounds in the bank, and they have lack of nothing.' At another time he wrote, 'the orphans have never lacked anything. Had I had thousands of pounds in hand, they would have fared no better than they have; for they have always had good nourishing food, the necessary articles of clothing, etc.' In other words, the periods of trial were so in the sense that there was no excess of funds: God supplied the need by the day, even by the hour. Enough was sent, but no more than enough.

WE GIVE THANKS

We give thanks to God for sharing
Our cares, our smiles and songs,
For sharing the harvest, and forgiving
our wrongs.
We give thanks for our loaf of bread,
The soup hot in the bowl,
For Christ, the bread of life,
Fruit of the spirit, and food for the
soul.
For Christ, our guest at every meal,
With whom we sit to sup,
For his goodness and mercy spilling over
the cup.
We thank God for everything he gives,
large and small,
For spreading his canopy of love over
all!

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR MEETING MY
SPIRITUAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL NEEDS
OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

Thank You,
God

No matter what my need is, whether it be prosperity, healing, or the spiritual unfoldment for which my soul constantly yearns, I know that with God all my needs are met in the right way and at the right time.

I give thanks to God and I am willing to expect and then to accept a miracle. God supplies me with exactly what is needed—or something better. God always gives the best. Of that, I can be sure.

My heart is filled with gratitude as I offer a prayer of thanksgiving: "Thank You, God, for my daily bread, the spiritual sustenance that nourishes spirit, soul, and body. In Your loving care, my life is fulfilling, joyful, and complete. Thank You, God, for meeting my spiritual, mental, and physical needs of the past, present, and future."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."—John 6:35