



MY GRATITUDE JAR

PART 1

A TIME TO REFLECT



Just the other day, a guest innocently asked me what this jar filled with little pieces of papers was all about. It is what I call "My gratitude jar". Every time my husband and I have something to be thankful about, whether small or big, we write it down and drop it there. Then, on January 1st, we sit by a nice fire with a hot chocolate and we read everyone of these notes out loud, remembering what God did this past year. We then take communion, praising Him and giving thanks for His goodness and faithfulness reminding ourselves that the year ahead will be no different but even better.

We often think that God is more impressed with our big self sacrifices, when in reality all He asks is our obedience with a heart full of gratitude. The psalmist says it so well in ***Psalm 69:29-31 "I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs." (ESV)***

Why is that? Simply because gratitude is an expression of trust and faith, and ***"without trusting, it is impossible to be well pleasing to God." Heb. 11:6 (CJB)***. Oftentimes, we get complicated with God, trying to impress Him, and we abandon the simplest things. But these are often the most important.

Being grateful will not come by chance or accident. It is an attitude that one has to cultivate. We must chose to be thankful. We must be intentional. Truth be told, if you do not choose to remember what God has done, you will forget and end up short-circuiting your life.



IT WILL MAKE YOU HARDENED AND INSENSITIVE TO GOD

***"But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?"
Mark 8:17-18***

Some Christians wonder why they have a hard time hearing God's voice. Could it be because they do not cultivate an attitude of gratitude by remembering what God does in their lives?

IT WILL MAKE YOU PREY TO THE DEVIL

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve looked at the one tree they could not have instead of being thankful for the millions they did have. By becoming unsatisfied, they became ungrateful, and it caused them to fall into Satan's trap. **Mark 4:19** even says that the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the Word (that produces faith), and becomes unfruitful.

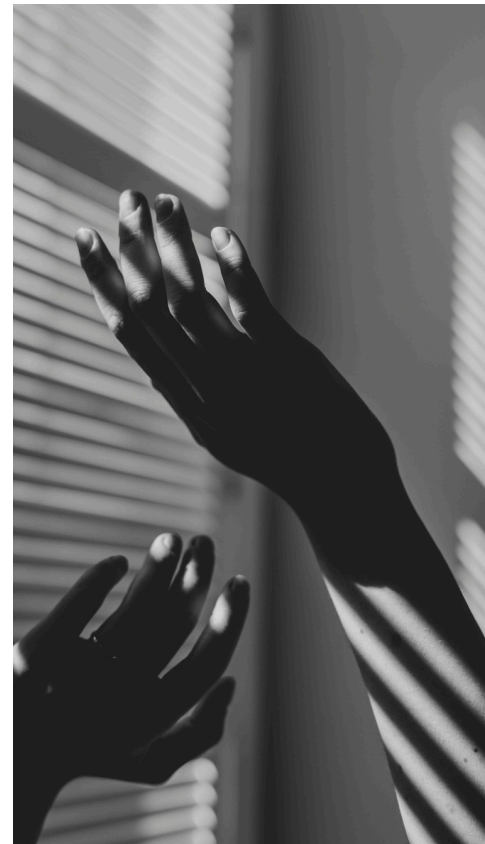
Did you know that one of the sign of the end times is unthankfulness?

"For in the last days, men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. 2 Tim. 3:2

Unthankful is sandwiched between rebellion and unholiness, so beware, it is so easy to let the world's attitude creep into your life...guard yourself from it!



IT WILL LIMIT GOD'S POWER AND BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE



"How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy." Psalm 78:40-42 (NKJV.)

God wanted to do so many miracles for the children of Israel, but COULD not because they would not be thankful, or simply remember what God did for them. Worse yet, it grieved God's heart, because a powerful and limitless God was being restrained by an unthankful people.

Everyday when all is well, or when facing a crisis...REMEMBER & THANK GOD! You know this "jar of gratitude" is no different than the 12 stones Joshua and the heads of the twelve tribes put beyond the Jordan river. Obviously Joshua and Caleb had learned this important lesson! Being a thankful person will change everything!

STAY TUNED FOR PART 2
