THANK GOD FOR SMALL FAVORS

Only they who give thanks for little things receive the big things. We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts he has in store for us, because we do not give thanks for daily gifts.

We think we dare not be satisfied with the small measure of spiritual knowledge, experience and love that have been given to us, and that we must constantly be looking forward eagerly for the highest good. Then we deplore the fact that we lack the deep certainty, the strong faith and the rich experience that God has given to others, and we consider this lament to be pious.

We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from him the little things?

If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

GRATEFULNESS

Oh, Source-of-life,
Your love is limitless--
Your embrace knows no boundaries.
You make me glad to be alive.
You give me reasons for living--
reasons for being!
I am grateful!
I AM GRATEFUL!

Though my heart,
at times,
is heavy
and my whole world
appears confused,
Do not judge me as ungrateful.
I am truly grateful
for all You have done,
for all that You refuse to do,
for all that tomorrow will bring.
I am grateful!
I AM GRATEFUL!

ACROSTIC FOR THANKSGIVING

G rateful
In the beginning of gratitude we are appreciative for kindness and goodness received.

R esponsibility
Gratitude when it has matured will always seek to become useful unto others.

A cceptance
The ability to say "thanks" in all circumstances is an essential part of gratitude.

T rust
Committing one's entire future to God's care is a bold expression of gratitude.

I nsight
With insight we can look at every corner of life and recognize the gracious purposes of God.

T houghtfulness
Thinking about the need and welfare of others may be the proof of authentic gratitude.

U nselfishness
To be unselfish is both a root and a fruit of thoughtful gratitude.

D edication
When gratitude reaches the peak of development, it is transformed into consecration.

E nthusiasm
As Christians we let the world know that for us the offering of thanks is no drab chore.

-The Epworth United Methodist Church
Chickasha, OK

WHY THE NINE LEPERS DID NOT RETURN

Why did only one cleansed leper return to thank Jesus? The following are nine suggested reasons why the nine did not return:

One waited to see if the cure was real.
One waited to see if it would last.
One said he would see Jesus later.
One decided that he had never had leprosy.
One said he would have gotten well anyway.
One gave the glory to the priests.
One said, "O well, Jesus didn't really do anything."
One said, "Any rabbi could have done it."
One said, "I was already much improved."

—Charles L. Brown