



FLBC ANNIVERSARY PRAISES

November 2, 2014

(1) I have realized how unknowingly I sin against God; in the things I say, the things I may be worshiping, and how at times I give glory to someone or something other than God. I have been so conformed to this world but through God's grace He is showing me what I am doing against Him. For all the ways my eyes have been opened and for all the ways **my soul is being made** new I give Him all the glory...God is changing me!

(2) Over the last couple of years, my life has been in transition. I knew that I needed to go back to work, but I didn't know what that should look like. Looking back briefly over the last few months it's clear to see how **God's hand was all over the circumstance**. At a random luncheon event for one of my children's schools I ended up sitting across from the man that would become my boss...and come to find out that the location of the office I would be working at was only 2 miles away from my home. I just Praise God for this opportunity. It was a huge relief to feel like God was showing me the next step he wanted me to take in life. God is using many of my life experiences at work, including some of the most painful ones, to make me equipped to help other hurting people. And the transition as still allowed me to keep family a priority. All things do work together for good . . . Ro 8:28.

(3) In response to a grumbling attitude that had seeped into my heart, I returned to a former discipline of writing down my praises & thanksgivings to the LORD. In just a few days my eyes were opened to the endless ways the LORD was bringing me daily manna/blessings. It has been humbling to see **how attentive God has been** to me all along! This experience has given me renewed patience and faith as I wait on God with big things and a joy over the countless ways the LORD blesses me everyday.

(4) I met with a woman last week to disciple her through a trying time in her life and she accepted Christ! She understood everything so well it was obvious the Holy Spirit was already at work helping her to interpret the Scriptures for herself. She even left that meeting saying "Maybe someone could sit down with my husband and explain to him what you told me because I don't think he knows this about Jesus." We met again a week later to review the gospel she totally gets it...all the hard questions like faith vs. works, world suffering, etc. She even interrupted our study time to pray out loud herself because **her heart was so filled** with thanksgiving. She is so saved! It's a wonder to see the genuine hunger and thirst of a new believer born into God's family.

(5) In my own life I celebrate His patience and love. And even though my steps maybe small they are moving me closer to Him. I celebrate His convicting me of my sin and how it breaks my heart as it breaks His. As He shows me my sin I am drawn to fall on His mercies. As he shows me my weaknesses I see how desperately I need Him. **I celebrate renewed hope** for my marriage. I celebrate the change in my

heart to work on moving in a Godly direction. In the crumbling down world, I celebrate God and His greatness. I take comfort in His word and hope in His plan. I celebrate that my name is written in the book of life.

(6) My husband has begun doing regular Bible & prayer time with me and our children. He is also beginning to prioritize our family like never before in helping with the small and big things of parenting & family life. It is **a blessing to talk and pray** with him about the things of the Lord.

(7) After having gone through almost 3 years of some serious hardships for our family, including multiple family deaths, unemployment, church loss and other trials, we've seen God working throughout. **God provided** a severance package with continued health insurance. Medical bills have been covered & tuition scholarships have poured in, God even provided another vehicle. Being home due to job loss has taught me to appreciate my wife's efforts at home with our children. God has surrounded us with a new church family that pours into each of us. He has also provided Christian friendships of people going through the very things we are experiencing within our family. My wife and I are closer than ever before and our children are slowly, steadily growing stronger in the Lord day-by-day.

(8) As a new believer I walked weakly with the Lord for 7 years. We lost our home, 2 people in our household were diagnosed with an illness, our marriage was on the edge, and we lost the security of our church family...but in that time I learned to be on my knees and trust the Lord like never before. The Lord has provided so much after long season of trials (not that everything is all perfect)...He's given us Christian doctors, a new church family, great neighbors, contentment in a smaller home, and god-honoring relationships are pouring into me and my sons. Help me lord never to forget **you're my Rock and you make all my paths straight**. Some of these trials have been of my own doing yet you remain faithful through them all.

(9) My daughter came back to the Lord after several years of praying for her return. Her faith is growing more solid and she is being obedient to make public her desire to live for the Lord. **I praise God for His faithfulness** in providing loving & healthy biblical relationships when our family was in need. God's has provided for our children's college in spite of our shortcomings. I have renewed faith in my marriage even when it keeps faltering. I love the Lord so much for his goodness.

(10) I praise God for **a way out when there wasn't one**...I had my own "red sea" moment this year feeling trapped and unable to change, fix, or alter the scenario I was in. Little did I know how the Lord would completely make a way out that I could not fathom or foresee.

(11) Combined “Sentence” Stories:

1. Praise God for **leading me home**.
2. Praise God for his faithfulness to **answer our prayer** in His timing, in His perfect way.
3. I praise God for the **freedom** He has given me **from** a **sinful** habit.
4. Praise God for the **miracles** of physical healing, for wisdom of those seeking help, for comfort found in knowing He is sovereign & remains in ultimate control.
5. Praise God for **seeing us through** a rough year of parenting – thank Him for His grace & strength.
6. We are praising God for almost 12 months of **being drug free** and thus being able to save 6 months’ worth of our income.
7. Praise God for all He has done for our family. Praise God for **transforming our lives** individually and as a family.