



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

BECAUSE HE IS GOOD.

PSALM 136:1

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE LASTS FOREVER!

Thanksgiving 2022

Greetings to you,

I am sharing with you a quote from Michael Youssef. Please read it slowly and consider what words stick out to you?
"God wants to see prayers that are filled with genuine praise and thanksgiving for what He has done in the past. He wants our hearts to be filled with awe and gratitude for His blessings. He wants us to set up memorials in our hearts testifying to the provisions He has given us."

This quote resonates with me as we head towards this time of thanksgiving. I hear words like "genuine", "awe", "gratitude" and "testifying". These words challenge me to think about how I consider this special day. Too often we go into Thanksgiving superficially "giving thanks and praise" to God only too quickly turning towards our feast, football and shopping. How different it might be if our thanksgiving was genuine, filled with awe and true gratitude for all that God has done for us.

We lift up our words giving thanks for family that we tend to take for granted. Those family bonds are something to be cherished. Ask someone who longs for family or deals with broken relationships. We sit around tables with more food than we could ever eat and offer thanks. While we stuff ourselves, may we consider those who ache due to lack of food. And as we plan our attack to hit the deals of Black Friday to buy more stuff than any of us really needs, think of those whose budgets are so strained to even provide for the basic necessities.

I encourage you this thanksgiving to truly consider God's blessings that have been showered upon you. May your prayers of thanksgiving be genuine and testify to God's love poured out for you to the point of overflowing.

As I ponder on Thanksgiving, I am well aware how blessed I am. God has brought me to this special place and surrounded me with incredible people who have love in their hearts and demonstrate love with outstretched arms reaching out to others. Each of us should take time during this special time to pause and consider all of our blessings and express our thanks to God. To do so from the heart is a truly humbling experience.

On Tuesday, November 22nd, Westfield Friends will host the Community Thanksgiving Service at 7pm. Our sisters and brothers from around the triboro area will join us for a special service focused on giving thanks to our God. We hope you will plan to join us.

Diane and I wish you a happy thanksgiving that is filled gratitude, praise and thankfulness.

Serving with you with a thankful heart,

Charlie