



NOVEMBER 2021

LIFEHOUSE
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

monthly devotional

to encourage you in your walk with Jesus

Written by Patsy Hendricks

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Psalm 107:1 Give Thanks to the Lord for he is good and his love endures forever.

When asked to write a women's devotional for a month I immediately picked November since Thanksgiving and giving Thanks are one of the most important gifts we have as Christians. Many of you know that I am a nurse and worked for 40 years at Parkview before retiring, but many may not know that I was a Psychiatric nurse. I know I have heard it all, "It takes a special person to do that, I couldn't do that, etc," but really there is a little bit of helping others with their mental health in all of us. I just worked with the more severe ones. I saw patients and families during some of the worst days of their lives, when they got a diagnosis that meant their life would change forever, dealing with families who had to deal with a suicide of their loved ones, or families dealing with addiction. How can we remain thankful to God when going through some of the toughest times in our lives? My response is how can we not keep God in our lives when dealing with some of the toughest times in our lives. Many of the families and patients who had the toughest times with acceptance were those that didn't know Christ and didn't know that he would help them through the rough days ahead.

I love the song by Don Moen: "Give Thanks with a Grateful heart, Give Thanks to the Holy one, Give Thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son. And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us."

I have so many examples I could share about God's love as it shone on my patients but I have one final story. It was Thanksgiving Day quite a few years back and we were celebrating Thanksgiving with our family. The phone rang, back then it was the landline on the wall and we answered everything. The caller identified himself and said he had been looking for me to tell me something. You see he was one of my patients who had suffered a terrible mental illness crisis and had a long hospitalization. He called to tell me he was doing really well, but more importantly to thank me for taking care of him when he was at his worst. He wanted to give Thanks, on Thanksgiving, with a grateful heart. That was the best Thanksgiving Day ever!