Thank Jesus When You Are In A Dark Place

Psalm 107:8–14, November 8, 2026
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Thank you Jesus. Do you give thanks when you wake up? Do you give thanks before you lay down? Life's troubles are overcome by giving thanks to Jesus. Before we do anything else in life, give thanks to Jesus.

I would say that we have all at some time been in a dark place. The gloomy clouds of frustration, disappointment, betrayal or some other event in our lives has lead us to discouragement and depression. I've had those times in my life. I've shared many of them with you over the course of my ministry. We don't need to recount them again to day.

Our dark places can be so gloomy that we feel as though we should give up. The fight is gone in us and we want to quit. Dark personal moments can feel like we are in a prison. The circling negative thoughts are like clouds that block out the sun. We see nothing but the problem and no way of escape.

Jesus is our Savior, Redeemer, and Deliverer. He is our strength, our hope, our peace. He is always with us giving us all that is needed for each day.

Psalm 107:8–9 (NLT) Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Our God is worthy of praise and <u>He also does great things</u>. Some people are praised for their good deeds. The doctors, nurses, and many other people in the medical field are doing good things. The men and women who are EMTs, Fire Fighters, and Law Enforcement are doing good things every time the alarm sounds. They meet us in our crises. They risk their own safety to protect us. They see of the worst things people do to one another.

The men and women who are in every branch of our military answer the call to defend freedom and liberty. They leave friends and family to serve our nation. They follow orders, they go to dangerous places. They are willing to defend our way of life at the risk of their own lives. The men, women and children who provide food for the hungry are doing good things. There are those who counsel the mentally ill, they are doing good things. The people who teach in our schools, work in our schools are doing good things. The people who look out for their neighbors, checking in on them, fixing things, working around their homes are doing good things. The person who watches children while their parents work are doing a good thing. The parents who are raising children to be honest, hardworking, selfless are doing good things. The generous person who gives to the needs of others without letting anyone know what is happening is doing a good thing.

I've covered many possible ways for people to do good things. The list could go on and on. These individuals are worthy of thanks, gratitude, and praise. There are many other people who are doing good things that have never received a word of thanks.

Our God is worthy of praise and He does good things. Shall I make a list? Loving, merciful, full of grace, kind, patient, faithful are just the beginning. God is majestic, magnificent, and marvelous. God is all knowing, always present, and all powerful. God is great, good, giving. God is worthy of praise, adoration, and thanks.

Some people receive praise, but how many are worthy? We just scratched the surface of possible people who are worthy of praise because of their good deeds. Take away their good deeds would they receive praise? Would we be thankful for them? Would we lift them up? They would be ordinary people like everyone else. Their good deeds would be non-existent. They would be unworthy of praise or thanks. That is a depressing thought, that in order to receive thanks a person needs to do something good. It is the way of the world.

My point is this, that not one of us is worthy of praise. No one is worthy as they are. Everyone has to do something to be worthy of receiving thanks. That's a gloomy picture. That can lead to a dark place.

The God who is worthy of all praise, adoration, glory and honor loves people who have done nothing good with the same love He has for those who do good things. The God who is loved, cherished, and precious loves people have who done bad things with the same love He has for everyone.

Psalm 107:10-11 (NLT) Some sat in darkness and deepest gloom, imprisoned in iron chains of misery. They rebelled against the words of God, scorning the counsel of the Most High.

Rebelled and Scorning are strong words, but <u>what sin makes your life miserable?</u> When the events of life come crashing down we naturally feel the darkness. That was what happened to God's people. They rebelled against the God who loved them. They scorned the God who was guiding them. The world feel apart, they were prisoners in far away lands. Some were in prisons, while others simply could not leave. Then there were the ones who were left in the destruction of Jerusalem to survive.

Rebels are people who are against the ruler, the established order. The people of God were against God. They didn't want Him as their ruler, the one who sets the rules and enforces them. They didn't want to follow the order that God had established for them. They rebelled by choosing to worship idols. They chose their own pleasure over bringing glory to God. They made the decision to think of themselves as their own masters.

Scorn is open dislike, disrespect, mockery with indignation. The people of God spoke out against God. They shared their dislike of God privately and publicly. They disrespected God's house of prayer, the Temple. They made a mockery of the laws God had given them. They were angry about what God had made them do. That's a dark place, right? That is a gloomy situation, right?

We would never think that we might be like them. We would condemn them for their attitude, their behavior, and their sin. Any sin, from murder to stealing to lying and envy is rebelling against God. What do you think? Are your lies as sinful as the murderer? What you took from the job can't be as bad as the accountant who stole the pension. What your heart wants, desires, craves can't be the same as the person who loves their possessions and wealth, right?

It's interesting that when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, there was no difference between murder and lying. There was no difference between dishonoring parents and worshiping idols. It is true that the God who is worthy, the God who loves each person unconditionally, sees one sin as bad as any other sin. It might be a mistake, it is a mistake for any person to start believing that they are worthy of God's love. It is a mistake for anyone to have the attitude that their desire for recognition isn't as bad as the swindler, the cheater, the liar.

Since I'm not perfect there are many sins that make me unworthy of God's love. Jesus has forgiven all my sins, made me presentable to God, made me worthy of God's love. If I hold onto jealousy, anger, envy; I'm just as unworthy as if I had killed someone. That's a dark place, or at least it could be dark. That's a gloomy situation, or at least it could be gloomy.

If not for Jesus we are all guilty of rebellion and scorn against God. If not for crying out to Jesus we would all be miserable.

Psalm 107:12-13 (NLT) That is why he broke them with hard labor; they fell, and no one was there to help them. "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

When you are in misery, <u>how do you cry out to the Lord</u>? In our tragedies we can either cry out as whining believers or as grateful disciples. In all those things that make us miserable we can whine or we can be grateful. In every dark place we can complain or we can be thankful. Whenever our lives are filled with gloom we can moan or we can be appreciative.

Your sins, my sins eventually bring about pain and suffering. There are consequences to our thoughts, our words, and our actions. We find ourselves in dark places because of the power of sin. Our situations become gloomy because of the power of sin. The power of sin is always working against us. The power of sin wants to be at work within us. The power of sin is seeking to make us miserable, to steal away our peace, and to separate us from God.

Since we live in this world where the power of sin is active and subversive we can either whine or we can be grateful. The power of sin must submit to the power of Jesus Christ, God's Son. Jesus defeated sin when He died and rose again. As they nailed Jesus to the cross He became the sin of everyone from the past, the present and the future. He ransomed us from the power of sin when He rose from the dead. When you choose Jesus you are a believer. You can choose to be a disciple by continuing to learn from Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, be empowered by Jesus.

Back to the whining or giving thanks. Everyone has been or will be in a dark place. All of us have been filled with the gloom of hopelessness. As a believer will you whine to God or will you praise God? Those who are whining are still looking at darkness and gloom. Those who are giving thanks and praising God see Him in the midst of the darkness and the gloom.

Can you see how the Lord, God Almighty uses our tragedies to bring us to Him? Once again we have to be in a dark place, in a gloomy place to see that we are helpless. We don't see our ineptitude until it gets dark and gloomy. As long as any of us can handle our situation we don't think we need God.

Every time a hardship comes, a tragedy happens the darkness starts to creep in, we can whine or we can give thanks. Whining is focusing on the darkness, even though you know Jesus. Praise is focusing on Jesus, His presence with you and His power within you. When you start out whining that doesn't mean you have to keep whining. You can leave the misery caused by your circumstances by crying out to Jesus with words of praise.

You get out of bed with words of thanks to Jesus. You lay down at night with words of thanks to Jesus. There is a lot that happens between waking up and laying down. In the midst of all that stuff – good and bad – cry out to Jesus with words of thanks. Thank Jesus for what He has done in the past. Praise Jesus for who He is. Give glory to Jesus for what He will do next.

Psalm 107:14 (NLT) He led them from the darkness and deepest gloom; he snapped their chains.

When you decide to call upon Jesus, <u>He will set you free</u>. The darkness and gloom of this life keeps us bound to our troubles. Have you every felt like you were tied up? Have you felt like trouble was tied to a long chain that you were dragging behind you? When we look at our troubles, whine about them to others and to God we are not free. We are allowing the power of sin to continue to work in our lives.

We're saved from our sins, but we are refusing to let go of the darkness and gloomy attitude. That means we aren't living in the joy of our salvation. To be saved from your sins, it's power and it's punishment is joyful. If we're whining about our troubles we're not living in the peace of our salvation. To be forgiven, redeemed, and delivered from sin is to be at peace with God. We are no longer fighting against God, but rather we are working with God. We are allowing God's Holy Spirit to transform our lives. We know that our God will always provide, protect, and love us.

If you haven't been able to praise God in the midst of your troubles it means you haven't fully embraced the hope Jesus provides. Hope is that power at work within your mind, your heart, your spirit and your soul. Hope sees what cannot be seen. Hope trusts when there is no rational for trusting. Hope fully embraces the truth that you will one day be in Heaven forever and ever.

What I'm getting at is praising God in the midst of the trouble before it becomes dark and gloomy. I'm trying to help you to give thanks to God for being God even when it is dark and gloomy. The difference is having whiny prayers and conversations with God and having thankful conversations and prayers with God regardless of your situation.

When you can praise God when it is dark and gloomy, then you are set free. You are free of the power of sin.

Jesus alone can set you free from the power of sin. The Son of God knows the darkness. He saw it trapping and putting people in chains. He made the choice to break those chains by leaving the majesty and the glory of heaven. He came to our world to stand face to face with sin and defeat it.

Since Jesus has defeated sin all those who believe in Jesus are saved. The power of sin, the darkness of this world and the gloomy situations of this life no longer need to be in control of your life.

From your heart, your spirit, your soul tell Jesus that you want to be free of your sin. From the deepest, most genuine place within, tell Jesus that you need Him more than you need your life. Being honest to your core admit that you are not worthy of praise, that you are not worthy of His love, that you are not worthy of His salvation. With the most sincere promise that you can make tell Jesus you love Him.

When you confess and repent of your sin you will receive God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will bring joy to your soul. You will have peace that can only be experienced. You will find peace that changes your attitudes. You will be empowered with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.
I am extending to you the invitation of Jesus to come to Him and be forgiven, saved, redeemed and delivered. Will you accept His invitation?