

## Thanksgiving: A Way of Being

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** - Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 2: 7** - Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you are growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done.

Thanksgiving is a religious celebration that is seasoned with secular flavor; beginning with pilgrims in their newly adopted homeland giving thanks for divine goodness; brimming baskets of harvested bounty; paying homage to the land and to the wonders of nature; folded, prayerful hands giving thanks for the blessings of the years; to our lives today; clouds that will soon be filled with snowflakes ready and waiting to fall; travels to the homes of loved ones; loved ones relating; hearts touched and love renewed by the treasury of remembered blessings built on happy talk of happy times; the aroma of the kitchen that encourages us to lift the lids and to sneak a taste; wonderful food that seems to tell us that we will never be hungry again; outstretched torsos on the couch watching the football games....and naps; walks to walk off the overeating discomfort and then more conversation....remembering those who aren't with us this year. Evening arrives and although we thought we'd never eat again, there are large pieces of pumpkin pie ready and waiting with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream, and coffee, coffee, coffee.

It is a day for sharing and thankfulness, great food, wishing on the wish bone, football and naps. It's an ordinary day that isn't ordinary at all because of love and thankfulness. A day filled with heartfelt gratefulness for the best of all days in the best of all possible worlds. It is filled with warmth, JOY, good food, love, laughter and wholeness of our bodies, minds and spirits. Thanksgiving is more than a day that we celebrate, it is a way of being!!!

So, whatever your situation this Thanksgiving....where ever you might be....practice thankfulness and spend some time thanking God for God's enormous love.

**Prayer:** Gracious and loving God, we come to you with grateful hearts. We are blest indeed. For all the comforts of this life and for life itself we give you thanks. Help us to remember that Thanksgiving is a way of being....not just a holiday. Help us to share all that we have with others... for it is in giving that we receive. And if this day our hearts are heavy with sadness or grief...if we are overwhelmed with worry or anxiety....wrap your arms around us, Lord, and care for our needs. May we bow our heads in reverence as we sincerely thank you for all the ways you provide for us. In your precious name we pray. Amen.