

Thank you, Father

I am sitting at my desk writing this on Wed., Oct. 26. This little writing will be printed in the November 10 paper, two weeks from now. I really need to put on my November 10 hat and try to imagine what will be going on and what we might be thinking at that time.

I'm not a prophet, so duh, I can't KNOW what will be happening by that time. However, I do know that we should be celebrating one of our major annual observances two weeks from that day, Thanksgiving. It might be a good thing to begin to exercise our Thanksgiving muscles, since, you know, the other 50 weeks of the year, those muscles may not be used enough, so once a year, at least, well, ok, we'll be thankful!

Sometimes circumstances make it difficult to be thankful, when money is tight, or there are marriage or family conflicts, or other major issues are pressing on us. We might even wonder what the heck God is trying to do to us, if we relate to Him at all.

In Ray Bentley's column nearby, he reminds us of the story of the Israelites' whining to Moses, right after they were saved from captivity and slavery in Egypt. God had brought them out of Egypt, destroying Egypt's entire army, and allowing the Israelites safe passage through the Red Sea over to the Sinai Desert. After a few "minor" challenges, like not having enough water to drink or food to eat, they quickly forgot their dramatic removal from the oppression of the Egyptians and cried to Moses about how awful it was to have been forced to leave home!

At God's direction, Moses struck a rock and water gushed forth, enough for all the hundreds of thousands of Israelites. Nearby is a picture of a rock in Saudi Arabia which is very possibly the very rock from that story! Then it took another set of dramatic miracles like this for the Israelites to thank God again, and who knows if they truly were thankful to God or just excited that their needs were fulfilled.

Too often I find myself in the same crabby attitude that the Israelites expressed. I'll ask God for this or for that, trying not to ask for useless, self-centered stuff, but for important things like the health of another person who is suffering from a painful condition, or for direction on an important subject. Then when an answer comes, I forget to thank Him for answering. I hate when I do (or don't do) that! I sometimes find myself in a generally thankless state of mind, p---ing and moaning about my aches and pains or tiredness or — you name it.

It's inexcusable for us to be thankless when God has given us so much to be thankful for. Maybe it helps to look at it like a photographic negative — what is happening other places that by comparison shows how much better our situation is.

- Ukraine is facing a cold winter without electrical power, having suffered continued targeted bombing by Russia, aimed at their power-producing facilities. Reports are that 50% of their power plants have been destroyed. Also, Russia has targeted civilian areas so that many have been killed. Think of the pain of the survivors of those who've been killed. (Poland has had the guts to officially label Russia a terrorist country.)

- All of Europe itself is in dire straights due to their stupid, leftist-driven decisions to dismantle their nuclear power plants. Now Russia has cut back the supply of natural gas in order to force them to approve Russia's actions against Ukraine. On top of that, the two pipelines that carry the gas to Europe have been sabotaged and blown up. Now Europeans are cutting down their forests to burn wood to stay warm. (All in the name of saving the climate from us eevill humans.) Remember, most of Europe is in the same latitude as Canada, which means COLD!

- Iran is supplying weapons to several of the bad actors like Russia, spending the money our leftist leaders are handing them on weaponry and military uses rather than much-needed food, water, and infrastructure for their citizens. They are jailing and murdering their own citizens for demonstrating against the regime.

- Iran also is on the verge of becoming a nuclear power, with missiles and drones that can reach Israel and maybe even the United States.

- North Korea is targeting South Korea and Japan. China is targeting Taiwan. Russia is targeting Ukraine. Iran is targeting Israel. Venezuela, who also is starving their citizens, now has Iranian drones that may reach the United States, with the potential of Iranian nuclear warheads. (Wars and rumors of wars, a sign of the approach of the end!)

- Threats of using nuclear weapons are being tossed back and forth by Russia and allies vs. NATO members, which includes the United States.

- Earthquakes, hurricanes and floods are hitting areas all around the world, causing major devastation and suffering.

So far none of that has hit us locally. So far, our power-hungry political "leaders" have not been able to interfere with us too directly yet, although they are actively plotting against us with illegal and unconstitutional legislation.

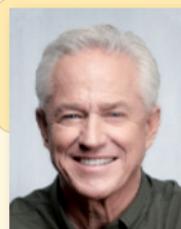
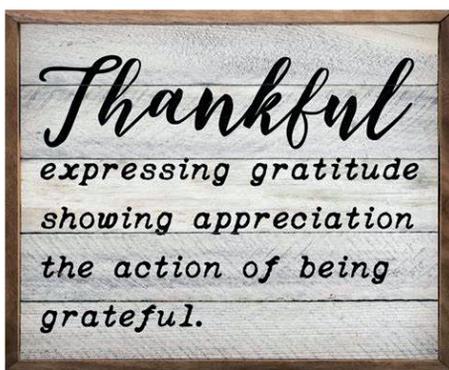
But for now, and even when we may find ourselves in the midst of a major disruption, let us be thankful even as we remember to hold those who are suffering before our God as we ask Him for relief for the afflicted and oppressed. Think of the millions of Ukrainians who have fled to neighboring countries, totally uprooted with nowhere to go. Think of the countries receiving these people, having somehow to feed and house them. Think of how easy we have it compared to so many!

If you hear one peep of a whine out of me, just let me have it, and then remind me how God has showered us with good things, not the least of which is living here in this beautiful desert. All of my irritations pale in comparison to the list of awful things above.

Thank You, Father, for taking care of us. Thank you that if/when we find ourselves in a terrible situation, we still have You and the prospect of spending eternity with You and leaving this broken world behind. Thank You that we can ask for Your help and guidance. Thank you that we have enough to eat.

Thank You, Father!

Linda Gommel



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.

Water From the Rock

Ray Bentley Ministries

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." — Psalm 46:1-2, MIV

Our attitudes during times of testing can determine the outcome of our trials.

A bad attitude is often a manifestation of unbelief and a lack of gratitude.

When the children of Israel, led by Moses, complained during their desert journey, they forgot all God had done for them. They started harkening back to the "good old" days in Egypt.

"Why did you bring us out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" they whined (Exodus 17:3).

Egypt? Were they crazy? Were they thinking of that last good meal and forgetting 400 years of abuse, beatings, and slavery?

A temporary hardship made them yearn for the past instead of a more glorious future—the one the Lord planned for them.

But Israel was learning that God tests His people through everyday life experiences. He does the same with us. Each day brings new tests and opportunities to be faithful and grow—and have an attitude of gratitude and trust.

What a difference that makes to our mental well-being as we exercise faith and look to the future with hope rather than lamenting what we think we are missing.

When the Israelites complained to Moses (probably because they were afraid to complain to God directly), he did what any wise leader learns to do: he called on the Lord for help!

Asking for help from the Almighty is like opening the doors, letting God in, opening your heart, surrendering your will to His, and letting the Spirit act on your behalf.

God, the loving Father, helped Moses out—in spite of the behavior and attitudes of the people. He told Moses to take his rod and stand by the rock at Horeb. *"I will stand there before you...Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink"* (Exodus 17:5-6).



The best part? God promised, *"I will stand there before you."* The Lord was with Moses every step of the way—just as He is with us.

The rock foreshadows the Messiah, Jesus. The rod striking the rock is a picture of the Holy Spirit, set free to flow with enough living water to quench the thirst of all of humanity.

In that one simple story, we see God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, working together to teach, strengthen, and bless the people.

"Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer." — Psalm 78:35

On The Lighter Side . . . Contributed from the Web

The combination of the colors red and yellow makes people hungry



PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Kyle Martinsen @KyleMartinsen

Biden just now: "We have not stopped or slowed oil production."

Meanwhile:

<p>Federal Oil Leases Slow to a Trickle Under Biden President, citing climate change, spurs resources his predecessors relied on to boost U.S. energy production</p>	<p>Biden halts oil, gas leases amid legal fight on climate cost By MATTHEW DALY February 22, 2022</p>
<p>Biden Suspends Drilling Leases in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge The decision blocks, for now, oil and gas drilling in one of the largest tracts of undeveloped wilderness in the United States.</p>	<p>Biden administration cancels Alaska oil and gas lease sale By SARA COOK, WEIJIA JIANG, MATTHEW MOSK UPDATED ON: MAY 18, 2022 / 2:44 PM / CBS NEWS</p>

11:38 AM · Oct 19, 2022 · Twitter Web App

FOR OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS: PATRIOTPOST.US

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

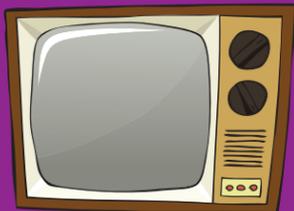
The Hardest Work is Working On Yourself.



So it was in the Days of Brandon, that each one marked their homes so that the FBI and IRS might pass them over.



PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS



You think you know stress? When I grew up, if you missed a TV show, you just missed it. Forever.