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## Happy Thanksgiving!

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise.  
Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. 5 For the LORD *is* good;  
His mercy *is* everlasting, *And* His truth *endures* to all generations. PSALM 100: 4,5

“HAPPY THANKSGIVING” is a very appropriate phrase because GRATITUDE is one of the essential ingredients of Happiness.

God's Word gives us so many imperatives to “Give Praise to the Lord,” *And* there are many practical reasons to have a continuous “Attitude of Gratitude.” It makes you a happier person, more pleasant to others, creates a more pleasant atmosphere around you, increases your positive influence, helps bring problems into their proper perspective, leading you to solutions and increasing productivity.

Usually we equate Thanks-giving with physical things such as food, clothing, shelter, family, friends, Freedom, and health. All these expressions of gratitude are appropriate and bring honor to God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, but I have been thinking about some other things: Particularly the Godly influences I have had in my life from infancy, and the tremendous impact of these immeasurable blessings.

**FIRST, I was blessed with Godly parents**, both of whom were serious scholars of the Bible, faithful prayer warriors, fruitful workers, and always sought to apply the principles of God's Word to every area of life. Crystal and I, often in our prayers, express our praise to the Lord for our consistently Christian parents.

**Second**, Since Dad was a pastor, my siblings and I were exposed not only to his diligent Scriptural preaching and teaching, but whenever the church had visiting evangelists, missionaries, or indigenous people from other cultures, they usually stayed with us. As children, we were personally acquainted with many of God's great and faithful servants. We had the privilege to see these Saints in their daily lives, and I praise God for the impact they had on me!

**Third, one of the greatest influences in my life has been the Word of God.** It was a daily influence since infancy, and I began reading it regularly at a pretty young age. When you know the author, His letter of love, empowered by His Holy Spirit, becomes the hand of the potter shaping you according to His precious plan. My wife was also raised in a similar home, and what a blessing it is to have been trained in the Word, then having access to it daily through all these years.

That brings me to the **fourth great influence** in my life as a young person. When I was 18, God sent a young girl into my life, and we grew together, inspired each other, stimulated spiritual growth, worked together in the Harvest of souls. I am convinced that one of the most destructive forces in any life can be bad relationships, but thankfully the opposite can be true as well. I praise God that he gave me a girlfriend that was NEVER a spiritual drain on me, as both of us had committed ourselves to God before we met. She was my Greatest Blessing in that portion of my life. Then...

**5. She became my wife.** What a precious influence, co-worker, wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and missionary she is. It would be impossible to exaggerate the value of a Christ-following wife! For over 55 years she has been continuously by my side, a true partner in every ministry and endeavor of our lives. Never a foot-dragger, she is always a consistent example and influence for Truth and holiness.

And finally, One of the Greatest Influences in my life has been the ACE Educational Program, Accelerated Christian Education. I was a 26-year-old pastor when I went to Dallas, Texas, one of the first Pastors from West Virginia to receive the ACE Administrator's Training. Everything I ever attended, watched, read, or listened to, from ACE was a blessing to our home, marriage, ministry, and family. The ACE Paces helped to plant a biblical worldview in our children, and hundreds of others. It was such an honor to be able to issue thousands of these ACE PACES (individualized workbooks) into the hands of students without any fear that the materials would subject their young minds to falsehoods, humanism, warped values, or detrimental attitudes! Later, even recently, we've had the privilege to train hundreds of people in Papua New Guinea to utilize the ACE program.

Both of us are perpetually grateful, and want to joyfully Praise the Lord for these powerful Godly, Christ-centered influences in our lives, and the great life and love He has given us together!

We are grateful for all of you who have been supportive of all our labors in the Harvest. As I have often said, there is a great harvest of souls taking place around the World, and it is the generous, often sacrificial, giving of God's people, which makes these labors possible and effective. Pray for the work of God around the World. You can give through **Zelle 304-661-2534**

As we move toward the Christmas season, let's keep in mind that the greatest gift is the "unspeakable gift" God gave on that first Christmas. "Let's give Jesus to the World."

In the Service of the King,  
*David and Crystal Hersman*