

Understanding Parenting

The pastor gave a sermon on family, beginning with these words: "I've been a parent for about five years now. I think I've pretty much figured it out."

Grannie Tyler, the mother of 3 grown boys and a couple girls, just shook her head and blurted out, "Five years and you think you got it figured out? Wait till they hit their teen years, then dating, driving, and getting a job. And don't even get me started on parenting after they think they've left home!"



Moms are Great!



A man and a young boy sat at the same table during a church lunch. The man realized he knew the boy's mother.

"Mom's are really great, aren't they? What would we ever do without them?" the man said.

The young boy quickly replied, "Finish my playdates on time!"

Spot the Big Turkey



A lady was picking out a frozen turkey at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?' The stock boy answered, 'No, they're dead.'

Joey's Thankfulness

Asked to write on "What I'm most thankful for at Thanksgiving, young Joey wrote: "I'm thankful I'm not a turkey at Thanksgiving."



The Kitchen Button

A country church had a kitchen in the back. One day while looking around, I saw a wooden plaque with a button. The button didn't work. That was when I read the sign above the plaque: "When you are through using the kitchen, push button to summon a servant to clean up. If there's no response, please go ahead and clean up. Thank you."



Longsuffering

A church sign emphasized God's faithfulness: "We're grateful that this establishment has been under the same faithful management for over 2,000 years."

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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October 2026



**"Give thanks to Him, bless His name!
for the Lord is good; His steadfast
love endures forever..." (Psalm 100:4-5)**

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Where Christ is cherished, family is
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~ Don Moen

Sundays, 11 a.m. Services

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Don't worship God only in times of comfort and reject Him in times of trial. Worship Him in both comfort and discomfort."

~ Douglas yaw Mensah

THANK YOU, LORD

I come before you today
And there's just one thing I want to say
Thank you, Lord

For all you've given to me
For all the blessings that I cannot see
Thank you, Lord

With a grateful heart
With a song of praise
With an outstretched arm
I will bless your name
Thank you, Lord

For all you've done in my life
You took my darkness and gave me your
light

Thank you, Lord
You took my sin and my shame
You took my sickness and healed all my
pain

Thank you, Lord
I just wanna thank you, Lord
Thank you, Lord
I just wanna thank you, Lord
Thank you, Lord

Just Waiting!

A preacher, repairing the fence around the old country church, noticed a small boy had been watching him for some time. "Do you want to speak with me, son?" the pastor inquired.

"Oh no," the boy replied, "I'm just waiting to hear what a preacher has to say when he hits his thumb with a hammer!"



Something to Think About...

"Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man! And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of His deeds in songs of joy!" (Psalm 107:8-9)

Each year at this time, we set aside a day in which we focus on being thankful. We should give thanks for the many blessings for which God has faithfully poured into our lives but can we take it a step further? Can we celebrate that in God's longsuffering for His children, He has carried us through the ruff patches in our lives, sustained us in our worst experiences? The words of Psalm 107 above are taken from a time in the life of Israel when they had endured great hardships in captivity in Babylon and God was now returning them to Judah. Their plight and adversity, though specific to their trials, can be applied to the experiences of many people today. Like them we face captivity, though perhaps not of a physical sort. But we're facing spiritual and emotional captivity – a decline in Church attendance, increased societal pressure to conform to the world view, outright religious persecution even in Canada. Christians are neither immune to the declining mental health or to the factors of fear of reprisal for sharing their faith due to increased legislation against the 'old order of things'. The perceived erosion of liberty and attacks on public religious expression leave many retreating from their faith and remaining silent.

Today, we need to be reminded that God is trustworthy and deserving of our thanks in all seasons of our lives as we trust Him in both the good times and the bad. Sadly, many Christians today trust God when they see all is right and a clear path lies before them, but when faced with adversity, stumbling in darkness, clouds forming above them, their trust falters and their faith fails them. That is not walking by faith but by sight. It's looking in the rearview mirror and selecting the memories that make them feel good while neglecting the many times God has been there for them in the midst of the storms.

It's a fact that it's often difficult – some would say impossible – to trust God during times of tremendous trial and temptations! But that's if we're approaching the effort to trust in our own strength. We must lean on the Spirit in which we have been renewed, reborn and reestablished in Christ just as the apostle Paul discovered and testified, *"I can do all things in Christ who gives me strength"* (Philippians 4:13).

It begins by our giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness, unmerited favour and lovingkindness. World acclaimed evangelist, Billy Graham, asked a few years ago, "Are you thankful no matter what? He then asked us to look at the story of a man who had every right to be bitter — but wasn't. (published by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, November 22, 2024). His only bed, the hard, cold stone floor of the dank, cramped prison cell, suffering constant irritation of the chains and the pain of the iron manacles cutting into his wrists and legs, and separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated. If ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving! That man was the Apostle Paul — a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving. Even in the midst of great adversity. He could gladly write, *"Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Ephesians 5:19–20, NIV).

Will we follow the example of Paul? Will we heed the exhortation of the psalmist to be wise and learn from the mistakes of the past and seek the steadfast love of the Lord? Just as the people of Israel those many years ago needed to witness God's wondrous works to help them, either due to their own folly or because of circumstances beyond their control, we too must call upon the Lord, lifting our voices as our offering of thanksgiving and tell of His deeds in songs of joy!

In the midst of their struggles, God chose to bring His people out of captivity in Babylon and bring them safely home. During their journey God provided food and drink for them. Perhaps remembering this, years later Mary, the mother of Jesus could sing, *"He has filled the hungry with good things"* (Luke 1:53). Surely, together with all who've experienced God's amazing grace, we too will want to give thanks to Him for all He's faithfully done for us through His steadfast love and tell of His deeds with songs of joy.

To always and freely give thanks for everything in all circumstances is to acknowledge that God is worthy of praise and worthy of glory because He's provided you all His blessings. This is more than a suggestion. In Christ, it's one of the most distinctive marks of true believers. So, cheerfully give thanks for all that you receive as a blessing from our wonderful Lord but then thank God for always being present and always being all that you need. Have a blessed thanksgiving!

Mark Your Calendar!

October 4th – Communion Sunday

October 11th – Thanksgiving Sunday

Like a Fig Tree Set Apart

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Prayer Room)

Message Series

When a Nation will not Listen

A study from the Book of Jeremiah

Each Sunday 11 a.m.