

Devotion 27
O Give Thanks!

Friday, Week 4

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever! (Psalm 107:1)

The “Post-it Generosity Challenge”—In the second week of our Sunday morning stewardship Bible Studies, we were asked to take this challenge for one week. What was it? For one week we were to commit to noticing how God’s grace, mercy, and provision abounded in our lives. We were to “be on the lookout for the ways, large and small, God opens His hand to us.” We were to stop and think of such things as a warm bed, a great meal, and a hot shower. We were to stop and think of our physical blessings, including such things as our five senses and the ability to think and create. We were to think of those wholesome pleasures that bring us joy, such as a sunset or a special friend. We were to look to recognize God’s grace through a loving friend or family member. And every time we recognized something, we were to write it on a “Post-it” note, sticking it on the bedroom or bathroom mirror when we got home. *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever!*

One great blessing that has been given to each of us is to be a part of this church. Perhaps it would be good to take the “Post-it Generosity Challenge” with the requirement that we only focus on the blessings that are ours together as a church! Think of the people that God has brought together here! Think of the kind and caring hearts and acts that are characteristic of this people! Think of the deep understanding of the grace of God in Christ Jesus that seems to joyfully overflow from us every time we worship or come together. Think of the love that abounds among us. Think of the special place of mission in which God has put us. See the opportunities to step out powerfully in ministry in our community with the sure, certain, and strong power of the Good News of Jesus Christ (itself yet another blessing showered down upon us). Think about the privilege—and blessing—of being a part of this ministry. Think of that blessing, here at church, which is close to your heart, whatever it may be. As we think about these blessings and a host of others that are ours as the family of believers in this place, it seems to me we can not help but raise our voice with the psalmist, “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever!!”

This Sunday, we humbly come before our Lord to make promises expressing our desire to use money entrusted to us to support the exciting ongoing mission and ministry of our congregation and beyond. Heeding God’s Word to us, let us respond joyfully, willingly, proportionately, and sacrificially for the good of the kingdom, for our great good, and to the glory of God!

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, send me Your Holy Spirit in such measure that—seeing what a great blessing it is to be a part of Your Church—her people and her mission—I might be moved joyfully, willingly, proportionately, and sacrificially to commit to this mission and people. Amen!