

Just a Thought

Thankful

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I think it is a God-given gift. It is an ability to know and appreciate blessings and to know from whom they came.

Some blessings seem small--the beauty of a flower or sunset. God designed these things and we can take time to let them delight our eyes and heart. We can “count our blessings” as one old hymn advises. What does being thankful do for us?

In Genesis 2:8-9 we read: “The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man He had formed. The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the midst of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

As we know, God made a companion for this man (woman) and they lived in this garden God made. In it they had everything they could need or want. Almost.

They didn’t think about what they had and praise God for His generosity. They thought about the one thing they should not have. Did you catch the part about the tree of life being in the garden? God did not forbid them that tree. Genesis 2:16-17 “And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.’”

What is it in us that makes us want just what we should not have instead of being thankful for all we do have? The will to be disobedient was there before they ate the apple. Satan tempted but he did not make them eat. The choice was theirs. And so it goes down through the ages: human nature and Satan’s temptation.

Perhaps if we consciously think of our blessings and give our Heavenly father praise for them, we will be a little less susceptible to the temptations. If we are thinking “thank you, God, for the blessing of my husband” or “thank you, God, for the blessing of food to eat,” it will be a little harder to dwell on the things we do not have.

If Adam and Eve had been content to have EVERYTHING but one tree . . .

God knows how we are. He made us. He also made a way for us to get back to where He wants us to be: Jesus.

Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.” He had a plan from Genesis 1. For this we can be immeasurably, wonderfully, always thankful.