

Look @ the Bright Side



1 Thess. 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus

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One day a man was deep in thought about what he “didn’t” have...

He was so depressed that the more he thought about it, the more he thought that it just wasn't fair that he didn't have what others had. So, since he was a Christian, he began to pray, “Lord, why did you make me like this? Why can't I be like others?”

“I’m not a great athlete like some of my friends; I’m not handsome, or famous, mechanically inclined, or overly intelligent. I don’t have a great job, or much money; I can’t buy my wife a big house or a fancy car; My kids don’t have the latest and greatest thing so they can be well liked; When it comes down to it, I’m just an average guy who’s losing his hair....God, why did you make me like this: poor and weak, and average?”



The Lord was silent as the man

finally came to the end of his complaining. The man waited in the ‘all of the sudden’ uncomfortable silence when the Lord spoke quietly the following words, “son, do you really want what others have? Do you really?” The man was confused. Of course he did, but why would the One who knows all things ask him this question? Timidly the man whispered, “yes, Lord, I do want what others have...” The Lord then began to show the man a series of images of people. People in third world countries, people in war zones, in poverty, in suffering, in pain, and hunger, in nakedness and loneliness. The man didn't understand what the Lord was showing him, only that he wanted it to stop. All these images of people with no limbs, bed-ridden, suffering in terrible conditions; children longing for a piece of bread, scrounging in garbage pits for food. The man begged the Lord to stop showing these people looking for jobs everyday, taking jobs that didn't pay, just to bring any size paycheck home to keep the electricity on. Please Lord, I can't stand to see the burn victims with faces that are unrecognizable; the bald children in the cancer ward every day suffering under excruciatingly painful treatment... “enough!” the man begged. “Please Lord, I'm sorry!” “What are you sorry for?” the Lord asked the man. “I'm sorry for these people. They have less than me, and all I can do is think about myself, and complain to you about what I don't have, I'm sorry Lord, I'm so sorry.” The man was sorry to be sure, and thankful for what he didn't have, yet, even with all that had been shown, the Lord knew the man's heart was not yet thankful for what he did have.

Suddenly, a woman with no legs (as a result of war) appeared before him and said, “I'm thankful for my arms that I can hold my new born baby.” Then another, a boy, about 8 years old who had been in a car accident who could no longer see said to the man, “I'm thankful for my ears that I can hear the birds sing, and that I can hear my mom and dad tell me they love me.” Still another came, they were lined up it seemed like for a mile...this one was a widow with 4 kids; She worked over nights at a convenience store, “I'm thankful for this job God has provided that puts food on the table and clothes on my children,

I'm so thankful that my kids are healthy and happy.” Still they came, a young woman who had been a model, who had been burned (2nd and third degree burns on her face and arms) her face, unrecognizable...”I'm thankful to be alive, I'm thankful that I can see and hear. I'm so thankful for my family and friends who stand by me and help me everyday. I thank the Lord for saving my life.” Rich and poor, young and old, all had experienced such loss, yet they were all so thankful, they were grateful to God for what they had, never mentioning what they didn't have. The man couldn't speak even a word as the people were presented before him, every one of them thanking the Lord for their blessings.

Still, the man was not yet at the right place in his heart. Yes, he was sorry for the people, and yes, he was amazed at the gratefulness of the others who had suffered so much, but he was still not getting the whole picture. So the Lord began to paint the picture with a little more detail, bringing it all just a little closer to home. “you said you were not an athlete like your friends, but I've given you two legs, two arms, and a whole body with which you can walk, and run, and play with your kids; you say you're not handsome, but your face is not hideous, people don't look away when they see you; you say you're not famous, yet I know your name, and it's written in the Lamb's book of life; you say you're not mechanically inclined or overly intelligent, but I say to you, ‘come let us reason together,’ I'm the God who gives these things. You say you don't have a **great** job, but I have provided you with a job that gives you a comfortable standard of living...with running water, and indoor plumbing. You complain that you can't buy your wife a **big** house or a **fancy** car, but I've given you a godly wife that doesn't even desire those things; Your kids don't have the latest fad from the world, but that's my blessing to them so they won't learn the ways of the world, and love the world...and remember, some people do not even have children, though they long for them. As for you losing your hair, just look at the bright side and be thankful that you have teeth:)

“You say, ‘God, why did you make me like this... poor and weak, and average?’ But I say, why are you acting like this? If you had nothing, you would still have everything because you've accepted my Son as payment for your sins and you are MINE. In Christ, you are forgiven! You are RICH! You are STRONG! You are a CHILD OF THE LIVING GOD! You can call GOD your father!! Besides all this, consider with Whom you are speaking, and Who is listening, indeed, Who is answering you....Be thankful in all things: for what you **don't** have, AND for what you **do** have (good or bad); and in times when it seems to be unbearable for you on this earth, **remember your future inheritance is eternity with Me!**”

Look at the bright side, this life is only temporary, but eternity in Heaven is forever. Let's be thankful & give thanks in EVERYTHING!