

# Call of Grace Ministries

*Come unto Me. . . I will give you rest*

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**"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation of shadow of turning."**

James 1:17 (NKJV)

The preceding verse starts, "Do not be deceived. . .". Previously, James has been talking about temptation. Very straightforwardly, James tells us that it is our "evil desires" that tempt us and give birth to sin, and death, in our lives. Contrast that with the verse above. What a magnificent statement! Anything good is from God! Anything perfect (the word implies moral perfection) is from God!

The things naturally within us are self-destructive; they tear us down for they tear us away from God (James 1:14-15). They are capable only of destroying us. The gifts the Lord gives are good and perfect *and intended for our good*. Why? Because God is good! In other words, the gifts of the Lord are perfectly designed to impact our lives in a way that build us up and draw us to Him: because this is best for us. And all of this "best" comes down from the God who created everything that is and never changes. The One who loved you from before the beginning! And always will!

Many gifts are easy for us to recognize, simply because they fit our definition of good. There are others however, that we have a hard time reconciling as "good". Do we see the Lord's discipline as a good gift to us? We should for it keeps us on track toward all that He has for us. What about the trials we face? Go back and read James 1:2-4. I knew a pastor who has long since gone to Glory. Regarding trials, he said, "We need to remember that no trial touches us that was not filtered through the love of God, who works all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." It may be hard to reconcile sometimes when things get tough, however, the Lord truly is for us, and has been from before the beginning!

This Thanksgiving, stop to consider all the times the Lord has strengthened you. Consider all the times through which the Lord has brought you. Consider everything from which the Lord has sheltered you. Finally, consider His love displayed on the Cross. Then lift your eyes to heaven and declare with the psalmist, **"Give thanks to the LORD; for He is good; His love endures forever. . . Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the LORD."**  
(Psalm 107:1, 43 (NIV))

The elections are over. Now the work begins: praying for those in authority who make decisions that affect the direction of our nation. Prayer is our duty, our obligation, and our very great privilege as Christians. Our Lord has commanded that we pray for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-2) therefore we are morally bound to do so. But remember that intercession for others is one of the great privileges we have been given by our Lord. For we are not like the prophets of Baal when we pray! We do not call on a God made in our image or formed by the hands of men that does not hear or intervene. When we pray, we are like Elijah, praying to the Living God who is a consuming fire and turns His people's hearts back to Himself (1 Kings 18:20-39)! So, I beseech you to pray for our officials as the Lord has commanded. Pray for the Lord to open their eyes to His Word of truth that their hearts might turn to Him. For when the Lord is exalted, our nation will be blessed!

This past month the Lord has allowed us to provide material blessing to those in need. Our home church, First Baptist Church in Marion, had collected numerous clothing items, much of it new or gently used, for a ministry that has since moved from our area. Cindy separated these items by gender (just two) and size then boxed everything up. She then found various places of need for the items. We loaded the van and left these items with various faith-based ministries and others who will distribute them without charge. Included were many winter coats. Thanks First Baptist for helping us bless others!

Cindy and I are gearing up for our time with the Salvation Army. Our schedule is set. We will be out multiple days each week between Thanksgiving and Christmas ringing the bell and sharing the Gospel through music, tracts, Scripture reading, conversations, and prayer. This year we have expanded our territory for this outreach to include more locations in different towns with less days at each location. We believe we will be able to witness to a greater number of people by doing this. In the process of this, the Salvation Army gets a bucket full of money, provided by the Lord, to use in ministry to the people of Southern Illinois. If you might like to do this where you live, we would be happy to talk to you about it.

We are also preparing to reach out at the Lights Fantastic Parade in Carbondale, IL. This is a nighttime parade. We have a series of lighted banners we carry in the parade that share the Gospel and call for a decision while another group shares Gospel tracts with the crowd prior to the parade. If you live in the area and might like to join in, please contact us. We will be happy give you all the information and talk to you about your involvement.

We are still moving forward with bringing the Horseshoe Ministry model to Southern Illinois. This was mentioned in our September newsletter, which is available on our website. We have identified one venue and will be contacting a church in the area regarding their involvement. Williamson Baptist Association has graciously offered to allow us the use of some items they have as we start up so they do not have to be purchased. We gave a report on this mission in our home church and a number of people professed interest in helping with this. In addition, another church has requested that we give a report on this model. If you believe you or your church may be interested in this, please contact us.

We thank you for your continued intercession for this ministry. If the Lord calls you to go on mission with us, wherever we go, or you are led to help support a mission or any part of our ministry, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your church believe we could be of service to you in any evangelistic effort, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

*Dennis & Cindy Mohr*

~Cindy's Bottom Line~

In giving thanks, we acknowledge God's sovereignty and express our faith in Christ.

**". . .in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."**

1Thess. 5:18 (NKJV)

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. We go as God provides. Your prayers and financial support of this ministry are a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.