

**Thanksgiving Words From Abraham Lincoln
(I yearn for those times)**

In these changing times, let us be reminded of the beliefs held by our Founding Fathers, and remember them on Thanksgiving Day, 2008. Pray that God grants us mercy to again think this way as a nation. Perhaps this should be read in every school before Thanksgiving day so our students know it's real meaning?!!! Great and truthful history lesson! It would be sad to think that a document such as this written by one of our presidents would not be read in school out of fear of it's contents... hogwash! Let's stir the pot...

PROCLAMATIONS OF THANKSGIVING by President Abraham Lincoln, 1863

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subject to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invited my

fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

A. Lincoln, October 1863

Note: His words that “we have forgotten God” really hit the mark.

Thanksgiving

1. Thanksgiving has an arch enemy called worry. Phil 4:4-9

(Worry is another word for fear. Fear is a lack of love for God.)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

A. Worry is usually a lack of love for God. 1 John 4:18-19

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.

B. There are valid worries that are spiritual in nature. Heb 4:1

Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

C. Worry about the physical needs of life is not valid.

Matt 6:25-34

25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? 28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all

these things. 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

D. Worry about things and wealth can choke out the preeminence of the Word of God in one's life. Matt 13:22-23

"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

E. We are not to even worry about what we will say if we are "called on the carpet" for our beliefs. Matt 10:16-20

(you do that by knowing the subject matter so well you are not intimidated when asked)

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 "But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues; 18 and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. 20 "For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

F. The cure for worry is trusting the Lord to take care of things.

1 Pet 5:7 = casting all your cares on Him for it matters to Him about you.

2. Thanksgiving is recognizing the goodness of God's grace. (EUCCHARISTIA)

A. It is a key marker of devoted prayer. Col 4:2-4

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of **thanksgiving**; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

B. It is an integral part of our prayers for all men. 1 Tim 2:1-4

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and **thanksgivings**, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

C. It is to spill over from our life into others. 2 Cor 9:6-12

(Gracious giving from a thankful attitude leads to thanksgiving from others.)

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS

RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." 10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing **thanksgiving** to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many **thanksgivings** to God.

3. A Thanksgiving List: TODAH!!

A. Psalm 9: Thanksgiving for God's Justice.

(He will demonstrate it to those who choose to remain his enemies)

B. Psalm 30: Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Death.

(Spiritual and Physical)

C. Psalm 118: Thanks for God's Goodness.

(The Middle of the Bible. The first thing attacked in the Garden)

D. Psalm 126: Thanksgiving for Return from Captivity.

(This is a psalm for the great things He has done for us.)

E. Psalm 138: Thanksgiving for the Lord's Word.

(He has friends in low places.)

Ps 138:1-2

I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing praises to You before the gods.
2 I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name. NASU

Ps 138:2

I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. NKJV

F. Jonah 2:9: Thanksgiving for being upchucked.

(Thanks for the discipline He has brought into your life.)

4. Thanksgiving requires some thought.