



Daily Reflections

November 22, 2018

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful,

and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today we celebrate the wonderful feast of Thanksgiving. And as we gather around our banquet-like dinner tables with our families, we often pause before we dine to recall some of our blessings: Family, food, home, health, etc.etc. There is little doubt that most of us appreciate those gifts from God that we desire and love. But what about those "gifts" God gives us for which

we neither asked nor really wanted? I am thinking of those lessons that God gave us that didn't seem all that pleasant initially but really motivated to change or grow? What about those people God put in our lives who said things to us that stung but looking back were prophetic words that provoked us to change unhealthy thinking or living? Perhaps Thanksgiving is a day to acknowledge and give thanks for ALL of God's gifts, no matter what they were or how they came about.

Food for your Journey

David McCasland tells about a woman whose car was stalled at an intersection:

The car's hood was up, and the woman flagged down McCasland to help. "I can't get it started," she said, "but if you jiggle the wire on the battery, I think it will work." McCasland grabbed the positive battery cable and it came off in his hand. The cable was definitely too loose. "The terminal needs to be tightened up," he told her. "I can fix it if you have some tools." "My husband says to just jiggle the wire," she replied. "It always works. Why don't you just try that?" McCasland paused for a moment, sarcastically wondering to himself why her husband didn't ride around town with her so he would be available when the wire needed jiggling. Finally he said, "Madam, if I jiggle the wire, you're going to need someone else to do it every time you shut the engine off. If you'll give me two minutes and a wrench, we can solve the problem and you can forget about it." Reluctantly, she fumbled under the front seat and then extended a crescent wrench through the window of the old car. As he tightened the battery terminal, it occurred to McCasland how many times he had tried, in his own life, to get a "quick fix" from God. "I have this problem, Lord, and if you'll just jiggle the wire, things will be OK. I'm in a hurry, so let's just get me going again the quickest way possible."

But God doesn't want to "jiggle wires," does he? He wants to take the time necessary to deal with our real problem and fix it. To get the long-term solution to the pressing needs in our lives requires a complete surrender to God and a willingness to proceed on his terms. We must cooperate with him in whatever it takes, for as long as it takes. As the lady drove away with her tightened terminal, McCasland stopped for a moment and asked the Lord to say "Not" the next time he asks God to just jiggle a wire.

--Glen Martin,

Beyond the Rat Race

(Nashville:Broadman & Holman, 1995), 156.

A Prayer from the Heart

Compassionate and Merciful, I thank You above all this day because Your ways are not my ways and Your thoughts are not my thoughts. You know what I need and You provide it even if I don't necessarily want nor like it. You are my loving Father Who cares. Make me humble, and therefore, grateful for Your providential care. Amen