

Thanksgiving Devotions



I'm thankful that an old sinner like me who often does not love God, who does not love my neighbor as myself, who does not love the Lord with all my heart, strength, and mind, who would prefer to always put myself first, to trust my future with myself, to count on myself for my next breath, and who also gets into all the trouble and hopelessness that goes with that kind of living – consistently gets to hear the promise of Jesus forgiveness of sins and with it the promise of new life, more than that, eternal life! These words, “In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven” create more gratitude than any beautiful calligraphy commanding me to “Be Thankful” could.

In fact, “You are forgiven” opens up a whole new world where my Thanksgiving dinner favorites – like marshmallow covered sweet potatoes, and green bean casserole – alongside turkey or pizza or whatever’s on the menu this year is just one more part, one more gift that goes along with this new life Jesus regularly reminds me he’s given me. The family gathered around the table, those who we’ve lost that gather around God’s table in heaven – all a part of this promised new life that comes from Jesus. Through Christ this is your life too. Your past, your future, every single breath – part of this new life you’ve been given. Enjoy your new life that no one need tell you to “Be Thankful” for, though you might just be anyway.

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