

How can it possibly be November already?

With life speeding by at warp speed, it can be easy to pass through this season of Thanksgiving without taking time to really give thanks. My prayer is that God will use the newsletter series this month to give you pause and help you see the bountiful blessings He has poured out upon you.

Next week we start daily lessons in the "16 Days of Thanksgiving." If you want to get a head-start, you can download the lessons at

http://www.hopeinthelord.org/Downloadable_PDF_Bible_Study_Files.html

In praise of God - the giver of all good things,
Jennifer

Yes, There *IS* Good Here!

A recent trip to the walk-in clinic with my kids had me thinking; "Wouldn't it be nice if there was a Christian waiting room where we could just go sign in to Heaven?" I tend to have my heads in the clouds. The Bible teachings on our true home being in Heaven and living as aliens (not the green kind) on this earth have rooted deep in my heart, along with the descriptions of Satan roaming around this earth looking to steal, kill, destroy and devour. Yes, if I could grab my family and go check-in, I'd be sitting in the waiting room for Heaven right now.

While it's good to yearn for Heaven and necessary to understand that the trials of this life are as much a blessing as the fun celebrations, we don't want to miss the opportunity to celebrate all the amazing wonders of life on earth.

That's what I want to do with you this week - look around in joy, awe, and thanksgiving at the amazing life God has given us here. Things like the wonder of a sleeping baby in our arms, the exhilaration of side-splitting laughter, the freedom of walking through leaves on a crisp fall day, the awesome quiet of a pine needle path deep in a forest, the deep joy of watching vows at a wedding, the well-spring of pride in watching a child succeed, the subtle comfort in having coffee with a good friend. The feelings that come with giving or receiving hugs, kind words, good deeds, and gifts. The good memories of our past that come to mind with a certain smell, song, food, or feeling.

As the popular, anonymous quote says, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

The author of your life has filled your pages with breath-taking moments. Are you whizzing by them? Or, are you taking the time to be filled with awe and joy and then thanking Him? This week, start the habit of basking in the lifetime of joys He has provided.

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Truth that Changes Your Life

*Grab your notebook and Bible and get ready to explore. **Don't rush through!** Take your time to wander through the scripture and let God speak to you. Last week's lesson "Oct. 27, 2009: My Prayer for You," can be found at http://www.hopeinthelord.org/Downloadable_PDF_Bible_Study_Files.html*

I've selected Psalms to carry on from last week's lesson. Each day, read through the Psalm several times. Then pray, asking God to reveal to you the joys in your life that you should be thankful for. Take time to let your mind wander over memories of long ago, remembering God's gifts of the past also. Don't look only for the big moments, but also the small, quiet ones. Record not only your recent and long-ago moments of joy, but also your awe at those gifts and your thanks to God.

- ☐ Day 1 – Psalm 16
- ☐ Day 2 – Psalm 19
- ☐ Day 3 – Psalm 20

- ☐ Day 4 – Psalm 33
- ☐ Day 5 – Psalm 65
- ☐ Day 6 – Psalm 67

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Action that Changes Your Life

- What will you change to allow yourself to notice and experience the laughter and joy of your life?
- How will you celebrate both the great and small moments of joy and beauty on earth?
- What will you do this week to thank God for these moments?

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I pray that the God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.

With laughter and smiles,
Jennifer