



# GOOD NEWS GUIDE

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

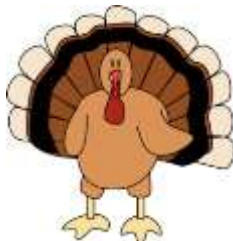
Brother Roland, PO Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222

November, 2022

## Giving Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I prepare this, Thanksgiving Day in the United States is just a few short weeks away..



It's good that our nation has a day supposedly dedicated to giving thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings He has poured out upon us. I hope you will regard it as a day to focus on thanking God for loving you and providing for your needs, and to pray for His continued guidance for our leaders and our people. But never forget: every day is a good day to give thanks to God.

I have enjoyed many blessings in life, for which I am profoundly grateful to God. I thank Him every day especially for the ways His love has been richly present in my family. In this letter I want to focus on several of His blessings for which you who read this may also want to lift up special prayers of thanksgiving, both now and often in the days to come.



First, **I thank God for life.** He has given me existence. He created me just as surely as He created the first human being. His Spirit breathed life into my body; and when I took my first breath, and every breath I have taken since that first one, it was by His grace that I was able to do it. Thank You, Lord, for giving me life.

**I thank God for my (mostly) healthy body.** As I get older I'm finding I have a few health issues, and I know that will continue until one day (it will seem like much too soon) this body won't do the job any longer and I'll leave it behind. But so far it has been much better than just 'okay.' Thank You, Lord, for good health.

**I thank God for revealing Himself** to the world, and to me. Through His Word — that wonderful, powerful gift, the Bible; through His

chosen people, the Jews; and especially though His Son, Jesus, He has shown Himself to be powerful enough to create this astonishing universe, filled with beauty and wonders far beyond our ability to understand or even appreciate. And yet He is close enough and personal enough to touch our individual lives with His loving, caring presence. What a wonderful God He is! Thank You, Lord, for letting me know at least a little bit about who You are!



**I thank God for calling all people** to be His own. He could have been satisfied to call just His Chosen People, the Jews, and left the rest of us out in the cold. No, His plan included all of us, from the very beginning. We were created to be His, and to live eternally in a precious and intimate relationship with Him. Thank You, Lord, for commanding me to love You, and for making that possible.

**I thank God that He did not simply overlook our sins.** He didn't compromise Himself, but paid His own terrible price to atone for them. He died on the cross so that we might have life, abundantly, eternally in His presence; freedom bought and paid for by the Blood of the Lamb. Thank You, Lord, for dying so that I might live.



**I thank God for guiding my steps daily** (as much as I will let Him). I take to heart Proverbs 3:5-6 ("Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.") and Romans 8:14 ("For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."). Thank You, Holy Spirit, for guiding me. Give me grace to follow You more and more faithfully, more and more willingly, more and more joyfully.

**I thank God for making me a worker in His harvest field.** He has given me jobs to do. I haven't always heard the orders. Sometimes I've heard them but ignored them. And often I fail to do the work as well as it should be done. Nevertheless, He continues to bless me with opportunities to serve. Thank You, Lord, for using even a flawed vessel like me.

**I thank God for prayer.** Why does God's Word command us to pray? Why does the application of His power to meet a need depend upon our prayers in some degree? I think the only answer must be that He wants us to be involved with Him in doing what He does. Of course, He wants us to listen as we



pray, along with speaking to Him. Sometimes, if we're listening, we'll hear something important. Thank You, Lord, for listening when I pray. Thank You for giving me grace to listen when I will.

**I thank God for the Church.** Not for any particular congregation, but the Body of Christ, the universal brotherhood and sisterhood of all who trust in Jesus. I have experienced the love that flows from strangers who belong to Him. I know how it feels to be part of His family—it is truly a foretaste of Heaven. Thank You, Lord, for the feeling of belonging that always greets me when I encounter a new group of Christian brothers and sisters.

There are so many other intangibles that I am thankful for:

- ✓ **the beauty of the world,**
- ✓ **the marvel of the seasons,**
- ✓ **the amazing and delightful variety of living things,**
- ✓ **the awesome scope of the heavens,**
- ✓ **the marvel of music,**
- ✓ **the song of a bird or a cricket,**
- ✓ **the feel of a small child's hand in mine,**
- ✓ **the beautiful smile of every little girl and goofy grin of every little boy,**
- ✓ **the pleasure of a cold drink on a hot day or a hot drink on a cold day.**

I could fill this page and a few more without half trying.

Does any of this resonate with you? Do you say, "Yes, I'm thankful for that, too"? I hope so, because giving thanks to God for His goodness and mercy and generosity is very, very important. Why? First, because we are commanded to give thanks, to be thankful. Why is that? Is it because God somehow needs our gratitude?

No, His ego doesn't need a boost, so it isn't for His benefit. It's for ours. When we give thanks to God for His blessings, we are merely acknowledging the truth of Scripture that "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights ..." (James 1:17) When we speak truth, we adjust our mind and spirit to be more in tune with the Spirit of God. Every time we praise Him, every time we thank Him for a blessing, we grow a little bit closer to Him. And that's really what life is about.

Besides that, there is the simple fact that an attitude of gratitude, and focusing on what is good and worth being thankful for, is simply better for you in every way — spiritually, emotionally, and physically — than occupying your mind with anger, worry, frustration, disappointment, or any other negative subject. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." (Philippians 4:8) This is not only commanded, it's good advice — it makes sense!

In the weeks following Thanksgiving Day we will go through Advent, which is the season of anticipation of the coming of the Lord, culminating with the birth of the Babe on Christmas. May I suggest that you focus on giving thanks to God for the gift of His Son, and for all of the other marvelous gifts I have mentioned above? If you will do that, I promise it will bless you.

Remember this: **GOD LOVES YOU!**

May He bless you today and always, my brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ, and give you His peace —

*Brother Roland*

## **I Refuse**

Author Unknown

I refuse to be discouraged, to be sad, or to cry;  
I refuse to be downhearted, and here's the reason why:  
I have a God who's mighty, who's sovereign and supreme.  
I have a God who loves me, and by Grace I'm on His team.

He is all-wise and powerful. Jesus is His name.  
Though everything is changeable, my God remains the same.  
My God knows all that's happening, beginning to the end.  
His presence is my comfort. He is my dearest Friend.

When sickness comes to weaken me, to bring my head down low,  
I call upon my mighty God; into His arms I go.  
When circumstances threaten to rob me of my peace,  
He draws me close unto His breast, where all my strivings cease.

When my heart melts within me, and weakness takes control,  
He gathers me into His arms; He soothes my heart and soul.  
The great "I AM" is with me. My life is in His hand.  
The "Son of the LORD" is my hope. It's in His strength I stand.

When challenges surround me, with problems all around,  
He stands right beside me, so solutions can be found.  
If I falter or I worry, my heavenly Guide is there.  
I am His earthly helper, and He listens to my prayer.

I refuse to be defeated. My eyes are on my God.  
He has promised to be with me, as through this life I trod.  
I'm looking past my circumstances to Heaven's throne above.  
My prayers have reached the heart of God; I'm resting in His love.

**I give God thanks in everything.** My eyes are on His face;  
The battle's His; the victory, mine. He'll help me win the race.

***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!***

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If you have a Bible question or a question about the Christian life, send it to me at

Brother Roland, PO Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222

I'll do my best to answer it, and your question may be helpful to someone else as well.  
God bless you! Please remember your prison chaplain or your pastor(s) in your prayers.

# Living for God

It starts with being born again, newly created in the likeness of Christ; then setting our course to walk in that newness of life; and finally to be available and ready to be used by God every day for His divine purposes. All of that is our privilege and our calling. Enjoy the puzzle.

## Puzzle:

S T S F O Z D B P B P J L G F D H O P E F O R T O M O R R O W K  
D C E J M P R P N V F U E I B E A Q Z I P D Q E R S I B N L X M  
N G H G V G Q Z L L G R G Z G N P N J W H O L J E N S Z G N O Z  
E G R A N D P A R E N T S H M R V H F S W B H S W E P L V D D S  
I G X A L Q K I U R P G F T L A I J R J I O R P O R I E W M N N  
R A J W C L P Z L U F B O H G E L O E B I E F V P D H W H I R K  
F H P A S E E V M T P V R J B L T X E J H A O U T L S Y S A A O  
N E E Y S A T N T U F O W D T S J H D T N J R O I I N U R B C C  
A E A S O I L O G F K E A M A N T Z O E J F G P R H O P G N U H  
I S C T D O S V C E T A L P I O W R M K L W I C I C I S Q B G K  
T E E O C H J T A H S D K L Y S B V F V C P V Z P O T E R W Z Y  
S L W S B G N M E T A M I N D S F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G  
I C I E O T A K S R I N N E I E D I O G F W N S Y A L S B G U F  
R N T R J O N L B O S O G B D L G M M H B M E C L K E E F N E A  
H U H V L C E C E F K B N E O Z R X P G D V S C O X R S Z I U I  
C D G E O S T R E N G T H A N D H E A L T H S W H J G F A V J T  
M N O O P U E Y X O B I Y R Y S W I S H X L O F E H N O P O J H  
S A D T P D R G M I Y P N O Y X U Y T A M E F Z H X I R B L H I  
Q S O H X G N D K S H O G N I R A E H R O F S R A E V E K R S N  
P T M E K Y A Y I I R U X X F C H C A T L T I T S V O N R O D J  
P N X R E S L T D V A C H I L I V Q B R C S N W O D L J D F V E  
T U Z S J V H A N D S F O R W O R K I N G E S V S F N O G S O S  
R A D N B W O R G O T S E I T I N U T R O P P O X E S Y R T W U  
B L D H Q J M E Y G N I V I L R O F S E V I L S I R B I C R P S  
G N I N R A E L R O F Y R O M E M W S F S W R G E Y R N E A J C  
A W H O L E N E W L I F E K W Y T U V L C O H H V R Y G R E U H  
D A E R B Y L I A D R U O Q C Q O F X T T B C N R Y F E N H T R  
E Y E S F O R S E E I N G P J P F Y R N O A A D H O N L M Q I I  
E V O L S R E H T A F E H T S U J H E R E G U K R T E Y E Z X S  
G N I K A E P S R O F S H T U O M M S T K P S U S O U O T S M T

## Words:

### He has given us:

OUR DAILY BREAD  
STRENGTH AND HEALTH  
LEGS FOR WALKING  
HANDS FOR WORKING  
EYES FOR SEEING  
EARS FOR HEARING  
MOUTHS FOR SPEAKING  
SENSES FOR ENJOYING  
MEMORY FOR LEARNING  
MINDS FOR UNDERSTANDING  
HEARTS FOR LOVING  
LIVES FOR LIVING

### He has given us:

LOVING RELATIONSHIPS  
- SPOUSE

- CHILDREN  
- PARENTS  
- SISTERS  
- BROTHERS  
- GRANDPARENTS  
- AUNTS AND UNCLES  
- COUSINS  
- CHRISTIAN FRIENDS  
- PASTORS  
- TEACHERS  
- MENTORS  
- NEIGHBORS

### He has given us:

THE BIBLE  
LESSONS LEARNED  
GRACE TO CHANGE

FREEDOM FROM PAST HABITS  
OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW  
CHALLENGES  
VISION FOR THE FUTURE  
WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS  
SELF-RESPECT

### He has given us:

THE FATHER'S LOVE  
FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST  
FORGIVENESS OF SINS  
SALVATION  
HOLY SPIRIT POWER  
HOPE FOR TOMORROW  
A WHOLE NEW LIFE  
PEACE WITH GOD  
AN ETERNAL HOME