



### **Philippians 1:23, “I thank my God every time I remember you.”**

It has been said that living by thanksgiving is a good practice. Some of the best prayer suggestions I have received is to begin a prayer by thanking God for who he is. God is gracious, compassionate, forgiving, in all places at all times...For the Christian this would seem to be easy, but we can easily get out of practice.

Even though we know that all depends on God we can be tricked into thinking that a lot depends on us. This is where we can get ourselves into trouble as followers of Jesus Christ. God has a way of allowing trouble to bring us back to a full dependence on him. To thank God for trouble is a measure of the depth of our faith. But doesn't that sound insane, to give thanks even in difficult times? The benefit of trouble is that it serves our faith, by reminding us, that nothing depends on us, but on God, who began this good work of faith in us, see Philippians 1:6. God not only begins the work of faith in us, but he will finish this work he began in us.

For the believer in Bible times, “remembering” was a way of recalling God's faithfulness. It is remembering a time when we faced something and God brought us through. To remember, according to the Bible, is to thank God that he went into action. Sometimes we remember how God brought us through by miraculous circumstances. Sometimes God brought us through by getting us off our lazy bottoms and got us moving in the directions he intended us to go. At other time God helped us by bringing good people into our life to join us in our journey.

Thanksgiving is “thanks” living. Living in thanks is to realize that every day is a gift from God. In the gift of every day and every thing is a God who is faithful. How wonderful it is to know that it does not all depend on you, but it all depends on God!

Going deeper: Give thanks to God for the people he brought into your life to show you that God is faithful.