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Navigating Life In Thankfulness

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. — Psalm 139

Today is Wednesday, November 25, 2020. Earlier than preferred, I woke to a morning filled with Thanksgiving. My first thought of gratitude was from the thrill Sandy and I experienced yesterday. A granddaughter competed with her team at the Texas State Cross Country Championship. The Carroll Dragons Girls XC team are, and always will be, champions to the school, the community, and certainly to Granddaddy and GiGi's heart, and soul.

Secondly, I awoke this morning to news the transition of the Presidency of the United States is now a certainty. The words became a significant addition to my feeling of thankfulness. The President elect complimented the current President by saying the offer to transition peacefully is "sincere." After all the dissention, anger, distrust and bitter words, today's news lifted my heart and gave rise to the potential for renewed belief in a united America.

Communication improvement makes me feel that people may be realizing the potential for a united country again. I pray for strengthening commitment to unity in our church, our community, our city, our county, our state, our country, our continent, our world, and whatever life forms may be in the universe. God created all and granted each of us the combined power to make All People—One People. All races, all religions, all nationalities, all genders, and preferences—One People. All of these difference and still One People with a common desire for peace among all people.

People loving people globally should be our goal and dream. To achieve the objective of worldwide peace, I believe each of us should celebrate our soul's distinctive expression as caring, loving people. We must realize there is no need to conform to anyone else's idea of what we all should be thankful for right now. Now is the time to let go of any spiritual ideology from church denominations we currently or previously experienced. Rather, we should let our uniqueness fully express and make a joyous contribution to the diverse world we share.

Unifying means we must resist the urge to look outside ourselves for validation. It is important to recognize that we are more than validated by the presence of God moving

throughout our body and soul. There is jubilant freedom in this realization. We contribute to life with creative energy and zeal that is unique in all God's creatures. Today is a good time to commit to feeling spirited as we ignite our zeal for peace. Each of us is one of a kind! Each of us can lead all of us to a unifying spirit.

Last week I asked you, the readers, to share what you are thankful for. I promised to record your gratitude statements in this week's TALK. So enjoy the read!

- My family has had a rough year. I'm thankful for God's presence, and family and life.
- I am thankful for my family and mostly for my children. They are the best and I love them with all of my heart.
- Family, friends, prayers, health and strength. Very thankful for that!
- I am thankful for the people in my church family who give so generously to help those in need. As co-chair of the Thanksgiving Food Drive, I always get nervous about how many people to call to offer food. We have always met our goal and then some, so I never should worry. God's blessings are bounteous every year! I am thankful for God's blessing of good health this year for our extended family, and that both of our children have good jobs.
- I'm most thankful that God allows me to see another day to spend with my family and friends. I'm also thankful to wake up and have a job to go to so I can keep a roof over my head and food in my fridge. I'm so grateful to just have the little things!
- I am thankful for God's sacrifice, grace, mercy and blessing. I'm thankful for my daughters, my pastor, my church and all that God has tried to do, has done and will do.
- I'm thankful to God for allowing me to see another year, have my mom, have my life, health and strength. God is great.
- This year the constant choices which need to be made and moral dilemmas involved in those choices can feel overwhelming. Decision fatigue is real. However, I am thankful for the flexibility that is available to me in choosing how to educate my children, how to work, how to care for myself and others. And as a person who likes to consider the options, make a good plan, and then stick to the plan, my work this year has been on embracing the flexibility, holding things loosely, and always being open to change.
- I am thankful for my health and my beautiful family, and knowing that the Lord is watching over us at all times.
- I am thankful for the air I breathe.
- I'm extremely thankful for God loving me and for my husband, children and family. Peace and blessing for all here and those who have gone on. Happy Thanksgiving. God Bless.

I am thankful for all of you. May the peace and comforting presence of God be with you.

Peace always

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