



And Also With You

MID-MAY 2015

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Street Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net Facebook.com/GraceAnglican



SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)

Children's Chapel

MONDAYS

10:45am-Prayer
Intercessors in church
Information
706-897-6381

6:30pm Graham
Cook Group
Information 455-5940

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 am
Women's Bible
Study-Information
990-2973

FRIDAYS

8:15 am
Men's Group-
Information 422-3169

CHALICE BEARERS

May 3

Bob and Jane
Grafe

May 10

Mother's Day
Jan Bogue
Becky Johnson

May 17

Susan Jones
Maggie Rockett

May 24

Pentecost
Janic Terry
Kitty Barksdale

May 31

Maggie and Julian
Carnes

The Effects of Thanksgiving



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

There are two kinds of financial stresses. One has to do with getting money and the other with keeping it. If you are among those worried about keeping it then this article may be of help. If you

have more *worry* than *wonder* about the blessings in your life then you might have already begun to lose some of them.

The economy is on many people's mind these days, mine included. The reason for the concern is because most of us are really, really blessed. God has given us so many wonderful things, experiences, and relationships, that our lives are filled to running over. Even so, the nagging voice of the enemy reminds us that nothing in life is guaranteed, and we could lose everything at the drop of a hat. The constant, lying voice of the enemy plays in the background of our minds like elevator music as we travel through life. Many never realize that the music is playing until they find themselves humming a tune, wondering where they might have heard it. The voice of the enemy plays continually in our heads, quietly reminding us of the need to worry all the time about everything.

It is at this point the Lord showed me that if I worry about holding onto my blessings then I have actually begun to lose them. This is the poison. The anti-

dote is to *give thanks* for the things that I am afraid of losing. It is as simple as that. The enemy's plan is to have me so bothered about losing my blessings that I cannot enjoy them. When this happens then I have already lost them.

When Jesus feeds the five thousand, He takes a tiny amount of food and *give thanks* over it. He deeply appreciates the seed that He is holding, knowing the harvest that it is about to become. It is in the *thanksgiving* that the miracle occurs. Five loaves and two fish become hundreds of loaves and many fish. The same effect occurs when Jesus feeds four thousand

with only seven loaves and a few fish. At the Last Supper, the Old Covenant's Passover Meal is laid to rest as it becomes the New Covenant's weekly meal through *thanksgiving*. This is why one of the sacred names for the meal is *Eucharist*, which is Greek for *thanksgiving*. In fact the litur-

gy at this point in the Eucharistic service is called, *The Great Thanksgiving*. The ordinary becomes extraordinary because of *thanksgiving*.

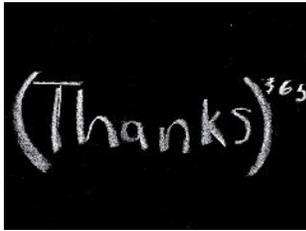
Paul instructs Corinthian believers as to what to do if they are at a meal where the main course is meat that has been offered to a pagan idol. In order to spiritually purify it he tells them to *give thanks* for it. This consecrates the unholy, allowing them to consume it with a clear conscience. That is no small matter for meat dedicated to a demonic deity to now become sacred simply by offering *thanks*.

I am not obsessed with vitamins and



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nutrients, but I have wondered if by truly thanking God for a meal that I am about to consume if something wonderful and mystical does not occur over the food, even if it is just a *Happy Meal*?



“If you are worrying about losing your blessings then you have already lost them.”

Worry heals nothing. Thanksgiving heals everything. If a person worries about their meal it can only constrict their system,

yet when a person is truly grateful for what they have then it opens the flow of life. Try it. Worry about your lunch and take note of how you feel at the end of it, and then be really, really joyful and grateful for your dinner and see which one you feel better after.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, *“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all things for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* The Lord told me to write the opposite of the verse which goes like this: *“Be depressed always. Converse only with your inner self all the time. Complain constantly for this is the will of Satan concerning you.”* If the enemy’s will is to complain always then it must be for our detriment. Therefore, *giving thanks* must be to our great benefit.

Thanksgiving recognizes that someone has weakened their position in order to make my position

May 24, 2015 Come Holy Spirit!



Congratulations to Olivia England for being chosen as a USS Alabama

Crewmate for 2015. Olivia will serve with five other young women chosen to represent the Battleship at various civic and cultural functions. Olivia will be a senior this fall at the University of South Alabama and is the daughter of Barbara England and granddaughter of Ruth England.

stronger. When someone gives you \$100 they weaken their bank account by that amount while strengthening yours by the same. So it is when you thank God. You recognize His goodness and it bonds Him to you and vice versa. We seldom forget people who have given us gifts because the kindness connected to the action creates a bond with the giver that far outlasts the gift.

If you are worried about losing your blessings then actively begin to *give thanks* for each and everyone. The God who gave them to you is not going away. He loves you and cannot change. Protect your investments with *thanksgiving*. By doing so, you welcome the Savior into your midst in a way like few things do.

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”



“A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.”

C S Lewis *Mere Christianity*



Off to Indonesia

We welcome Tina, Jeremy, and Amelia Skinner to Grace Church on May 24. Jeremy is the son of Karen and Wick Skinner, and he and wife, Tina and baby, Amelia move to Indonesia in June for two years. They make one last stop in Fairhope to spend time with family, and I have invited Jeremy & Tina to share about their call to Indonesia during the Prayers of the People on May 24. Also, if you would like to be a part of the Skinner’s support team, you can make checks to Grace Church and we will direct them to this wonderful mission work that the Skinners are heading off to do. We look forward to having them with us on May 24.

