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*Join us in our journey as we grow into
fully devoted followers of Jesus!*



Mind Blown

If you've been paying attention to news outlets or social media or products in our local stores, you may know that the FIFA World Cup has been playing in many venues across North America. I'm frankly astounded at how soccer is bringing the world together. Unprecedented numbers of Europeans are visiting the United States for the first time and are raving about their experience. From unexpected free soft drink refills to unlimited baskets of chips served at Mexican restaurants to discovering the joy of dipping pizza into ranch dressing, Europeans are amazed at their American experience. Combine that with our vast variety of scenery, reliable air conditioning and enormous stores like Costco, and Europeans are gushing with praise for America. Part of their positive experience comes simply from expectations. They were told by their media that Americans are cold, divisive, and rude, but instead they're finding that Americans are friendly, down-to-earth and accepting of most people. Their minds are quite literally blown. In fact, it seems that Europeans appreciate America even more than we do! This newfound European appreciation for America is, in turn, prompting patriotism in the hearts of the American people. Their enthusiasm has become contagious. Perhaps we're starting to realize just how great we have it here in the good 'ol U.S. of A. But why do we need people from other countries to give us this reminder? I think it's because we become "nose blind" to our current situation. We become desensitized to our surroundings and forget how sweet life actually is. This happens when it comes to our faith as well. We tend to forget how good we really have it as followers of Jesus. When someone new comes to Christ, their excitement is contagious. Every day brings new, mind-blowing revelations, while for many of us, it's just another day in paradise. How can we reclaim some of that wonder? **First of all, look up.** Ask God to show you where He's working. Recognize everything good comes from God. **Second, write it down.** When God reveals His goodness, take note. Track your gratefulness using a journal or notebook. **Finally, let it out.** Tell someone you trust what makes you grateful. You may be surprised how your thankfulness can inspire others in their faith. They might even get as excited as a European soccer fan attempting to smuggle a bottle of ranch dressing in their carry-on! 😊