A MINISTRY OF GRATITUDE: 
ONE THOUSAND THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

During troubling times like these, we can retreat into ourselves and become self-centered; we can overlook the needs of others and fail to see that God is the giver of good things. However, we can take a more realistic approach. Times are bad, but they also have possibilities, and now is a perfect time to accentuate the positive. The following listings of diverse items are fruits of my 2009 annual retreat. At each remembrance I can truly say, "Thank you, Lord." In so doing, I find that I am praying, and as gratitude increases in one’s life, the thank yous increase.

You are welcome to add a thanks when items overlap with your own experience, but that is not really my intention. The sheer number "one thousand" may baffle you -- and if you look hard enough you may find duplicates. Rather than focusing on my listing's content, I encourage you to try your hand at a similar process either mentally or on paper. The listing is never complete, for more and more items emerge with time. God’s goodness is an infinite ocean, and we experience a very small part at any time. Let’s spread the Good News: we are blessed with many gifts. Besides, our quality of life improves when we grow in gratitude for them.

1. BIG THINGS

   The hardest listing is the first: What are the great gifts given?

GOOD SHEPHERD       FAITH IN THE FUTURE       ETERNAL LIFE       DIVINE MERCY
GOD’S FAMILY        HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT      FAMILY & FRIENDS   ANGELIC GUIDES
RELIGIOUS PEOPLE    PARISH SUPPORT           PEACE OF SOUL      GRACE UPON GRACE
LOVING FOLKS        DEDICATED SUPERIORS       BAPTISMAL EVENT    BIG PLANS
SACRED CHRISM        HOLY EUCHARIST             OIL OF THE SICK    MAGNIFICAT
JESUIT COMMUNITY    MARY’S TRANSPARENCY       CALVARY’S CROSS    FRESH STARTS
MOBILITY            CALL TO SACRIFICE           PRECIOUS BLOOD     PRAYER TIME
ABUNDANT HEALTH     SUFFICIENT EYESIGHT       EVEN NERVES       BASIC HEARING
CLEAN ENVIRONMENT   PURE FRESH AIR            NUTRITIOUS FOOD   ADEQUATE FUNDING
MY VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS   MY WEBSITE     MUSIC ENJOYMENT    WORKING SPACE

2. AMERICA, OUR LAND

   We give thanks for national gifts and our ability to use them responsibly:

THE CONSTITUTION      ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS      PURPLE MOUNTAINS   FREEDOM TO ACT
DIVINE PROTECTION     SUPREME COURT          SEASHORES & WAVES  GRAND TREES
OLD GLORY            PUBLIC INTEREST SPIRIT   SHIMMERING LAKES   ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SOCIAL SECURITY      WEATHER BUREAU           TEMPERATE FORESTS  MASS MEDIA
SOARING EAGLES       GREAT LAKES NAVAL BASE   GREAT PLAINS      POSTAL SERVICE
DEMOCRATIC HERITAGE   NATIONAL SECURITY      SCENIC DESERTS    CIVIL RIGHTS
NATIONAL PARKS       IMMIGRANT’S REFUGE      ROARING WATERFALL  FEDERAL HISTORY
WILD TURKEYS         LIBRARY OF CONGRESS      INDEPENDENCE DAY  RIGHT TO VOTE
INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS   AIR CONTROL TOWERS     LINCOLN MEMORIAL  FOREIGN HELP
"IN GOD WE TRUST"     EDUCATION & RESEARCH    SOUND DOLLAR      UNITED PEOPLE
3. MOCKINGBIRD’S REPertoire

. God’s creatures, near and far, turn our minds to praise:

MINT SPRIGS CROAKING FROGS SORGHUM SYRUP EVERLASTING HILLS
POKEBERRIES BLUE PHLOX ARCHING RAINBOWS BUZZING BEES
THE MILKY WAY DEXTEROUS HANDS TWINKLING STARS SWEET POTATO VINES
YOUNG COYOTES CHURCH BELLS HOOTING OWLS DASHING COMETS
BAYING HOUNDS GLORIOUS SUNRISES MEANDERING RIVERS STREAKING LIZARDS
MASSIVE ELMS RED RIVER GORGE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES HEMLOCK COVES
TRUMPET-CREEPER BUBBLING SPRINGS ROCK OVERHANGS KENTUCKY RIVER
VIOLET CARPETS FROLICKING COLT CUMBERLAND MOUNTAINS BLACK SNAKES
BLACK LOCUSTS SCRURRYING POSSUMS FLOWERING MEADOWS FOX DENs
FALLING LEAVES BOUNDING FAWNS SINGING MOCKINGBIRDS WINDING TRAILS

4. REALIZING GREEN TRAVEL

Travel and all its details, whether for short or long spans, require a sense of gratitude:

BIKING TOURS SUBWAY TRAINS UNFROSTED WINDSHIELD SAFE TIRES
CARPOOling STRAIGHTAWAY AHEAD AVOIDED ACCIDENTS UNCROWDED REST STOP
Smooth sailing END OF CONGESTION DESIGNATED ROUTES EVADED DETOURS
ROAD SIGNS COOPERATING WEATHER TRUSTY BRAKES "TRIP QUEST"
SPEED LIMITS CATNAP TIME LEGIBLE ROADMAPS TOURIST HAVENS
BRIGHT WINGS SOFT LANDINGS ALERT DRIVING ARRIVAL RELIEF
TOLL BRIDGES GASOLINE SAVER TRAFFIC-COP WARNINGS SCENIC VIEWS
LIT RUNWAYS HOSPITALITY SPOTS THREE-TRIPS-IN-ONE AFFORDABLE LODGINGS
MOVING TRAFFIC JOURNAL RECORDING EXITING FROM CITIES TIME-OUTS TO STRETCH
PACKED SNACKS DIMMED HEADLIGHTS FOND DEPARTURES AFFABLE COMPANIONS

5. NATURE’S RHYTHMS

Rhythms all around deserve our appreciation:

GURGLING CREEK FIDDLERS’ JIVE SQUEALING CHILDREN JUMPING FISH
HONKING CARS TINKLING COWBELLS HOMILY DELIVERED BEING IN-TUNE CROW SQUAWK
CHANTING CHOIRS BREEZE-BLOWn LEAVES WINDY MONDAYS
WARNING BREEZES SHOUTING GRADS JUMPING CHEERLEADERS MOURNING DOVE
RUSHING TIDE TRACTOR’S HUM MUFFLED DRUMS FULL MOON
BARKING DOGS BLASTING TRUMPETS DRIPPING DOWNSPOUT PAR-OFF SIREN
CRACKLING BLAZE RUFFLED GROUSE DARKENING CLOUDS SHOUTED COMMAND
GROWING CORN JACK-HAMMERING PEELING THUNDER CHIRPING LOCUSTS
FLASHING SKY SPATTERING RAIN FLUTTERING SNOW STADIUM CHANT
PELTING SLEET CRUNCHING ICE DRIBBLED BALL SQUARE DANCES
6. **SIGHTS WORTH REMEMBERING**

We thank God for the memories of places worthy of recall:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD WASHINGTON</th>
<th>SLAVE CEMETERY</th>
<th>SNOW SLED SLOPE</th>
<th>PETTING ZOO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATURAL BRIDGE</td>
<td>MAMA'S KITCHEN</td>
<td>BLUE LAKES, CO</td>
<td>SMOKY HOLLOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>THRESHING EVENTS</td>
<td>STAINED GLASS</td>
<td>PUERTO RICAN FLOWERS</td>
<td>BARN BURNING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR TOBACCO BARN</td>
<td>CUMBERLAND GAP</td>
<td>CONQUERED PEAK</td>
<td>VIEW OF ROCKIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETHLEHEM AT MORN</td>
<td>DAYBREAK OVER HILLS</td>
<td>CIVIL WAR SITES</td>
<td>FILLED SILO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALSATIAN CHAPELS</td>
<td>WAGON WITH CORN</td>
<td>STEAM LOCOMOTIVE</td>
<td>CAVE INTERIORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKCASTLE RIVER</td>
<td>RETIRED HORSE &quot;BABE&quot;</td>
<td>LIT ALTAR CANDLES</td>
<td>DAMSON PLUMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWNED AIRPLANE</td>
<td>BLUEGRASS MARATHON</td>
<td>CHARTRES CATHEDRAL</td>
<td>FIREWORKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADE SCHOOL</td>
<td>PARENTS' GRAVES</td>
<td>GRANDPA'S ROCKER</td>
<td>COUNTY FAIR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **TASTE BUD SAVORS**

Good Tastes add quality to life:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WILD PLUMS</th>
<th>TANGY SAUERKRAUT</th>
<th>LIME ICE</th>
<th>POKE SALAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOMEMADE DESSERTS</td>
<td>SIMMERING CRACKLINGS</td>
<td>DILL PICKLES</td>
<td>OATMEAL COOKIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUP VARIETIES</td>
<td>KOHLRABI SLICES</td>
<td>CHERRY COBBLES</td>
<td>FRENCH BREAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-VARIETY SALAD</td>
<td>VEGETABLE JUICE</td>
<td>HOT PEPPERS</td>
<td>FRIED CHICKEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSIMMON PIE</td>
<td>PEACH TURNOVERS</td>
<td>COLD-CUT PLATE</td>
<td>CARAMEL CANDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOKED KALE</td>
<td>SWEET POTATOES</td>
<td>SCRAMBLED EGGS</td>
<td>BLACK OLIVES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULLED CIDER</td>
<td>SAGE-FLAVORED SAUSAGE</td>
<td>CORNBREAD MUFFINS</td>
<td>TARTES FLAMBÉE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIED CATFISH</td>
<td>CHURNELED BUTTERMILK</td>
<td>WILD RASPBERRIES</td>
<td>PIMENTO DIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANISH ROLLS</td>
<td>SALTY PEANUTS</td>
<td>CHARLIE'S APPLES</td>
<td>HORSERADISH MIX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUBBLING BREW</td>
<td>HICKORY-NUT CAKE</td>
<td>BUTTERED POPCORN</td>
<td>TURNIP KRAUT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. **LISTENING & SPEAKING**

Sounds are better perceived when in a thankful mood:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOMILIES GIVEN</th>
<th>ANIMATED CONVERSATION</th>
<th>SHARED GOOD NEWS</th>
<th>MEANINGFUL ADS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE</td>
<td>PHONE CONNECTIONS</td>
<td>FIRESIDE CHATS</td>
<td>PERCEPTIVE TALK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOROUGH LOOK</td>
<td>ENTERTAINING LECTURE</td>
<td>TV INTERCHANGE</td>
<td>EVENING FESTIVAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASSICAL MUSIC</td>
<td>INTERVIEWER QUESTIONS</td>
<td>SPONTANEOUS LAUGH</td>
<td>PACKAGE DELIVERY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTFUL DODGING</td>
<td>PHONE CONVERSATION</td>
<td>&quot;GLOBISH&quot; TERMS</td>
<td>DRAMATIC WORDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEARING ANOTHER</td>
<td>DISTINCT SPEECH</td>
<td>PLAIN SPEECH</td>
<td>BELLY LAUGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMAIL SENDING</td>
<td>MEDITATION MOMENTS</td>
<td>GOOD CONVERSATION</td>
<td>GOLDEN SILENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRD SONGS</td>
<td>MELODIous VOICES</td>
<td>CRY OF ANGUISH</td>
<td>DIVINE WHISPERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIRITUAL EXERCISES</td>
<td>SOLEMN BLESSINGS</td>
<td>PRECISE DIRECTIONS</td>
<td>BUMPER STICKERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN TONGUES</td>
<td>BOLD INSTRUCTIONS</td>
<td>ENCOURAGING WORDS</td>
<td>ANNUAL RETREAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. FEELING COMFORTABLE

Thank heavens, comfort comes in surprising ways:

HALLOWED SHRINE VISITING AWHILE CLEAN UNDERWEAR HUNTER’S MOON
QUIET NOOKS WEATHER REPORT EXPLORING ATTICS FRONT PORCHES
POCKET MONEY COUNTING PACES CHARITY GIVEN GLORIOUS SUNSETS
MANUSCRIPT SENT NATIVITY CRIBS SOFT MOSS COVER EASTER EGGS
NATURAL SHELTER TODAY’S NEWS REAL PUZZLE "NAVY HYMN"
WEEKEND JOG CORRECT EYE CARE CHIRPING NESTLINGS MUNCHING CATTLE
FAMILIAR SMILES WARM FIREPLACE UNSOLICITED THANKS FORGIVING FAULTS
REFRESHING PAUSE LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY FULL-SPECTRUM SUNLIGHT END-OF-DAY
REFRESHMENT TIME WONDERFUL DINNER EXAM FINISHED SOUL’S PEACE
MIDDAY NAPS GOD’S FORGIVENESS WOOLY WORMS HOT SHOWER

10. THE NOSE KNOWS

Each sense provides us with an array of goodness worth thanking God for:

CINNAMON BUNS CIGAR SMOKE BAKING LOAVES VANILLA YOGURT
LILAC FRAGRANCES GOOD RESTAURANT SMELLY CHEESE WHITE LILIES
NEW-MOWN HAY BAKERY AROMA SUNSCREEN FOR NOSE SHUCKED CORN
CEDAR SCENT SKUNK’S PRESENCE BUTTERMILK PANCAKES JELLY-MAKING
CAMPFIRE SITE SMOKEHOUSE INTERIOR BOILING CABBAGE BAKED DUCK
INCENSE-FILLED ROOM "HUNTER’S STEW" CRANBERRY SAUCE STINK BUGS
ONION RINGS HERBAL TONIC FRESH HORSEFARISH SCENTED CLOTHING
FRESH-CUT BOUQUET PERFUMED SOAPS SIZZLING MEAT KUDZU BLOSSOMS
HICKORY SMOKE FOREST FIRE PINE BOARDS FLOWER GARDEN
COW PARLOR FRESH-BREWED COFFEE SOUP-OF-THE-DAY BAKED BEANS

11. GRACIOUS REMEMBRANCES

Those of us blessed with good memories have much to be thankful for, and we regret that we cannot remember recent events:

SERVING MASS SNOW OF 1950 FIRST COMMUNION SCHOOL-BUS DRIVER
HOME PLACE LIGHTNING RODS GRANDPARENTS’ VISITS PEARL HARBOR
MEANINGFUL WORK RELIGIOUS SISTERS PRISONERS-OF-WAR MAJESTIC ROCKIES
WAGON RIDES SUNDAY AFTERNOONS HUNTING CROWS GOLF COURSE
POKER GAMES DYING FRIENDS YELLOWSTONE TREK PIANO SONGS
LENTEN FASTS SOUTHERN CULTURE CUTTING TOBACCO UN CONFERENCE
"HIT PARADE" CHERRY HARVEST BOOK TREASURES PASCAL FIRE
‘37 FLOOD NEW-BORN CALVES STORED RECORDS RHUBARB SAUCE
FACTORY WHISTLE OVERTURNED AUTO REPAIRING TRUCK SODA BREAKS
CACKLING HENS CLASS GRADUATION COLLEGE SOCIALS HOUSE PAINTING
12. PHYSICAL EXERTIONS

Physical exercises are ideal times to thank God:

WOOD-SPLITTING  WILDERNESS HIKING  JOGGING YEARS  FISH CATCHING
FACE-COUNTING  WHEAT SHOCKING  SEASONAL GARDENING  BRIAR CUTTING
EXERCISE ROWING  FENCE-ROW SCYTHING  DAILY WALKING  CORNCOB FIGHTING
RAINY CAMPING  BLACK CANYON CLIMBING  MOUNTAIN CONQUERING  CROW SHOOTING
CAPE SNORKELING  APPALACHIAN WALKING  SEED CORN JOBING  ROPE SWINGING
STEER-CHASING  SWISS HITCHHIKING  CONFERENCE DIRECTING  WASP BATTLING
HARVESTING CROPS  CONCRETE BLOCK-LAYING  INDIANA CAVING  CAR SERVICING
FRUIT GATHERING  BURMA-BRIDGE CROSSING  STREAM WADING  DUNE CROSSING
CLOVER BALING  CISTERNS BUILDING  STRAWBERRY PICKING  COW FETCHING
HOG KILLING  CORDWOOD STACKING  MANUSCRIPT PREPARING  TEXAS BIKING

13. CHANCES TO CELEBRATE

Every day we have much to celebrate:

ALL ANNIVERSARIES  BUDGET COMPLETIONS  HOLIDAY PLANS  ELECTION DAY
MARRIAGE VOWS  BIRTHDAY PARTIES  HOLIDAY SALES  NEW YEAR’S EVE
MARINE’S RETURN  VOW DAYS  ORDINATION BANQUETS  SONG FESTS
PHOTO OPS  DEDICATING MONUMENT  FOURTH OF JULY  PARISH OUTINGS
SAINT PATRICK’S DAY  WEDDING FEASTS  HOMECOMING AFFAIRS  COOK-OUTS
CHOICE OCCASION  YULETIDE EXCHANGES  WRAPPING PRESENTS  VICTORY PARADES
NOTABLE TRIPS  THANKSGIVING MEALS  QUITTIN’ TIME  SCHOOL PLAY
POTLUCK MEALS  ADVENT WREATHES  TOWN MEETINGS  TOASTING OTHERS
UPCOMING EVENTS  LANDMARK DECISIONS  GRADUATION RECALLS  MEMORIAL WEEKEND
EXPEDITION SUCCESS  MERRY CHRISTMAS!  GET-TOGETHER AGAIN  RETELLING STORIES

14. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

We discover what works best over time; some technologies prove to be real gifts and promises for a better world:

BICYCLE TRAVEL  PUBLIC TRANSPORT  SOLAR FOOD-DRYERS  WIND TURBINES
OAK SHADING  COMPACT FLUORESCENTS  HYBRID AUTOS  COLD FRAMES
LAWN-TO-WILDSCAPE  SOLAR GREENHOUSES  CLOTHES LINES  INSULATED WINDOWS
LOW-MEAT DIETS  HOT WATER HEATERS  GEOTHERMAL PUMPS  AQUACULTURE PONDS
SOLAR COOKING  PRESSED EARTH BLOCK  COMPOST TOILETS  ARTIFICIAL WETLANDS
BIOFUEL SOURCES  PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAYS  ORGANIC GARDENS  TIDAL ENERGY
MICROHYDRO POWER  VIRTUALLY-WILD GINSENG  BUILDING DESIGNS  RETREAT CABINS
LOW-COST HOUSES  ENERGY CONSERVATION  RECYCLING SYSTEMS  EFFICIENT STOVES
WOOD HEATING  COMFORT-ZONE HEATING -- AND COOLING  HERITAGE SEEDS
HORSE-LOGGING  DISEASE-RESISTANT FRUIT  SMART ELECTRIC GRIDS
ADVANCED FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS
15. EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

Our experiences are gifts when well directed:

PARISH PRIEST      COMPULSIVE PLANNER      SALAD MAKER      EX-SMOKER
RURAL PERSON       SIMPLE LIVER          FARMER AT HEART   FAST TYPIST
NOT A RETIREE       FISCAL CONSERVATIVE  EARLY RISER       SPRING PROMOTER
CONTRASUMER        ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN  PAPAL DEFENDER    SOUP CREATOR
COW MILKER         PART-TIME GARDENER    KNEE-JERK DEBATER  ORGANIC CHEMIST
HISTORY READER     RADICAL -- I THINK    POETIC COMMONER   WORLD PATRIOT
TREE HUGGER        CHAMPION UNDERDOG     PASTORAL MINISTER  U.S. CITIZEN
PRISON CHAPLAIN    STORY-TELLER          EARTH HEALER      CONIRMED HIKER
EMERGING PASTOR    LITURGY PRESIDER     LONG-TERM WRITER  HEAVENS GAZER
GLAUCOMA BEARER    POLITICAL TINKERER    INHERENT COUNTER  ETHNIC COMPILER

16. SAINTLY PEOPLE

People who enter our lives become our models, and remind us that we always need to grow in God’s grace:

GRATEFUL SICK       BEDPAN EMPTIERS       THE UNAPPRECIATED  EAGER MIGRANTS
JOLLY SENIORS       JOKING VICTIM        DEVOTED TEACHERS   HUMBLE SOULS
HUMOROUS DYING      SELFLESS DONORS      CHARISMATIC LEADERS HUNGRY KIDS
INSPIRING ORATORS   ACCIDENT RESPONDERS  FAITHFUL SPOUSES    SHAGGY BeggARS
HOSPICE WORKERS     FRUGAL HOMESTEADERS  NOBLE GENTLEMEN    REMOTE HERMITS
SERIOUS GODPARENTS  CREATIVE PEACEMAKERS AA MEMBERS        DIRT FARMERS
GENTLE MOTHERS      DILIGENT HOMEMAKERS  CAREFUL ARTISTS   WISDOM LOVERS
CRAFT MARKETERS     MENTALLY CHALLENGED STRIVING YOUTH   NURSES & DOCTORS
GRACEFUL ELDERS     KINDLY APPROVERS     "GOD LOVES YOU"TELLERS HAPPY FOLKS
GLAD ENTERTAINERS   DEMANDING FATHERS    SPECIAL-NEEDES CARERS SMILING CLOWNS

17. SERVICE PERSONNEL

Still more people change our way of seeing the world by performing their routine services well:

FIRE FIGHTERS       STATE POLICE      CHEERFUL BARTENDERS  MARKETING FARMERS
LOCAL JUDGES        GARBAGE COLLECTORS FUNERAL UNDERTAKERS  SHORT-ORDER COOKS
CIVIC LEADERS       911-RESPONDERS    ALTAR SERVERS       MOST PLUMBERS
BRAVE ROOFERS       SCRAP DEALERS     ADMISSION OFFICERS  WALMART GREETERS
GRASS CUTTERS       AUTO REPAIRERS    MERCHANT SAILORS    OFFICE SECRETARIES
LAUNDRY PEOPLE      CIVIL DEFENDERS   FLIGHT ATTENDANTS   PAPER PUSHERS
FACTORY WORKERS     HERB GROWERS      SALES PEOPLE        STREET SWEEPERS
GRAVE DIGGERS       SIDEWALK MUSICIANS CIRCUIT JUDGES       DEFENSE ATTORNEYS
BANK CLERKS         LETTER CARRIERS   MAIL SORTERS        PHONE OPERATORS
BORDER GUARDS       HORSE TRAINERS    TAILGATE SELLERS    TRAIN CONDUCTORS
18. MODERN DEVICES

We sometimes take things for granted, and forget that our forbearers did not have all of the conveniences to make their lives as easy as ours:

SAFE MEDICINES  MODERN PRINTERS  X-RAY SEARCHES  WORLDWIDE WEB
FIBERGLASS BOATS  TELEVISION SETS  HANDY TOOLS  MOVIES
VACUUM CLEANERS  COMPUTER SCREENS  MEDICAL HELICOPTERS  OTC DRUGS
FLOOR COVERINGS  COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES  CELL PHONES  CLOCK ALARMS
PLASTIC UTENSILS  NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO  BEVERAGE PERCOLATORS  NYLON ROPE
BATHROOM SINKS  BAR-CODE READERS  ROOF VENTILATION  AIR PUMPS
WASHING MACHINES  DEPENDABLE ELECTRICITY  DIGITAL APPARATUS  RECLINERS
ELECTRIC MOTORS  LONG-LIVED BATTERIES  DURABLE FLASHLIGHTS  EASY BANKING
GEODESIC DOMES  REFRIGERATION UNITS  HURRICANE WARNINGS  DEBIT CARDS
FILLING STATIONS  AUTOMATIC STARTERS  AIRPORT SCANNERS  MERCURY ARCS

19. SLIPPERY WINTERTIME

No season is without its merit, even winter, which I find harder to endure with each passing year -- but it too has elements for which to be thankful:

SEASON'S GREETINGS  JANUARY SNOWDRIFTS  LENTEN PERIOD  MARCH MADNESS
FEBRUARY LIGHTNING  SUNSHINE ON SNOW  WINTER CARDINALS  PACKED SNOWBALLS
TAPPING SUGAR MAPLES  DEFINED TREE SHAPE  COLD-FREE  NEEDED TRACTION
AWAITING THE EQUINOX  HICKORY-SMOKE HAM  FROST ON WINDOW  RINGING ANVIL
ARTFUL ICE CARVINGS  SUPER SNOWDRIFTS  CRACKING OF PECANS  STACKED GIFTS
HOTBED STARTS  DECEMBER ORNAMENTS  RABBIT TRACKS  COLORED LIGHTS
VERY EARLY PEAS  DRIPPING ICICLE  ROCK FORMATIONS  DOG'S WAG
SERVICEBERRY BUDS  WINDOW FINGER ART  NEW RESOLUTIONS  ROBIN'S RETURN
PIERCING SCREECH OWL  SNOWFLAKE CRYSTALS  VALENTINE CARDS  MELTING SNOW
SHARP WINDS  GARLIC SPEARS  WITCH HAZEL  BLOOMS  WOOD SMOKE

20  BURSTING SPRINGTIME

Good things happen in this season when life quickens:

NESTING BIRDS  ARRIVING FOLIAGE  WARMING SOIL  FLAMING AZALEAS
ROVING CATS  COMPOSTING HUMUS  REMEMBERING TIME  TURNING COLD/HOT
SCENTING TULIPS  BLOSSOMING ROSES  ABOUNDING WILDLIFE  SPARKLING DEW
SHOWERING APRIL  SURFACING EARTHWORMS  SINGING BLUEBIRDS  AWAKENING POPLARS
PEEPING CHICKS  SEEDING MAPLES  THUNDERING JUNE  REDDENING RADISHES
EXPLODING PEONIES  GARDENING SEASON  FRESH-SMELLING AIR  RETURNING WRENS
BLOOMING DAISIES  REUNITING CLASSMATES  PLAYING KITTENS  SPROUTING ONIONS
DASHING CHIPMUNKS  RADIATING DOGWOODS  NODDING DAFFODILS  FLOWERING MAY
APPEARING REDBUDS  FOOLING AROUND  YIELDING VEGGIES  RUNNING CHILDREN
LEAPING DEER  SPREADING DANDELIONS  SHINING MOON  GREENING WILLOWS
21. **MATURING SUMMERTIME**

Summers have so many good things that we find it difficult to name a few good samples to be thankful for:

- EXPLODING ZUCCHINI
- VINE-HIDDEN MELONS
- HORNET’S SIGHTING
- BEAN BUNCHES
- LCOMOTIVE WHISTLES
- SUMMER SQUASH
- BAREFOOT-FREE
- WORMY PEACHES
- CIRCLING VULTURES
- PURPLE IRONWEED
- PUNGENT MARIGOLDS
- COPIOUS SWEAT
- BLUEBERRY CLUSTERS
- CUCUMBERS GROW
- POST-STORM CALM
- LAZY DOG DAYS
- VACATIONING KINFOLKS
- SOUNDING CRICKETS
- LAYING CONCRETE BLOCK
- TUMBLE BUG
- SPLASHING TROUT
- AUGUST NECTARINES
- FISHING & SEINING
- POND SCUM
- BAMBOO THICKETS
- FERMENTING SILAGE
- ICE-WATER BREAKS
- BUMBLE BEES
- RED-WING BLACKBIRDS
- NIGHTLY REPRIEVE
- BUTTERFLY GARDENS
- LONG DROUGHT
- SCURRYING OPOSSUM
- CIRCLING DRAGONFLIES
- WAVING BLUEGRASS
- DUSTY PATHS
- ENDLESS JULY DAYS
- MOLE BEAN STALKS
- TOBACCO’S PINK TOPS
- GREEN GRASS

22. **TRICKY AUTUMN**

The fall season is loved but we do so with an ambivalence; still we need to be filled with gratitude as the year draws to a close:

- BITING YELLOW-JACKETS
- GOLDENROD PATCHES
- STACKED CORDWOOD
- FLOCKING BIRDS
- STOPPED SCHOOL BUS
- DRIFTING LEAVES
- SCARFS & GLOVES
- FALLEN PEAES
- JACK-O-LANTERNS
- CORN SHOCK SENTINELS
- CEMETARY ROWS
- LATE APPLES
- ROTUND PUMPKINS
- ASTER-GARNISHED HILLS
- GOBBLING SOUNDS
- WINTER WHEAT
- SEPTEMBER MISTS
- TOBACCO STRIPPING
- GURGLING BROOKS
- HOVERING HAWKS
- ELDERBERRY PIE
- NOVEMBER THANKSGIVING
- SUDDEN FLOODS
- COMING STORMS
- POOR SOULS REMEMBERED
- UNPACKED SWEATERS
- OCTOBER'S GLORY
- CIDER-MAKING
- CREATION’S GRANDEUR
- PRE-FROST HARVESTING
- PEAR TOMATOES
- WALNUT STAINS
- FIRST FREEZES
- PURPLE TURNIPS
- WINDOW CAULKING
- WARM FIRES
- HARVEST MOON
- IT'S MOSQUITO-FREE
- LONGER NIGHTS
- TRAIL-MAKING

23. **REDEEMING OPPORTUNITIES**

Some specific actions are not remembered, but their collective activity is worth our gratitude:

- ACHIEVING HOMEWORK
- HEALING OUR EARTH
- RENEWING TIES
- OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS
- REDIRECTING THE WAYWARD
- ENCOURAGING THE LOWLY
- PROMOTING NUTRITION
- BURYING THE DEAD
- INITIATING PROJECTS
- FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT
- CALMING THE AGITATED
- IMPROVING HEALTH
- FEEDING THE HUNGRY
- HELPING THE HOMELESS
- WRITING LETTERS
- ANOINTING THE SICK
- OBEYING SUPERIOR WISHES
- MONITORING FINANCES
- VISITING SHUT-INS
- PURIFYING INTENTIONS
- EMPHASIZING SMALL DEEDS
- ACCEPTING ONE’S AGE
- RECOUNTING ACTIVITIES
- COOKING MEALS
- OFFERING OUR ACTIONS
- AIRING THE INDOORS
- MAKING DO
- CONSERVING RESOURCES
- STOPPING DRUG-USE
- STARTING SAVINGS ACCOUNT
- LOBBYING CONGRESS
- RESPECTING LOCAL TALENT
- EATING HEALTHY STUFF
- ENHANCING COMMUNITY
- RESTING WHEN TIRED
- TRAVELING LIGHTLY
- DRESSING MODESTLY
- OMITTING FASHION CHANGES
- FORGETTING GRIEVANCES
- IMPROVING HEALTH FACILITIES
24. PERSONAL GRATITUDE

We have many personal gifts that makes us say "Thank You" to the Lord:

VOCATIONAL CALL    DAILY ENTHUSIASM    PERFECT DESIRE    VITAL FAITH
HOLY SCRIPTURES     IMMENSE UNIVERSE    ENDURING FRIENDS    LONG LIFE
POTABLE WATER       ATTACK ON PRIVILEGE    UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS    COUNTY LOYALTY
RIGHTOUS ANGER      TRUSTING PARENTS    DOING MY BEST    SENSE OF COLOR
WALKING ARENAS      INVOLVED SUPPORTERS    LEARNING BY MISTAKES    HUNGER CONCERNS
OUR CROSSES         DRIVING CLEARANCE    PATIENT ENDURANCE    GREEN LANDSCAPE
GRATEFUL PAST       THE POOR WILL WIN    SOUND FOOD PROGRAM    PRO-LIFE STANCE
BEAUTIFUL VIEWS     CONSERVATIVE ETHIC    SUFFERING WITH OTHERS    NEEDED RESPONSE
CRY OF POOR         PAST 10-K RACES      FAIRNESS PLEDGE    POVERTY EMBRACE
VIVID MEMORIES      CONFRONTATION HABITS    CATHOLIC OUTLOOK    FARMER'S WAYS

25. LITTLE THINGS

If we constantly thank God for little things, we will perceive ever bigger ones:

SUN'S RAYS          PROMINENT EXITS      CRAWLING ANTS      COMPLIMENTS
HUSH PUPPIES        KNOWING GUIDES      COMPLETE WORKOUTS    SINCERE "HELLO"
COOL LEMONADE       CLEAR MARKERS       RESTFUL NIGHTS      WELCOME MATS
CAROLINA WRENS       LOWER GAS PRICES    AGREEING AUDIENCES    FREE SATURDAYS
CHILD'S PRESENT      AVAILABLE COMB      OPPORTUNE TREATS    SUCCINCT LETTERS
ON-TIME BUS         COMIC CHARACTERS    LEVEL WALKWAYS      COUNTRY STORES
LUCKY GOOGLE        JOYFUL YOUNGSTERS   EASTER WATER        GOAT HERD BELLS
"THEY'RE OKAY"       SMILING BABIES      WAGGING COLLIES     SHADY LANES
KEEPSAKE GIFTS      GRAPE ARBORS       COLD SOFT DRINKS     FINDERS, KEEPERS
LUNCH SPECIALS      SENSE OF DIRECTION  DAYDREAMS            AVAILABLE SEATS

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Now it's your turn. How many items can you list that are God's gifts to you? Strangely, you soon find that some of the most obvious are forgotten at first attempt. You become embarrassed and want to tear the listing up and start over. Don't. This current one can become a record for you to understand how your own sense of thanksgiving can grow in time. You will soon be a "minister of gratitude." You will now help others see the good things they have in a life ever growing in simplicity and quality. Each of us can become spiritually "profit-motivated," with the emergence in our lives of simple gifts that abound all around. If we constantly gather gifts, we are praying always -- and that's the way the Lord wants us to be.

I bet you can beat my listing if you try.