

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Be Thankful

(Jerry Fite)

**H**ow many times have parents sat with their young children to hear their prayers wondering if they were to ever end? The reason is children are specific in their needs and thanksgiving. They want their family members from their grandparents to their pet dog or cat to get better. So, they pray God will help each one, as each name is brought before God's throne of grace. Then, they are thankful for everything. So they thank God for their house, their room, their bed, and yes, their pet dog or cat.

As we grow up we tend to be more general in our supplications and thanksgivings, making shorter prayers. Sometimes it may be good to be childlike and be specific in our thanksgiving. Don't we exhort each other in song to "count your many blessings, name them one by one"? After we have counted them one by one, should we not thank God for them one by one?

We should be thankful that the appeal of God's revelation is

not in its exaltation of human wisdom. Jesus did. He said, "*I thank thee of Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou didst hide these things from the wise and understanding, and didst reveal them unto babes*" (Matthew 11:25). God revealed the things concerning our salvation that never entered the heart of man (I Cor. 2:9-10). He was counseled by no man as to His revealed message of redemption (Romans 11:33-36). God, thank you for the Gospel which exalts Divine wisdom, mystifies the worldly wise, and saves the humble babes at heart!

Have you had a brother or sister who refreshed your heart and encouraged your spirit to continue on? Paul did. When brethren met him as he was about to be a prisoner in Rome, he "*thanked God and took courage*" (Acts 28:15). He made mention of Philemon specifically in his prayers thanking God for the joy and comfort received through Philemon's love which refreshed other Christians (Philemon 4-7). When was the last time you mentioned those brothers and sisters giving thanks

to the Lord for them who continually manifest love to others?

Have you thanked God for the brethren in the congregation whose faith is coupled with works, who toil in love, and in patience, live in hope? Paul did. He "*gave thanks always...without ceasing*" for the saints in Thessalonica for "*their work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ...*" (I Thessalonians 1:2-3).

Giving attention to the spiritual blessings around us should enrich our prayers of thanksgiving to God, as it did in the lives of Jesus and the apostles. Our physical blessings of food, clothing and shelter should be received with thanksgiving as well. All blessings from God should be received with the response of thanksgiving always. Paul tells us we should be "*giving thanks always, for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...*" (Ephesians 5:20).

Who knows, your prayers may become as long as your children's.