

pray . fast . give . 

Living Lent | Day 12

Exceeding Expectations... Gaining Restoration

“I have received full payment, and more; I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4: 18-19 RSV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

As we journey through the 40 days of Lent, it may be easy for us to grow weary or to become distracted. The pressures of financial challenges, political tension, isolation, and illnesses of friends and family all weigh heavily on us. Prayer and reflection give way to worry and fretting. Faith gives way to pity parties. The Apostle Paul knew all too well the stress related to church quarrels, lack of supplies, and the reality of persecution. But he also knew the Hebrew Scriptures focus on praise and thanksgiving. He held fast to the belief that God was with him whatever his circumstances and would supply his needs.

The church at Philippi was one of Paul’s earliest and most generous supporters, and in this short letter he expressed his joy and gratitude for their faithfulness and generosity. He was encouraged by them and in turn assured them of God’s constant goodness and care.

Gratitude is one of the disciplines practiced during the season of Lent. Keeping a “Gratitude Journal” is one way to guide us as we remember the positive

people and experiences that impact our lives on a daily basis. However, gratitude is more than a feeling or words on paper. Out of gratitude comes a call to action: to love the unloved, to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, and to ensure justice for those who are marginalized. The venues and methods through which we put our gratitude into action are varied. Whether rebuilding homes after a hurricane, penning a letter of encouragement, or writing a check, we are called to be God's presence in the midst of struggles.

The youth served through Morningstar have experienced some of life's greatest challenges. Our support of Morningstar is a tangible expression of gratitude. Through our gifts we are meeting the emotional and physical needs of Morningstar's Children. May both the giver and receiver of gifts learn from the Apostle Paul to trust in the goodness and care of God.

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

[Donate Now](#)

Contributor

Barbara Atchley, Atlanta, Georgia, is a retired educator and a member of the Northside Drive Baptist Church, where she serves on the Mission Ministry Team, the Finance Committee, and is an ordained Deacon. Barbara is an advocate for the Children of Morningstar and serves on the Board of Directors. Her sacrifice in prayer, time, and energy for the Children is a testament to reaching beyond the physical Community in which she lives to serve others through Christ.

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our **children** through **real relationships**

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