

An attitude of gratitude

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By Jeanine Case

BIG SANDY, Texas—The more I have learned of the hardships of those living in the world around me, the more I have realized I need to be more grateful.

Recently this point was driven home while I was reading Scripture. The scriptures I'm referring to are found in Deuteronomy 8:10. I am quoting the English Standard Version:

"And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land He has given you."

I also made note of the words in verse 17: "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' "

I am blessed on so many levels. Most important, by the grace of our Father, who called me, I am able to know some of His truth. I by no means pretend that I have all knowledge on anything.

God's plan

One of the valuable truths I am so grateful for is the knowledge of God's plan of salvation. The holy days have much more meaning to me as time goes on. I am understanding more and more the value of knowing what they mean.

I have come to understand that Satan is the great counterfeiter. He loves to copy our Father God. He just does such a poor job of it. I have seen people I love turn from the holy days to follow holidays. Christmas, Easter, etc., are so cheap and false-looking when one compares them to the riches of God's chosen days. I am grateful that God has chosen to allow me to understand some of the richness of His plan. I know there are depths for me to explore as long as I let God teach me.

Blessed family

My dad's accident, which he is still recovering from, showed me the love people still have for one another. Many people from many churches have given their prayers, money, time and support to our family during a very real time of need. Many people from our communities have also richly blessed our family. My family has felt much gratitude for all of the love and help we have received.

I am blessed to have a wonderful husband and children. I am grateful for my husband's loyalty. I am glad that we share the same faith. My children are learning. I am pleased they care enough to learn more about God.

At times I get to thinking about my friends: my true friends, the kind who will gently encourage and correct me when I am caught up in a fault. I am so grateful that they come to me out of love and with a humble spirit to offer me advice.

Peace in our midst

I attend church with a great congregation. I feel the people I attend with truly care for one another. Our pastor is a balanced person, who is a true servant and friend to those he serves. There is great peace in our midst at this time.

I realize that, while the home I live in is not great by the standards of many in America, it is a palace compared to what many people in the world have to live in. I am thrilled that we have food to eat, clothing to wear, comfortable beds, showers, a climate-controlled home and numerous other physical comforts. I can recall a lady saying that, if we have the money to buy a book and the time to read it, we are richer than most of the people in the world.

I see days of trouble approaching. I see the troubles our country and world are already facing. I know that our comforts and all that we own could disappear at any time. I am so grateful that, while God promises us that we can't take our material possessions with us, He cares enough to give us His Holy Spirit now and a very rich kingdom to look forward to.

Remind each other

Those who know me know that at times I complain. I don't have my attitude of gratitude down perfectly yet, nor will I in this physical existence. As times get tougher for us, please, let's all continue to remind each other to count our blessings. Let us remember that it is not of our own doing that we have the good things we have; it is of God's. Let's remember to bless Him, as the Scripture says.