



Catching Up With A Good Friend

Twila Jones

At this season of the year, most of us find ourselves getting together with family and friends, some of whom we haven't seen or talked with in a while. It is always good to gather with these loved ones or good friends.

I feel this way about certain books. I enjoy visiting several of my favorites from time to time. A few are light reading, some are biographies or historical, but most of them are devotional or Bible Study books. Even though I know what the book is about, I still appreciate rereading it. Getting together with good friends often involves much of the same, and for me, rereading these books is quite similar to catching up with a good friend.

In November, I usually turn to a cherished favorite, CHOOSING GRATITUDE by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. As I read, I am always challenged about Gratitude, and to be honest I am often convicted and reproved about how ungrateful I am, or at the very least negligent in acknowledging Gratitude to God and to others. That is what a Good Friend will do for you – challenge, encourage, and often reprove!

As you read through the King James Bible, you will encounter certain words or phrases quite often.

“Give Thanks” in one form or another is used 98 times in 48 verses.

“Thankful, Thanks” is used 28 times in 14 verses.

“Thanksgiving” is found 30 times in 29 verses. In fact, the “sacrifice of Thanksgiving” is one of the offerings commanded in Leviticus.

“Praise the LORD,” which is Gratitude, is found 313 times in 268 verses.

“Bless the LORD” is found 989 times in 192 verses.

Seems like Gratitude, and expressing Gratitude to our God is exceedingly important.

PSALM 134:1 – Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD.

CHARLES SPURGEON – Think well of Jehovah, and speak well of Him. Adore Him with Reverence. Draw near to Him with Love. Delight in Him with Exultation. Servants should speak well of their masters. All Believers should bless our Master while we serve Him.

NANCY DEMOSS WOLGEMUTH – Cultivating a Thankful Heart is a Safeguard against becoming bitter, prickly, and sour. A Grateful child of God can't help but be a joyful, peaceful, radiant person.

Crystal covered the subject of Joy extremely well in the September issue – if you haven't read it, read it. If you have read it, read it again!! 😊 Joy is a Simple Choice. Living the Simple Life is made much easier when one chooses Joy.

NANCY DEMOSS WOLGEMUTH – Over time, choosing Gratitude means choosing Joy. But that choice doesn't come without effort and intentionality. It's a choice that requires constantly renewing MY MIND with the Truth of God's Word, setting MY HEART to savor God and His gifts, and disciplining MY TONGUE to speak words that reflect His Goodness and Grace – until a Grateful spirit becomes my reflexive response to all of life. Gratitude is vital. And it is transformational. I truly believe a Grateful spirit, rooted in the soil of God's Goodness and Grace, will radically impact how you view and respond to EVERYTHING in your life.

AMEN!! I am sure that most of us have had an

Continued on Back





HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 27

PSALM 135:1, 3 – Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the Name of the LORD; praise Him, O ye servants of the LORD. Praise the LORD: for the LORD is good: sing praises unto His Name; for it is pleasant. 🌱



CHRISTMAS SERVICES '25



Sunday, December 14

9:30 AM	Children's Christmas Presentation
6:00 PM	Choir Christmas Presentation
	Coffee & Cookie Fellowship