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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

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Prayer is simply defined as 'talking with God.' Some prayer conversations may focus on:

A – adoration

C – confession

T – thanksgiving

S – supplication (asking God to meet our needs)

I – intercession (Prayer for others)

Dear Friends;

Thank you for the privilege of sharing weekly some thoughts about our faith and fellowship through Jesus Christ. I pray that these letters will bring blessing to each of you as they certainly bless me with the opportunity to reflect on and clarify my own faith and calling.

There are so many scripture verses about the importance and value of thanksgiving that I hardly know where to start. But let's begin with two:

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 5: 16-18) and

"Hallelujah! Thank GOD! Pray to him by name! Tell everyone you meet what He has done!" (Psalms 105: 1,2)

I am first reminded of an old hymn:

"Count your blessing, name them one by one by one, and it will remind you what the Lord has done."

How many times have you felt so frustrated, worried, despondent that nothing seemed to ever be going right? What a difference it can make if at such low moments we just begin to reflect on some of the blessings we have experienced. The joy of our family, the taste of our favourite food, the warmth of a comfortable sweater, the smile on a child's face, the cool refreshment of a cup of cold water, the powerful notes of an organ playing, the kindness of a friend. (Please feel free to jump in and add your own list!)

And then we begin to prayerfully thank God for each of these one by one. Once started it seems the list never ends. And what happened to our sour mood? Vanished! Replaced by joyfulness. "And this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."

God wants to hear our joys as well as our needs and sorrows. Think of how it must give Him pleasure when one of his children rejoices and says thank you. Don't you too feel uplifted by someone expressing their gratitude?

"Hallelujah!" And what a witness!

I remember a cute saying I first heard as a child. "Keep smiling ... it makes people wonder what you have been up to." (chuckle.)

A smile on a Christian's face is a doorway to opportunity for witnessing. Others want to get to know a cheerful person, and nothing brings cheer like a thankful heart. Then we can respond to the last part of the Psalmist's words,

"Tell everyone you meet what He has done!" (Psalms 105: 1,2)

Spread the good news! And be ye thankful!

Blessings, (Rev.) John McGurrin