



The Flame

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from GCCN Prayer Ministries

Not Just Another Thanksgiving

He was three years old.

Christmas was coming, and not a day went by without his excited reminder. “Do you know what I want?” was the mantra of the day, every day.

But when Christmas day came, and the presents were being opened, if the gift wasn't a toy, his excitement was measurably changed. The shirts, pants, even the story books met with the briefest of glances and even a pouty lip.

We may expect a toddler to act way, but unfortunately he is not the only person around who fails the thankfulness test.

How often have we reacted with less than glowing thankfulness when we pray and get what we did not expect? Not everything that God brings into our lives is convenient. When God directed my family to serve Him in the jungles of Papua New Guinea, some 15,000 miles from home, it was not convenient. For four years we traveled dirt roads that barely qualified as roads by U.S. standards, had electricity for two hours a day (if we had fuel for the generators), and trekked over mountain ranges and through swamps and vine bridges. For four years we never saw our families.

But thankfulness is not dependent on our circumstances.

A thankful heart is one that has set aside personal agendas of convenience and embraced an unwavering commitment to the divine purpose and the peace that comes from surrender.

What comes from His hand is good.

Take Your Next Step

Don't settle for just another Thanksgiving.

Instead this year be filled with thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18), not just the convenient, the material. Be thankful. Period.

Only a truly thankful heart that has discovered the permanence of a faith rooted in divine purpose can escape the limits of all that is temporary.

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**I thank God for my handicaps
for, through them, I have found myself, my work,
and my God. ~ Helen Keller**