



In All Things Give Thanks **by Rev. Carrie.**

Ernest Holms wrote “In everything give thanks. An attitude of gratitude is most salutary, and bespeaks the realization that we are now in heaven. How we love to do for those who cooperate with, and are grateful for, our small endeavors! Gratitude is one of the chief graces of human existence and is crowned in heaven with a consciousness of unity.”

The above statement is a Spiritual Truth and yet many don't understand the power of being grateful for even the little things.

When I was seven it was a big deal to try and get my father to give me money to buy food for me and my brother. I usually had to stand outside the local bar waiting for him to finally come out and give me a dollar.

I don't remember the exact moment, but I remember the thought that I didn't need him or anyone to take care of me and my brother, I could find a way to earn my own money. What appears to be a sad and pitiful story ended up being a life transforming event for me.

That moment was a blessing and a curse for me. For one I became self reliant and provided for me and my brother for many years after that and two I became so self reliant that I forgot how to receive the graces of Spirit by asking for help. I'm sure many of you can relate with the asking part.

A big part of ministry is asking. We ask for volunteers to visit members who are having health challenges, we ask for people to come forward to serve on our Core Council, we ask for tithes and offerings to support the organization. In Truth these are all opportunities to live a Spiritual Life to give of our Time, Our Talent and Our Treasure. But on the human level it deals in the realm of the Ego.

When I affirmed that I would no longer ask for anything, I put into motion a Spiritual Law that always says a resounding yes and that thought took root in me so deeply that I forgot I even said it. So here I am in a position that requires me to ask and I am afraid to even open my mouth. Fortunately I loved the Center as much as I loved my brother so I stretched beyond my comfort zone and learned to ask.

Even in the asking there is mindfulness. I have to remember to give thanks and not take the giving lightly, I don't ask unless there is a reason, I deeply consider the repercussions of asking and I take the person I am asking into consideration. Its interesting that on the other side of asking is the ability to say no. But that's another story.

So one would think it a little thing to ask, but for many of us it is huge. That's one of the reasons when someone finally calls and asks for support or prayer I give thanks because I know how challenging the process can be. And to remember as Ernest Holmes said:

“How we love to do for those who cooperate with, and are grateful for, our small endeavors!
Gratitude is one of the chief graces of human existence and is crowned in heaven with a
consciousness of unity” Remember to Give Thanks.