

## Covid 19

This is such an unusual time. Because of a virus we cannot see we are quarantined from family, friends, church, school and vacations. Disney just reopened and some water parks too. You can only get McDonalds at the Drive Through. No slides and jumpy house. Oh No!

My great-grandmother was born before the civil war began in the United States. She was born in Germany. She grew up with her family of 12. Nine brothers and sisters and her parents. Oh, her grandmother loved with them too. They lived in a little village and until she boarded a boat at age 54, she had not been more than ten miles from the house she was born in. 54 years old and then she left Germany for the United States. Wow! What a journey. When we were little kids we asked this 104 year-old woman about her childhood. What did you do to play, we asked? She told us they play tag, hide and seek, and with dolls. She began working on the farm at age 4 and always had chores to do, all day, every day. She collected eggs from the chickens, milked the cows, plucked the chickens for dinner, fished in the local stream for trout, sewed clothing for her family and prepared meals. She also washed clothes by hand every day.

My brother asked if she ever watched television. No, it wasn't invented. Did she listen to the radio? No, it wasn't invented yet. Did your family go for rides in the car? Well, the car had not been invented yet either. Did you go to school? No, we had no school. My mother and my brothers and sisters taught the younger children. Wow! All the things we thought about and the toys we played with had not been invented when she was a child. She never traveled anywhere. Still, she said that her childhood was normal and wonderful. She never felt bored.

My brother also asked about being so isolated from others. She said that she had her family and the animals on the farm. She never thought she was isolated. The family spent their time working on the farm, cooking or preparing food, learning to read and write and they studied the Bible and prayed a lot. Great-grandma really knew her Bible. I mean she really knew it.

Growing up they were continuously busy and never felt bored or isolated. Today, we thin we might go crazy because we can't go to our favorite restaurant, shopping at stores and we have to wear masks and social distance. We really need to be grateful for what we have. Nice houses, food to eat, clothes to wear and places we can go even if we have to social distance.

### Scripture:

[We are grateful for God's love](#)

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34).*

Before we knew Christ most of us weren't lovable; rather we were self-centered and focused on pleasing ourselves. Yet God looked down and loved us so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. We give thanks because we are loved passionately and unconditionally throughout eternity.

[We are grateful in every situation](#)

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).*

It's hard to think about giving thanks to God when life seems overwhelmingly difficult. However, we can give thanks because God will never leave nor forsake us when times are down. He freely gives us wisdom, grace, and strength to move forward in every situation. A grateful heart in times of trouble can be encouraged to trust in the Lord at all times.

We are grateful for the ability to do good works

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).*

Every believer has an opportunity to show their gratefulness to God by doing good works for others. It is the Lord who gives us the strength to serve, to give, and to work. When we start our jobs with a spirit of gratefulness, our load becomes lighter and the Lord opens the way for us to share the Good News.

We are grateful for God’s gifts given through His people

*“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).*

The Corinthians gave gifts to God’s people resulting in praise and thankfulness to the Lord. When we have the opportunity to give to others, we experience the joy of knowing the God will be praised because of it. Our God knows the needs of His people and He blesses us to be a blessing to others.

We are grateful for God’s deliverance over our lives

*“Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:25).*

Without the grace of God, we would all be hopelessly lost. Through the power of Jesus Christ, we are given the strength to rise above our sinful nature and overcome the desires of the flesh.

We are grateful for God’s miraculous hand over our lives

*“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds” (Psalms 9:1).*

The world believes in coincidences and luck; however, we trust in the hand of the Lord to work the impossible on our behalf. Because of His intervention in our lives, we’ve experienced [miracles](#) both great and small. Every day the Lord is working things out for our good and we give thanks for His ever watchful eye over our lives.

We are grateful in prayers and petitions

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6).*

Even before we know for sure that God has answered our prayers—we give thanks. We can thank Him for just the blessing of hearing our prayers and answering them according to His will. Our prayers should be just as equally full of praise, worship, and thankfulness as it is for petitions. An attitude of gratefulness ushers a spirit of expectancy in our prayers.

#### Question?

1. Should we desire the material things of the world first or the love of God first?