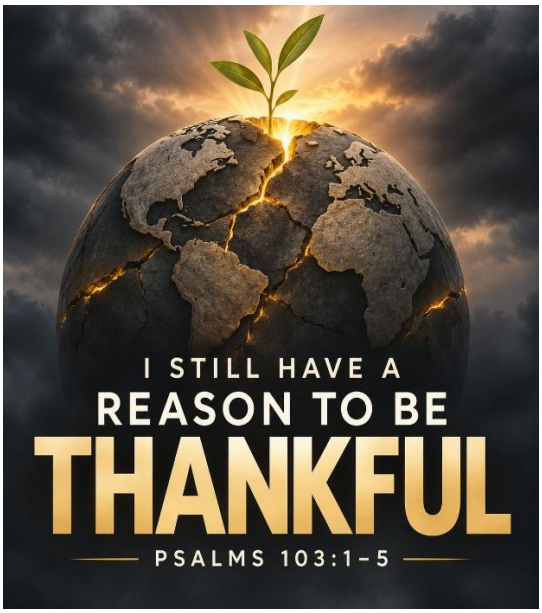
"I Still Have a Reason to Be Thankful"



Key Scripture:

Psalm 103:1-5 (NIV)

"Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

INTRODUCTION

As Thanksgiving approaches, many people are carrying burdens. Some are facing health challenges, financial struggles, family concerns, grief, uncertainty, and unanswered prayers. It's easy to focus on what is missing rather than what remains.

Yet the Bible repeatedly calls God's people to remember His goodness. Thanksgiving is not ignoring our problems; it is recognizing God's faithfulness despite our problems. In Psalm 103, David tells us to "forget not all his benefits." In other words, don't forget everything God has done.

The question before us is: **Why do I still have a reason to be thankful?**

The answer is found not in our circumstances, but in God's character and His work in our lives.

POINT 1: I HAVE A REASON TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE GOD SAVED ME

Scripture

Psalm 103:3

"Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases..."

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Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

History

David understood the joy of forgiveness. Having experienced both failure and restoration, he knew God's grace personally.

Exegesis

The word "forgives" means to pardon completely and remove guilt. God's forgiveness is total and available through faith.

Theology

Salvation is God's greatest gift. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by our own works.

Life Application

Before thanking God for material blessings, thank Him for spiritual blessings. Houses, cars, and careers are temporary; salvation is eternal.

POINT 2: I HAVE A REASON TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE GOD HAS BEEN FAITHFUL

Scripture

Lamentations 3:22-23

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

History

Jeremiah wrote these words while Jerusalem was in ruins. Even amid devastation, he recognized God's faithfulness.

Exegesis

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God's mercies are renewed every morning. His faithfulness does not depend upon our circumstances.

Theology

God cannot fail because faithfulness is part of His nature. What God promises, He performs.

Life Application

When you look back over your life, you can see moments when God protected, provided, healed, delivered, and sustained you. His track record gives us confidence for the future.

POINT 3: I HAVE A REASON TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE GOD IS STILL WITH ME

Scripture

Isaiah 41:10

"So do not fear, for I am with you."

Hebrews 13:5

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

History

Israel often faced overwhelming enemies and impossible situations, yet God's presence continually accompanied His people.

Exegesis

God's promise is not merely to help from afar but to be present among His people.

Theology

God's presence is one of the covenant blessings enjoyed by believers. Through the Holy Spirit, God dwells within His people.

Life Application

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Friends may leave, and circumstances may change, but God remains constant. His presence is greater than our problems.

POINT 4: I HAVE A REASON TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE GOD IS WORKING THROUGH MY TRIALS

Scripture

Romans 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

James 1:2-4

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

History

Both Paul and James wrote to believers experiencing hardship and persecution.

Exegesis

Paul does not say all things are good. He says God works through all things for good. God is actively working behind the scenes.

Theology

God is sovereign over every circumstance. Nothing enters the believer's life without passing through God's permissive will.

Life Application

The trial you are facing may not feel like a blessing now, but God can use it to strengthen your faith, deepen your character, and prepare you for future ministry.

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POINT 5: I HAVE A REASON TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE MY FUTURE IS SECURE IN CHRIST

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:57

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

History

The early church lived with confidence because they believed Christ had conquered sin, death, and the grave.

Exegesis

The victory Paul describes is both present and future. Believers experience victory now and complete victory in eternity.

Theology

Because of Christ's resurrection, the believer's future is secure. Death does not have the final word.

Life Application

Regardless of what happens in this life, believers have an eternal inheritance secured through Jesus Christ. That hope gives us reason to thank God today.

Discussion Questions

1. Which of these reasons for thanksgiving speaks most to your life right now?
2. How has God's faithfulness been demonstrated in your life during difficult seasons?

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3. Why is God's presence more valuable than material possessions?
4. How can trials become reasons for thanksgiving?
5. How does the hope of Christ's victory affect the way you face challenges today?

CONCLUSION

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday; it is a spiritual discipline. When we remember who God is and what He has done, gratitude rises even in difficult seasons.

We still have reasons to thank Him:

- **He saved us.**
- **He has been faithful.**
- **He is with us.**
- **He is working through our trials.**
- **He has secured our future.**

No matter what we have lost, these blessings remain.

CHRIST AND THE CROSS

The greatest reason for thanksgiving is found at Calvary. On the cross, Jesus bore our sins and paid a debt we could never pay. Three days later, He rose from the grave, with all power in His hands. Because of His sacrifice, we have forgiveness, hope, peace, eternal life, and victory.

Therefore, our thanksgiving is rooted not merely in earthly blessings but in the finished work of Jesus Christ. The cross reminds us that God loved us enough to give His very best. The empty tomb reminds us that our hope is alive.

If God never did anything else for us, the salvation we have through Jesus Christ would be reason enough to give thanks forever.

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Closing Scripture

Psalm 136:1

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."