

## IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE

I John 3:1: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!

This verse is a reminder that we are God's children, and our lives must show the gratitude in our hearts of the love He has for us. On our refrigerator is the magnet pictured below. When we start our day with a



grateful heart, it is nearly impossible to live our lives that day with any other attitude.

Ephesians 5:19-20: Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father **for everything**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How can we be grateful **for everything** when we are asked to quarantine to prevent the spread of a virus? We remember that God is always in control and has given all authority to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Even though this is a sinful world, God remembers those that He calls His children. God knows the number of hairs on our heads. He knows the number of our days on this earth. Will worry and distress add to our days on earth? No, it will more likely lessen our days and make us more susceptible to various pains and ailments.

Let's consider how He cares for the birds as Jesus mentions in Matthew 6:25-27.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

Why do we spend so much time in worry? We can only change things in this life that are within our control and, even then, only if it is God's will. God hasn't promised Christians, or anyone else, that life will always be easy. He promises if we will learn from Him that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. We continue to wear ourselves down, because we do not give our burden to Him. Lighten your load and give it to Jesus!

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were stripped and severely flogged and thrown into a Roman prison. The prison guard was instructed to guard them carefully, so he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet into the stocks. Verse 25 says:

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

After all these men had suffered, they sang praises to God, using their faith in song to teach others. Are we showing "little" faith? Or are we showing our faith by starting each day with a grateful heart? Last Sunday, via livestreaming worship, we sang "Living By Faith."

## LIVING BY FAITH

I care not today what the morrow may bring, if shadow or sunshine or rain,  
the Lord I know ruleth o'er everything and all of my worry is vain.

Tho tempests may blow and the stormclouds arise, obscuring the brightness  
of life,  
I'm never alarmed at the overcast skies, The Master looks on at the strife.

Our Lord will return to this earth some sweet day, our troubles will then all be  
o'er,  
The Master so gently will lead us away, beyond that blest heavenly shore.

Living by faith, in Jesus above, Trusting, confiding in His great love;  
From all harm safe in His sheltering arm, I'm living by faith and feel no alarm.

Are we singing this song with the intent to live this way? To me, this is the "shadow" of time right now. However, we are living free, even though we are asked to stay at home. We can still fellowship in ways that have never been available in past centuries, even decades. It can be disappointing that we are not meeting together within a physical space, but we can live with a grateful heart that God is waking us each morning for a purpose. It is up to each one of us to be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10). He will reveal His purpose for us daily. Maybe we have been defiant by not being still and allowing God to work within us in this world. We can live each moment for Christ, and we can even sing out "in moments like these."

## IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE

In moments like these, I sing out a song, I sing out a love song to Jesus.  
In moments like these, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice to the Lord.

Singing I love you, Lord, singing I love you, Lord;  
Singing I love you, Lord, I love you.

In moments like these, I sing out a song, I sing out a love song to Jesus.  
In moments like thee, I lift up my hands, I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing I love you, Lord, singing I love you, Lord;  
Singing I love you, Lord, I love you.

So give thanks with a grateful heart. Open your mind and heart to what the Lord has in store for you each day. God knows what is happening in this world. Maintain a strong faith and allow it to continue growing, because we are His children. He has covered us with layers of His love to protect us. What a joy it is to be His child! The last words of encouragement from Philippians 4:4-9. Notice the words **in bold** are what God gives us, but there are words **not in bold** that we need to do to glorify God.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. **The Lord is near.** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** Finally, brothers, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think

about these things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. **And the God of peace will be with you.**

Let this be our prayer today.

Our dear, loving Father, we come before you with thanksgiving and thank you for our lives today. Show us, Father, how we can serve you today and show us that opportunity to share our faith with at least one person, so others may know you as we know you. Our trust is in you and that you are caring for us today as you have done every single day since the creation of the world. Thank you for you for sending Jesus into this world and that He has suffered, even more than we have known, but we share in His victory over death to live with you eternally. Give us peace in our hearts. In the name of Jesus, Amen.