



Weekly Devotion

Weekly Devotion for August 5 ***Love and Gratitude***

by Harry Olson

"I thank God every time I remember you."

— ***Philippians 1:3***

Martin Rinkart was a Lutheran pastor who wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." Rinkart was the only surviving pastor during the height of a severe plague in Saxony in the year 1637. He presided over 4,000-plus funerals that year, including that of his wife. He wrote these words in the context of immense suffering: "Now thank we all our God who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love." Gifts of love and gratitude belong together.

Rinkart witnesses to God's love in the darkest of times. The Apostle Paul is in prison when he writes his letter to the Christians in Philippi. Under these difficult circumstances, Paul shares his story of faith with them. Moreover, Paul expresses his gratitude for the great sense of love he receives from their prayers and support. Whose love are you most thankful for?

I felt most deeply my father's love when he was going through the early and middle stages of Alzheimer's disease. He hugged me. He said, "I love you." He sang "Jesus Loves Me." My father was raised in a home where they didn't attend church. But he died in the loving arms of Jesus with his family around him. I'm thankful for my father and the love we shared.

Journaling:

Whose love are you most thankful for today?

How might you express your gratitude for their love?

