

again, and again into our daily lives! And yet somehow we really don't believe this truth, and we seem not able to receive these realities into our lives. We continue to live in self-reliance as if there is no God who is our Father. It is so hard to be thankful when things do not work out according to our wants and our wisdom, and we aren't sure of God and His love!

If we believe God's love and that His intention for each of our lives is perfect, the question is how do we more completely "yield our allegiance" (obedience to Jesus) to enable us to really enter into that trust of Him? God has commanded his children to give thanks for everything, all the time, because when we thank someone for something it is a sign of our releasing it as OK and our heart and mind

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can rest. (cf Phil. 4:6-10) We know that God knows all about events and circumstances and we don't! We are called to such an active faith in what we profess to believe, that God, through his Holy Spirit, may be able to bring us His perspective on a situation. We must be willing to understand that "praise and thanksgiving in all situations" is an acknowledgement of God's sovereign power over the situation to deliver his children, not an endorsement of what is happening. What God desires from us is trust in situations beyond our understanding, so that

in this "trust and praise and thanksgiving" for his love and presence and power we can rest in peace in our hearts, be filled with His life, His joy, His hope. When we have our backs to the wall, and all seems hopeless we must learn to remember the God who called us and praise him for his way of deliverance. He is to be believed and trusted in all situations.

This is a part of our privilege and responsibility in the Charismatic Renewal, to learn to be a people of praise. To allow the Holy Spirit to so manifest the life of Christ in us that God has a vessel to pour forth his love and hope and power into each of our lives and environments. We have received a real experience of God in His Holy Spirit for a purpose in this world today. In history when this occurs it is to bring forth a people of praise and trust and thanksgiving in all situations and environments. Are we learning and becoming more each day the 'children' of God as shown forth in our praise? The opportunity is here. The time is now. St. Paul tells us from his experience of God;

"The Lord is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:6-7)

This year as we gather through this holiday season may God open our hearts even more to see the glory to which we are called, and through the Holy Spirit may our hearts overflow with gratitude at the fact that we are CHILDREN OF GOD. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. Alleluia! Jesus Is Lord! Pat Mullins, editor

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Thanksgiving to God



By Pat Mullins

*He (Jesus) was in the world; but the world, though it owed its being to him, did not recognize him. He entered his own realm, and his own would not receive him. But to all who did receive him, to those who have yielded him their allegiance (obedience), he gave the right to become **children of God**, not born of any human stock, or by the fleshly desire of a human father, but the **off-spring of God himself.**" John 1:10-13 (NEB)*

*"This means that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now **all is new.** All this has been done by God....." 2 Cor. 5:17-18a (NAB)*

*"The Spirit you have received is not a spirit of slavery leading you back into a life of fear, but a Spirit that makes us sons, enabling us to cry 'Abba! Father!' In that cry the Spirit of God joins with our spirit in testifying that **we are God's children;** and if children, then heirs." Romans 8:15-16 (NEB)*

*"Give thanks to God the Father **always and for everything** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20 (NAB)*

*“Be always joyful; pray continually; **give thanks whatever happens**; for this is what God in Christ wills for you.” 1 Thess. 5:16-18 (NEB)*

Once every year we, the people of God, and this nation, pause to reflect and give thanks to God in the tradition that our founding fathers established so many years ago. In times of hope, no matter what the potential hardships may be in the future, if there is hope there is gratitude & heartfelt thanksgiving. We find ourselves reflecting on the goodness and grace that God has showered down upon ourselves & our nation, and are grateful for all the things we have. Hope, freedom, material abundance, and beauty in the land and sea that surround us, and these have in so many ways been our protection from wars around us. When all this is in view it is fairly easy to rejoice and praise God and be filled with thanksgiving. That really is the normal human reaction, but what about the times when we may be homeless or hungry, facing sickness or financial catastrophe, broken relationships or shattered plans. Those are the times we are challenged to look into the Word of God and ask Him what He means in his command to “**in everything** give thanks”

God is constantly inviting us to go deeper into the reality of what life is all about. To find our roots in truth and reality. Jesus tells us that life is not made up of an abundance of things, but that real life, which we were created to live and know, is only to be found in our personal relationship with Him and our Father in Heaven. What is normal and easy for us is but the beginning of knowing the depth of love and gratitude that God has in store for us if we will enter deeper into the revelation of Jesus through His



Spirit & Word.

It is our Father's joy to provide his children with things that delight them. If we, who are fearful and selfish want good things for our children, how much more does our Father desire to give to us the life that makes all things serve His goodness and our happiness? Now we may ask; how can we be thankful for things we don't like? How can we begin to even think of being joyful when things seem to be falling apart around us? When all of our hopes and plans are being shattered? The answer is in our perspective of the whole situation, are we willing **to learn** to see from God's perspective? (see Hebrews 5:7-9 where Scripture tells us that even Jesus had to learn!)

New perspective must begin with new information, or new understanding of information now available. For us the beginning and end is in God revealing Himself and his love for us by the work of the Holy Spirit; revealing Jesus as God's "yes" to all of our life's needs. Somehow the Holy Spirit must break into our little world of self-reliance and cause us to see that God has something better. For some people the Holy Spirit must wait until they are in such a spot that there is no other hope than God, but those situations are not God's first choice on how we are to learn. God is Love, and love desires the best for the object loved, and only God knows what is best for each of his children. The mystery of our faith that we proclaim so often is also the Good News of our faith....Christ has died.... to forgive and take away our sins, and deliver us from our sinful nature; Christ is risen to impart to us a new life, a new creation, a new Father, a new family, new ability, new hope, new goals, new emotional stability, new wisdom, new righteousness, all is new! Christ will come again.... and