



Shiloh Messenger

November 2020

Thankfulness Through The Transition

“THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS” 1 Thes.5:18

In a society where we tend to have disagreements on many things....We can all certainly agree that this has been indeed a year marked by sudden alterations. The Word Transition as defined by Websters Dictionary is CHANGE. However most can sincerely testify these changes in 2020 have not been simple to say the least. And yes, we all can say we have experienced some changes this year, and also that the time has advanced rather speedily regardless of these vast and sometimes daunting transitions. Time has a way of not waiting no matter what is happening. Whether good or not so good at all....

So we find ourselves now into the eleventh month & It is a significant month since 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it as a National day of “Thanksgiving & Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens”

Our English word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia which was associated with the ideas of grace and gratefulness. Experiencing the Grace of God should result in gratitude expressed in praise and worship with our life and every aspect of our lives throughout our journey no matter what is going on. “Give Thanks in all things for this is God’s Will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

How we have stewarded this year through these challenges reveal if we have employed wisdom. Wisdom is paramount if we are to navigate successfully through the changes that have in many ways been abruptly thrust upon us. Although wisdom cannot be employed if we do not put it in its proper order. The Word of God tells us that the beginning of Wisdom is to Fear The Lord. (Proverbs 9:10) To Fear The Lord is to recognize HIM for who HE is and to give HIM the respect, awe, submission, and honor that is due HIM with a lifestyle of Gratitude by giving our very lives over to HIM. The Apostle Paul states it is our reasonable service in Romans 12: 1.

It is interesting that Psychology which is the science of mind and behavior states a grateful person will be characterized by behavior that is.....

1, Costly. # 2, With expressions of gratitude that are valuable to the recipient. And # 3, Intentionality, the choice to be grateful.

These investigated facts proven by scientific evidence can undeniably be traced back to THE BIBLE.... we are created in HIS IMAGE and HE is ABSOLUTELY THE MOST GENEROUS OF ALL. It Cost HIM significantly, (HIS SON JESUS) and with expressions that are very valuable to us who will receive HIS GIFT, also HIS ACTIONS ARE TOTALLY INTENTIONAL for our benefit. Science recognizes that people who are thankful and live lives of ongoing gratitude regardless of their circumstances are people who are the most content and healthiest on the planet. Research has shown that practicing gratitude will boost your immune system and ushers in a resilience to stress, increases feelings of energy, determination and strength. Robert A. Emmons a Professor of Psychology at the University of California states gratitude blocks toxic emotions such as envy, resentment, regret, and depression. Not only does a grateful heart boost your physical and mental health, but gratitude is a sure path to receive God’s Grace that strengthens our Faith. Jesus acknowledged the importance of the gratitude of The Samaritan Leper “ Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.” Luke 17:15-16. The word well in this particular text in the Greek is actually SOZO which includes saved, whole, healed and preserved. Sincere Thankfulness expressed is such a powerful virtue! The Roman Philosopher Cicero declared “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others.” The Psalmist in Psalms 100:4 instructs us to give Thanks for GOD HIMSELF. This leads us into a deeper relationship with HIM. Also Gratitude promotes humility as we realize that these gifts were given to us freely, we did not earn any of it. As triune beings made up of Spirit, Soul, and Body having all 3 parts of our makeup designed by THE ONE TRUE LIVING CREATOR GOD, we can actually see that every part of our being is totally impacted by Thankfulness and Gratitude! This Thanksgiving Season in the midst of vast transition that may be still quite challenging.... We have the opportunity for it to be turned into the most productive and peaceful times if we allow HIM to conform us more into HIS image and walk through in gratitude and generosity intentionally. While typing this note, We have been reminded of that old Hymn, “Count your many blessings name them one by one, Count your many blessings see what God has done.” So when the frustration seems to be mounting and we have struggles regarding a whole host of changes that we did not ask for.... and the temptation is strong to murmur and complain...it serves us well to follow that Old Hymn’s instructions, and get into alignment with The Apostle Paul’s exhortation in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. This is HIS WILL for us IN CHRIST JESUS. And David said it precisely, “ I give Thanks to YOU, Oh LORD my GOD, with my whole heart, and I will glorify YOUR NAME FOREVER.” Psalm 86:12

Shiloh Graduate

Hello, my name is Jacob Kristen from Bryan, Texas. It was just over a decade ago that I had my divine appointment at Shiloh Ministries. As a young man in my early twenties, I showed up to Liberty, Texas, hopeless, lost, full of fear, & completely devoured by drugs. One year later I left with the foundation that had been properly laid to begin walking in the destiny I was uniquely designed for. In sports, smart coaches often call time out when things aren't going to plan in order to stop the opposing team's momentum. Shiloh was a necessary mandate from God on my life in order for me to escape and overcome what the enemy was in the process of doing "OR" had planned for me: kill, steal, and destroy. (John 10:10) Graduating from Shiloh was no easy task, as I arrived entitled with zero work ethic, no identity, many resentments, and a mind fixed on narcotics. I went in thinking drugs was my problem, only to realize they were merely a symptom of a much bigger issue: Lack of relationship with my creator. Isn't it refreshing to know that God is not interested in treating symptoms? Jesus (God in the flesh) came into this fallen realm to redeem us. HE specializes in addressing root causes and restoring us whole. This type redemption only happens once we have had enough of doing it our way and are ready to embrace HIS Way. At Shiloh Ministries, Pastor Rocky & Sister Debbie have devoted their lives to creating an atmosphere necessary for God to restore the lives of broken men. This obedience permeates down to the entire flock and creates an environment of love. Shiloh is a Bible boot camp of the highest order, that thoroughly washes students in the Word of God daily. It is this discipline I learned inside the Shiloh Classroom that I took with me and still embrace 12 years later. In my life I've learned it is all or nothing when it comes to serving God. Sitting on the fence by spending more time on Facebook, T.V. and the things of this world is indeed choosing something. Jesus makes clear in His Word, that lovers of the things of this world will not inherit THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Many of you are married. I am sure time was invested daily getting to know your Bride. If God bores us, how excited will He be to have our company? Yet many will no doubt expect to running to their Bridegroom the very moment His arrival is announced during the midnight hour. Jesus warns us in Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter at the strait gate, for many I say unto you will seek to enter in, and shall not be able; " To the lukewarm Christian straddling the fence, I always ask: What makes you think You'll find God in the flesh standing at the door of the banqueting hall? I'd challenge "Christians" everywhere by asking yourselves how well do you really know Him? Are you too busy to embrace a relationship with someone you hope to schedule an eternity with? Proverbs 9:10 "The Fear of The Lord is the beginning of Wisdom." I'M grateful with my struggle with drugs because it forced me to seek Supernatural help. Rest assured there is no job, spouse, treatment, circumstance, or anything else available in this world capable of correcting addiction. It takes The Creator of The Universe to rewire the mind of the creation. Shiloh Ministries is one of His best tools.



Shiloh Ministries is one of The Lord's many Ministry tools to reconcile men for restoration. We are blessed to be used of Him to preach the un-searchable riches that are in Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:8). Everyday we are hearing such wonderful testimonies of our Graduates pursuing their calling of a Godly husband, father, missionary, Staff person at local Churches and a minister of reconciliation in the work place. We are asking that you prayerfully consider financially supporting Shiloh Ministries every month. The Lord's ministry at Shiloh has always been financially free for the man who desires freedom from his addictions. Because of this, we simply trust The Holy Spirit to lead people to give financially. This ministry is grateful to those who express gratitude to God by co-laboring with us in discipleship. The expenditures are huge managing a campus that houses over 30 students, staff & interns. Please prayerfully consider Shiloh Ministries every month as good ground for your financial seed. We invite you to visit our web-site and read our Testimony section. It bares witness of our graduates fruit that is on display, for The Glory of God. Thanks for your giving to The Lord's Ministry at Shiloh!

Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 charitable organization. All financial gifts are tax deductible at the end of the year.

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Visit us on the web for information about us & to give financially on line at:

www.shilohmensministries.com

View our classroom teachings on [YouTube!!](#)

We love you and are thankful for your love and financial support of The Lord's Ministry at Shiloh.

Blessings multiplied back to you!!

Rocky & Debbie



**Rocky & Debbie Fondren
Founders & Sr. Leaders**