

My Prayer - Thanksgiving Purpose

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I recently joined an organization for Christian CEO's, [C12 Group](#). Having previously participated in other "alternative" boards, and there are many, there was something lacking. I was being called to a greater purpose in business than the bottom line, or tackling financial summits for personal gain. I have learned that my work is not about what I produce on earth or in what quantity, rather it is a sweet offering to a mighty God who desires to be close to us. The founder of C12 Group, [Buck Jacobs](#), and the current CEO, [Don Barefoot](#) sent the following message to its members and I felt it necessary to propagate it in the spirit of the season. I pray you have a Happy Thanksgiving! Blessings- Jay

"We join with you to focus our thoughts today on what we should be truly thankful for. Our worldly culture has co-opted and terribly distorted the true message of the Thanksgiving celebration, much as it has with the birth, life, and resurrection of our Savior. Today, it is highly unlikely that our children or grandchildren are hearing the actual story of the Puritan Pilgrims, why they came to these shores, and their cause for gathering to celebrate. The true story would be considered too "religious" for exposure in our schools and likely to be offensive to some who would deny our true history and truth. Still, the truth is that the Thanksgiving holiday was instituted to celebrate the deliverance and providence of Almighty God for sustaining the pilgrim group of Christians who came to America to gain religious freedom and honor their Lord with their lives and work. As they had come to the end of their resources and were on the verge of starvation, they called out to a God who answered them generously. Their gathering was to give Him thanks... plain and simple.

Beneath that fact was their thanks for the Savior who had come to set them free from the bondage of sin and to establish their lives in the freedom of direct access to the Father and His Living Word. This new country, yet unnamed, offered them freedom and bounty wrapped in a harsh and difficult physical environment which challenged them mightily. They persevered and, in due season, their personal yet sovereign God delivered them. They knew it full well and desired to thank Him.

Today, we live in a very different environment, perhaps one of the most abundant ever and nearly void of physical demands for most citizens. But we have our challenges as well. The forces of secular humanism are battling against the very faith that we share with our Pilgrim forefathers and are attempting to marginalize it into strictly a personal and private affair. A God-honoring public assembly nearly anywhere other than a church building is likely to draw their attack. The mounting hostility to our Biblical Christian faith is undeniable across our public schools, courts, and governmental institutions. We no longer need worry about physical starvation, but our danger may be even greater. The history of God's people when dealing with abundance is not so good. Each time Israel was materially blessed and comfortable, they became complacent, turned to idols and incurred God's anger and restorative discipline. Christian faith has prospered under totalitarian repression and does so today in many countries, but has almost disappeared in many affluent western nations. Think it couldn't happen here? The fact is it's happening right before our eyes! Our very abundance can be a threat to our souls. Our danger is to forget our need of our God and to become lukewarm in our worship. God forbid!

As we gather with family and loved ones for a Thanksgiving celebration, let's not forget the real source of all we have to be thankful for, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that "Every good and perfect gift comes down from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, from whom there is no shadow of turning" (James 1:17). Our preeminent gift is Jesus Christ in whom we live and breathe and have eternal hope and purpose. Our Savior was sent by our first-lover, our Father in Heaven. Should we give thanks for our beloved families, friends, health, work, and abundant bread? Certainly, but these gifts are all from Him! Above all this Thanksgiving, let's give thanks to our Source! By His Grace we each have so very much to be thankful

for. We are thankful for you, our friends and readers and for the service that you offer to our King. We are thankful for our calling to serve you and others who love and worship Jesus and are called to be His hands and feet to this hurting, yet complacent, world. We pray that your Thanksgiving celebration is filled with the joy of knowing that your greatest blessing is that you're His!"

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