

## **A Thankful and Prayerful Heart,**

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers. - Philemon 1:4

He who is of a merry heart has a continual feast. – Proverbs 15:15

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The Christian life is centered in Christ and in everything that He did for us and on our behalf. Every moment of our life should be lived with a thankful heart, a joyful soul. There's no doubt in our minds that we could give thanks more often. We set aside meal time, Sunday mornings, and one of our favorite holidays; Thanksgiving. But, don't let an hour go by without giving thanks - for your work, school, kids, health, your spouse, your blessings and your challenges. In the big things and the little things, in every step of our journey, we can and must be thankful. It's hard not to be thankful.

Thankfulness is the attitude of our heart, but even more, thankfulness is a spiritual practice and discipline. We express our thankfulness in our daily prayers, especially when we pray for all people: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth". (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Giving thanks for everything means that we fully trust the perfect character of our God, and recognize our complete dependence on Him, who is always on the throne of the universe (Psalm 93) and also on the throne of our hearts (1 Peter 3:15).

As one of our servants in the church posted recently, for the church - in a form of a beautiful prayer and deep conviction on the day America was voting for her future : *"Almighty God, You are the sovereign God over all nations. Kingdoms rise, and kingdoms fall, but Your name stands above them all. As we are going through our election day in the United States of America, keep our eyes fixed on You. Your resurrection is the reason we have hope for this life and the life beyond death. We pray for Your rule to arrive on earth as it is in heaven. We pray for Your will to be done in the world. We pray for the Church in America to reflect the Kingdom of God in all that we do and say. Help us to be the salt of this earth. Help us to be light of this world, showing Your love and goodness, Your righteousness, and justice for the world to see. Regardless of the outcome of this election, fill us with your peace from above. Remind us of our mission in the world. Keep us faithful to our call, joyful and thankful in your service. Until that great day when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, who reign forever and ever. Amen"!*

Ovidiu D Druhora