

Thanking God - by Lorelei Pepe

Has anyone noticed lately how rude people are? I think since Covid instead of being kinder and gentler, people have become more self-centered and selfish. It seems the majority are only out for themselves. I was raised in a different generation. "Please" and "thank you" were the norm for any small thing. I find that the younger generation takes most things for granted. When receiving a gift I used to send a "thank you" note or at least call the person in a timely manner. But today that doesn't fly. I don't even get a "thank you" text! So, I continue to try and make an effort to thank someone, even for the little things .

I had a 93 year old neighbor, Eileen who recently moved away. She was very sweet but forgetful. Still driving, she would forget to move her car on Tuesday, as we had alternate parking. I would look out my window at 9 am and see her car had not moved. Many times I called her and she scurried out the door and moved the car. She was so very thankful. She would call me back every time as she said the fine would be \$100.00, a huge amount she could not afford.

One morning, I heard a knock at my door and when I got down my 14 flights of stairs and opened the door, no one was there. However, when I looked down a pretty ,cardboard box was there, loaded with delicious pastries and cookies and a thank you card from Eileen. It warmed my heart. I called and told her it was not necessary but very much appreciated.

I thank God that he has given me the gift of helping and sharing and serving people. It is my second nature and most of the time don't even realize I am doing it. I know I have a different attitude than most people but I know the spirit of it comes from the Lord and I am blessed and it makes me happy.

I am reminded of Paul, the apostle in the Bible. In the Book of Phillipians 1:3-6 Paul thanks God everyday and everytime he thinks of him. He prays and is joyful, no matter what his circumstances are. He is confident and secure in his relationship with the Lord and carries out his work with a cheerful heart. Paul expected nothing in return. I would like to add he wrote this when he was in prison during this time in his life. I think it is quite remarkable.

So, everyday I am learning to "thank God" even for the little things. When I wake up in the morning and hear the birds singing and the sun shining brightly I am grateful. I have another day and no one is promised that. Who else could have made this amazing earth that we take for granted? Make the Lord your constant companion during the days and weeks of your life. He wants to be in it and I believe he gives us signs. All you have to do is look for them! And don't forget to give thanks..... always!