



Thankfulness



At this time of year, my memories go to family gatherings at my grandmother's where all of our extended family, including aunts, uncles, and cousins, gathered to enjoy a bountiful and very tasty meal. It was always a fun time because my cousins and I would always head for the woods and find hickory nuts and other creatures, wade in the streams (even if freezing cold), and possibly get into mischief. It was just a time of pure joy!

Our grandmother would prepare hot chocolate for our return, and our mothers would make gingerbread cookies to decorate – not that we needed more food, but it was a special occasion. And the gingerbread boys and girls we decorated would go to families in need along with some special preparations my mother would make.

As I reflect, I realize the thankfulness I felt was: thankfulness for family, thankfulness for food, thankfulness for the harvest (my father would often come eat, then go back to the field), thankfulness that we could contribute to others, and thankfulness for a God that cared about each of us.

Psalm 96:11-12 captures this thankfulness for me in a special way:

*“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.
Then all of the trees of the forest will sing for joy...”*

Let each of us be thankful for our blessings and contribute to those who have great need. Let us give thanks to a righteous Lord and God.

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