



“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” Psalm 100:4

It’s not always easy to be thankful, grateful, or appreciative when life throws you a curve ball. You’ve lost your job. The kids are rebelling. You’re diagnosed with cancer. Sometimes well meaning people give us a Bible verse that sounds and feels trite and unsympathetic. But, what’s our alternative? Self pity? What good has that ever produced in our life?

Have you ever noticed that “Be thankful” is a command? The healthiest human emotion is not love but gratitude. It makes you more resistant to stress and less susceptible to illness. People who are grateful are happy. But people who are ungrateful are miserable. So if you cultivate the attitude of gratitude, of being thankful in everything, it reduces stress in your life. (Rick Warren)

A great story about choosing to be grateful happened to Bible commentator Matthew Henry, after being robbed. He wrote in his diary the following: **“Let me be thankful. First, because I have never been robbed before. Second, because although they took my wallet, they did not take**

my life. Third, because although they took all that I had, it was not very much. Fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.” This is a beautiful example of the difficulties of life trying to rob us of joy. Being grateful is often the last thing our current circumstances might suggest to us. But it is for that exact reason that we should choose to thank God for the good things we do have and the bad things that have not happened.

April 2016



Another incredible story of being thankful happened in 1636. During the darkness of the Thirty Years’ War, a German pastor, Martin Rinkart, reportedly buried five thousand of his church members in one year. That would make an average of fifteen funerals every day. His homeland was ravaged by war, death, and economic disaster. In the heart of that darkness he sat down and wrote this song:

*Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things had done,
In whom His world rejoices.
Who, from our mother’s arms,
Hath led us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.*

Mission

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

In Memory of William Patrick

Thank you to those who gave memorial gifts in memory of Bill. He was a faithful supporter of many ministries including Freedom Ministries. He was faithful to God through his life.

This man obviously knew that thanksgiving comes from a heart full of the love of God, and is not dependent on outward circumstances.

Let us allow these examples of thankfulness make us aware of the importance of choosing to focus on the good things God has blessed us with, rather than dwelling on the negative or what we do not have.

Testimonies

God used my time at Freedom Ministries with Wayne and Jeanine to pump life into my "dead shattered heart" and then draw me into His arms and show me that He's safe, good, and that He's chosen, accepted, delights in and considers me His precious daughter. I belong. And, He washed away all the sewage and declared me "clean" and "whole." Life these days has turned into both an adventure and a quest. An adventure in discovering what a Father/daughter relationship is like and a quest to finding truth to replace all the lies and negative beliefs that have ruled my entire life.

Praise and Prayer

Praise

- ◆ For God's strength to help those struggling with relationship problems.
- ◆ For God healing and tenderizing hearts so they can give and receive love.
- ◆ For spring weather, flowers and new life.

Prayer

- ◆ For spiritual protection from enemy attacks for our clients and for us.
- ◆ An additional Board member in 2016
- ◆ For parents of hurting teenagers.
- ◆ God's financial provision for this ministry

Birdies for Charity

If you have a desire to help individuals and couples find freedom in Christ, please prayerfully consider using the enclosed form to donate to Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities. The John Deere Classic Charitable Corporation sponsors Birdies For Charity in association with the John Deere classic golf tournament, Aug. 11—18, 2016. The goal of the program is to obtain pledges (donations) of 1 cent or more for every birdie made during the tournament by the Tour Pros.

A birdie is a score of one stroke better than par for any golf hole. Par is the normal or expected score of a golf professional on any hole. If approximately 2,000 birdies are made, the total pledge would be 1 cent = \$20, 2 cents = \$40, 3 cents = \$60. Each person who makes a pledge will have the opportunity to win some great prizes. Last year birdies totaled 2,040.

Donating through the "Birdies For Charity" event is easy and 100% of your donation, plus additional BONUS BUCKS, go directly to us. Simply fill out the enclosed pledge form, noting the number of cents for every Birdie made, your name and address and mail the left half of the form to Freedom Ministries in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!



If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please contact us. Our email address is: freedomministries@att.net or write to: Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 953, Moline, IL 61266-0953