

A Journey of Thanksgiving

Written by Dr. Timothy Lueking
November 01

Thanksgiving Begins Today

Every year our family has a tradition of visiting my in-laws around Thanksgiving. Every year it seems that we have the uncanny ability to turn a 5 hour trip into an 8 hour journey.

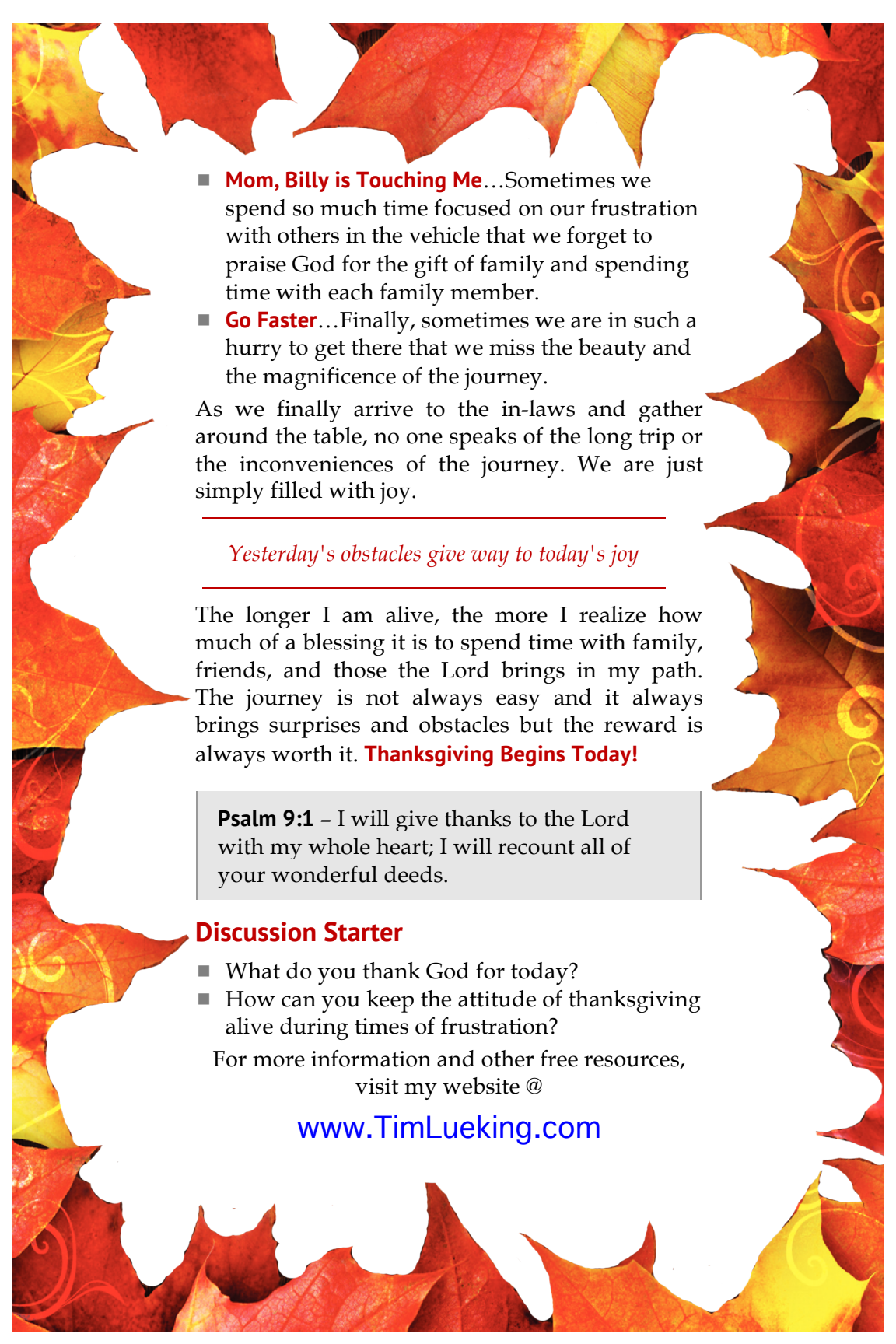
The children and adults in the vehicle often start off the journey with a great attitude and with grand ideas of what the trip will be like but as time rolls on, the grand illusions and moments of joy turn into a test of patience; an exercise in which child will effectively irritate the other until one finally yells out in frustration.

It was on our last journey that I began to realize how closely a journey like this parallels the journey the Lord has for us in this life as we move closer to our eternal home. Max Lucado once observed,

A journey is a journey, whether the destination be the Thanksgiving table or the heavenly one.

Consider some of the similarities for a moment...

- **I Got the Backseat...**Sometimes we focus more on our comfort than the comfort of others.
- **Are We There Yet...**Often we spend more time complaining about the length of the journey than actually thanking God for the time we have been given on the journey.

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- **Mom, Billy is Touching Me...**Sometimes we spend so much time focused on our frustration with others in the vehicle that we forget to praise God for the gift of family and spending time with each family member.
 - **Go Faster...**Finally, sometimes we are in such a hurry to get there that we miss the beauty and the magnificence of the journey.

As we finally arrive to the in-laws and gather around the table, no one speaks of the long trip or the inconveniences of the journey. We are just simply filled with joy.

Yesterday's obstacles give way to today's joy

The longer I am alive, the more I realize how much of a blessing it is to spend time with family, friends, and those the Lord brings in my path. The journey is not always easy and it always brings surprises and obstacles but the reward is always worth it. **Thanksgiving Begins Today!**

Psalm 9:1 – I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Discussion Starter

- What do you thank God for today?
- How can you keep the attitude of thanksgiving alive during times of frustration?

For more information and other free resources,
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www.TimLueking.com

Thanksgiving in Perspective

Written by Dr. Timothy Lueking
November 02

Don't Wait – Thank God Today


A few years ago, I found myself driving the boys to school shortly before Thanksgiving. We had a daily routine where we would turn on the Christian radio station to set the tone for the day.

On this particular day, the radio hosts were inviting people to call in and share their testimonies of how they would finish this statement, “**I thank God for...**” The boys and I sat and listened to one response after another as people thanked the Lord for family, health, daily provision, and finally one person got on the phone and began to share this story...

Today, I woke up and I challenged myself to thank God for everything throughout the day. I began to brush my teeth and I thanked God for my toothbrush, toothpaste, even my teeth. I began to put in my contacts and I thanked God for my sight, for my eyes, and it was at that moment that God helped me see the world differently. How? God impressed this simple thought upon my heart and mind,

*What if you woke up tomorrow
with only the things you thanked
God for today?*

As I listened to the caller declare his simple theology I looked to my boys and I said out loud...



"Lord, Thank You for my boys...Thank You for my wife...Thank You for salvation through Jesus...Thank You for Life!"

Before you go another minute in your day, make sure you take the time to say, **"Thank You"** to the Lord for you don't know what you will have tomorrow but you do know you have this day and this moment.

If you don't know where to start, then begin here and thank God for one or more of these items...

- **God's Love**
- **God's Word**
- **God's Promises**
- **God's Provision**
- **Salvation**
- **Creation**

The Apostle Paul gives the same advice to Christians of his day as we learn this principle:

Don't Wait...Thank God Today!

Ephesians 5:20 – Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Discussion Starter

- What have you taken for granted today that you need to thank God for before the day is over?
- How can you inspire an "Attitude of Gratitude" in the life of others today?

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