

*May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.*

***A Psalm. For giving thanks. Psalms 100***

1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

***The Harvest Feast***

Fortunate is the person who has memories of those wonderful harvest dinners. My own memories of them can still evoke the feeling of warmth and closeness, even set my stomach rumblin and salivary glands working. Time has blended the memories into one over-all impression: an attitude toward the feast.

My recollection will always be of a hot day, the hard work, the perspiring bodies, the dust and chaff and its itchy irritation. The men in the fields and the women in the house, the children scattered in between. Yet, all are busy, all are hot, and all are anticipating the meal. Oh, the feeling of relief when the dinner bell is rung and the work is set aside. The joy of the coming together, of the washing up and the sitting down to the feast, lingers with me still.

So this memory lives again when I come to the Lord's table and influences my attitude toward the feast. I come as a worker in the harvest though the task is incomplete. I am hot, tired and hungry, and have an itchy irritation from the dust and chaff of the past week. It is a relief when He calls me to His table, and a joy--the coming together, the washing up of the Spirit, and the sitting down to the feast. And I leave His table replenished as in those harvest meals of long ago, eager to finish the harvest, for the stores I gather in are preparation for His greater feast.

*by my uncle James Lee Jenkins as a communion meditation*

***Prayers and Thoughts:*** Pray for Nick Butcher and family as they minister to us here in Ladoga.

Pray for the Leonards and their work in Turkey. Pray for our shut-ins. Remember all our mothers and fathers. Remember our Military the mothers, fathers and their families. Pray for our church and leadership.

***Tossed Aside:*** *Psalm 44:9-12 But now you have tossed us aside in dishonor. You no longer lead our armies to battle. You make us retreat from our enemies and allow those who hate us to plunder our land. You have butchered us like sheep and scattered us among the nations. You sold your precious people for a pittance, making nothing on the sale.* After some good thoughts in previous verses unrest and discontent overcome David.

***Burned Biscuits***

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing...never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides, a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else... but what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences, is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship. And that's my prayer for you today... that you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of life and lay them at the feet of God. In the end, He's the only One who gives you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

## **THANK YOU LORD**

Lord, thank you for this sink of dirty dishes; we have plenty of food to eat. Thank you for this pile of dirty, stinky laundry; we have plenty of nice clothes to wear. And I would like to thank you, Lord, for those unmade beds; they were so warm and comfortable last night. I know that many have no bed. My thanks to you, Lord, for this bathroom, complete with all the splattered mirrors, soggy, grimy towels and dirty lavatory; they are so convenient. Thank you for this finger-smudged refrigerator that needs defrosting so badly; It has served us faithfully for many years. It is full of cold drinks and enough leftovers for two or three meals. Thank you, Lord, for this oven that absolutely must be cleaned today. It has baked so many things over the years.

The whole family is grateful for that tall grass that needs mowing, the lawn that needs raking; we all enjoy the yard. Thank you, Lord, even for that slamming screen door. My kids are healthy and able to run and play. Lord, the presence of all these chores awaiting me says You have richly blessed my family. I shall do them cheerfully.

## **BLESSINGS WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE**

1. If you own a Bible, you are abundantly blessed - about 1/3 of the world does not have access to one.
2. If you wake up each morning with more health than illness, you are blessed to rise and shine, to live a new day.
3. If you have anyone on the planet, just one person that loves you and listens to you; count this as a blessing.
4. If you can freely attend a church meeting without fear, then you are more blessed than over 1/3 of the world.
5. If you have a yearning to parent a child, you are blessed because you still desire what you cannot see.
6. If you pray today or any day, you are blessed because you believe in God's willingness to hear your prayer.
7. If you pray for someone else, you are blessed because you want to help others also.
8. If you have food, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep; you are rich in this world;
9. If you have a brother or sister in Christ that will pray with you and for you, you benefit from a spiritual unity, bond, and agreement, which the gates of hell cannot stand against.
10. If you have any earthly family that even halfway loves you and supports you, you are blessed beyond measure.
11. If you attend a church that offers you one word of encouragement, you are blessed with some fellowship.
12. If you've money in the bank, your wallet, some spare change in a dish, you are among the world's wealthy.
13. If you can go to bed each night, knowing that God loves you, you are blessed beyond measure.
14. If you try each day to imitate our Lord Jesus Christ for even a minute, you are blessed because you show a willingness to grow up in Him.
15. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than about 1/3 of the world who cannot read at all.
16. If you have never had to endure hardship, battle, imprisonment, or torture, you are blessed in great measure.
17. If you have a voice to sing His praises, a voice to witness God's love, and a voice to share the gospel, you are blessed. About 1/3 of the world do not even know who the one true God is.
18. If you can hold someone's hand, hug another person, touch someone, on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.
19. If you can share a word of encouragement with someone else, and do it with His love in your heart, you are blessed because you have learned how to give.
20. If you have the conviction to stand fast upon His Word and His promises, no matter what, you are blessed because you are learning patience, endurance, and tenacity.
21. If you hold up your head with a smile, and are thankful, you're blessed because most people can, many will not.

## **PUMPKINS & JESUS**

**P** is for the People that Jesus came to save

**U** is for the Unconditional love to each one He gave

**M** is for the Message that we should all be sharing

**P** is for the Priceless gift God above showed he is caring

**K** is for the King of Kings

**I** is for the Insight He brings

**N** is for the Nails in His hands

**S** is for our Savior who gave His life so that we could stand.

So when you see a pumpkin don't think about some guy named Jack remember Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords.  
**Check in with our heavenly Father this week, do some good and disappear. Clay Halsey alhalsey@tds.net**  
**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God be with you all. IICorinthians 13:14**