

Thanksgiving: The Endangered Species of Our Time

By the way, when was the last time you actually took stock of your life and counted your blessings? Do you get time to reflect on your life as a gift from God? Do you realize how blessed you are that you have eyes to see the beauty of nature and ears to hear the musical notes of the nightingale?

This reminds me of the chorus of the 1897 “*Count Your Blessings*” song of Johnson Oatman Jr.

“Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”

Perhaps the extraordinary life story of Helen Keller, the world-renowned author, educator, and activist, will inspire you into a life of daily thanksgiving. Did you know that Helen lost the gift of both eyesight and hearing at the tender age of 19 months after a short bout of “brain fever” as per her family doctor’s description? Are you aware that even though it was a struggle to learn to “communicate” with others, she did not allow her obvious disadvantage to prevent her from receiving the education she needed to be a blessing unto others? Are you aware that she received many accolades for championing better lives for people with disabilities? Listen to Helen Keller thanking God for her life here on earth and beyond in spite of her obvious limitations:

“For three things I thank God every day of my life: thanks that He has vouchsafed me knowledge of His Works; deep thanks that He has set in my darkness the lamp of faith; deep, deepest thanks that I have another life to look forward to—a life joyous with light and flowers and heavenly song.”

My dear reader, let us learn to count our blessings every day for eyes to see, ears to hear, voice to speak, and the ability to take in the wonderful perfume of the flowers in bloom. Let us come along with Stevie Wonder, the famous musician, singer, and songwriter and sing “I just called to say I Love You,” to our God who has gifted us with all our five senses and faculties around us. If Stevie can sing that, surely we have no right to complain and be cynical; we have every reason to thank our God on a daily basis and show appreciation for all His manifold blessings that He daily pours on us (Psalm 68:19).

I pray that through the pages of this book we will be reminded of the many blessings to be thankful for. I pray that we will learn proven ways of developing this essential attitude of gratitude, how to express gratitude as a way of life, and above all experience the many spiritual and physical benefits of gratitude.

Happy listening or reading and I am so grateful for you!!