

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

BY JOEL STEPHEN WILLIAMS

“Be thankful” (Colossians 3:15).

Our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. We give thanks to the God of gods. We give thanks to the Lord of lords. We give thanks to you, O Lord, for you are good; your love endures forever. Your love is unailing. We give thanks to you, O Lord, because of your righteousness. We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. We thank you because you are not far off, but near to us.

We give thanks to you, O God, for your wonderful deeds. We give thanks to you, because you are our strength and our shield. Our hearts trust in you. We give thanks to you, Lord, and call on your name. We make known among the nations what you have done. We thank you for leading us in triumphal procession in Christ and spreading everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ through us. We give you thanks for saving us and gathering us out of the world. We thank you for rescu-

ing us from death through Jesus Christ our Lord. We thank you for the victory we have in Christ Jesus. Thank you for the indescribable gift of your surpassing grace shown to us in Christ Jesus. Thank you, Father, for qualifying us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light, for you have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son whom you love. Thank you for receiving us into a kingdom which cannot be shaken.

We thank you for the joy of Christian fellowship. We thank you, O Jesus, for giving us strength and using us in your service. We thank you, O God, for answering our prayers. We thank you for your righteous laws which you have given us. We thank you for the church and for faithful believers around the world. We thank you for those who have received the preaching of the gospel into their hearts, not as the words of men, but as it actually is, the word of God. We thank you for the food we have to eat.

We give you thanks in all circumstances. Like the apostle Paul, even though he was in prison, we give you thanks for everything. May your grace reach more and more people and may it result in thanksgiving overflowing to your glory. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Though Jesus Christ, Amen!

(1 Chron. 29:13; 16:34; Psa. 136:1-3; 106:1; 107:1, 21; 7:17; Rev. 11:17; Psa. 75:1; Deut. 4:7; Psa. 75:1; 107:21; 28:7; 1 Chron. 16:8; 2 Cor. 2:14; Psa. 106:47; Rom. 7:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 9:14-15; Col. 1:12-13; Heb. 12:28; 1 Thess. 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:12; Psa. 118:21; 119:62; Rom. 1:8; 1 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 14:6; 1 Tim. 4:3; 1 Thess. 5:18; Eph. 5:20; 2 Cor. 4:15; Rev. 7:12; Col. 3:17).

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WITH VISUAL AIDS**