

## E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Do you ever find your heart just filled with thankfulness? Back in the 'old days' when I was a young intern pastor, we had a pastor in the church I served who ended every single prayer with... "we are thankful and grateful." At the time, those of us on staff would find ourselves snickering a bit. "Why does he always double talk that? Can't he just say 'thankful' without 'grateful'?"

As I got to know him better through those days, I found out that he had the most thankful heart I had ever discovered. One day as I struggled with a money problem, trying to come up with enough cash to buy my books at the seminary, he came into my office and he could tell I was troubled. He figured out the problem on his own and opened his wallet and handed me a wad of cash. I backed off, of course. I insisted I could not take his money and that I would figure it out on my own. It was the words that he spoke next that have stayed with me forever... "Listen here, young man. Until you learn how to receive, you will never truly understand what it is to give."

It was at that moment that I realized Pastor Malm had such a heart full of gratefulness that he probably needed both those words to express his thankfulness. It always kind of makes me chuckle when I offer prayers of gratitude and I hear myself say those words... "*Dear Lord...we are so THANKFUL and GRATEFUL*" ... there are those days when I find my own heart just overflowing with gratitude.

So, I ask you today to sit back and read Psalm 100. It's a Hymn of Praise and no matter what is going on in this world or your own life, it is that psalm that might bring you into a spirit of gratitude... "*Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving; go into its courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise him. The Lord is good; his love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever.*"

It's a good day to give thanks. Remember to wash your hands, fold them and bow your head. Pause for a bit and see if words of thankfulness fill your heart. Maybe you'll even find yourself saying... "Dear Lord, I am so thankful and grateful."

Pray with me: "Our Father, we have so much to be thankful for. Even as we face uncertain times and strange moments. You are by our side as we walk through this life. For your calming presence, for your steady hand... we are thankful and grateful. Amen. In Jesus's name, Amen.