

NOTICE

Look Around with a Grateful Heart

Key Scripture “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits.” Psalm 103:2 NKJV

Sometimes we become so focused on what we are waiting for that we fail to notice what God has already given us.

We pray for the next door to open, the next breakthrough to come, the next problem to be solved, or the next prayer to be answered. Yet while we are looking ahead, we may overlook the blessings God has placed right in **front of us**.

Bible Besties, God is working in our lives every day.

The question is: Are we noticing?

1. Notice the Blessings in Ordinary Moments

Not every blessing arrives with a grand announcement. Some blessings appear in quiet, ordinary moments:

- A peaceful morning
- Food on the table
- A safe journey
- A conversation with someone we love
- Laughter in our home
- A smile on the face of a family member
- Strength to get through another day
- A moment to sit quietly with God
- A fresh opportunity
- A lesson learned through experience

James 1:17 reminds us: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.”

Some of the greatest gifts from God are things we may have become accustomed to having. Familiar blessings are still blessings. We should never allow something to become so ordinary that we stop thanking God for it.

2. Notice the Prayers God Has Already Answered

There was once something you prayed for that you may now take for granted.

Perhaps you prayed for the job you now complain about. You may have prayed for the family you are now too busy to enjoy. You may have asked God for the opportunity that has now become part of your regular routine.

Sometimes we are so quick to present God with our next request that we forget to thank Him for His previous answer.

When Jesus healed ten lepers, only one returned to give thanks. Jesus asked: **“Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?”**
Luke 17:17 NKJV

All ten received healing, but only one stopped, returned, and expressed gratitude. He noticed what Jesus had done and then responded with worship.

Let us not receive God’s answers and then rush away looking for the next blessing. Let us return to Him with thankful hearts.

3. Notice the Doors God Opens and the Ones He Closes

Revelation 3:7 describes Jesus as the One who opens and no one shuts, and who shuts and no one opens.

An open door may be a new opportunity, relationship, ministry assignment, experience, or direction. However, a closed door can also be evidence of God’s loving protection.

We often thank God for the doors that open, but we should also trust Him concerning the ones that close. God sees what we cannot see. He knows what is behind every door, where every road leads, and what will ultimately accomplish His purpose.

Do not become so disappointed by a closed door that you overlook the new direction God is revealing.

4. Notice the Peaceful Moments

Peaceful moments are precious gifts from God.

A peaceful moment may be sitting with your Bible, drinking a warm cup of tea, watching the sunrise, hearing a loved one laugh, or resting after a difficult season.

Psalm 46:10 tells us: “Be still, and know that I am God.”

We do not always need to rush into the next activity. Sometimes we need to stop, breathe, give thanks, and recognize the presence of God.

Peace is not merely the absence of trouble. Biblical peace is the assurance that God is with us in the middle of *every situation*.

5. Notice the Breakthroughs Even the Small Ones

We sometimes imagine a breakthrough as one enormous, dramatic event. However, a breakthrough can happen one small step at a time.

It may be:

- A better decision than you made before
- The courage to establish a healthy boundary
- Freedom from an old habit
- A restored conversation
- A small improvement in a difficult situation
- A new understanding of Scripture
- The strength to forgive
- The ability to remain peaceful where you once became overwhelmed

Do not dismiss small progress. Thank God for every step forward.

Zechariah 4:10 warns against despising “the day of small things.” Small beginnings can become part of a much greater work.

6. Notice the New Experiences God Gives You

New experiences help us grow. Some are exciting, while others stretch our faith. God can use both to teach us, strengthen us, and prepare us for what is ahead.

Isaiah 43:19 says: “Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?”

Notice the question: **“Shall you not know it?”**

God may already be beginning something new, but we must be spiritually attentive enough to recognize it. The new thing may not arrive in the form we expected. It may begin as an unfamiliar opportunity, an uncomfortable transition, or a small step of obedience.

Ask God to help you recognize what He is doing in this season.

7. Notice the Life Lessons

Not every day will give us what we wanted, but every day can teach us something.

God can use life’s experiences to teach us patience, wisdom, compassion, endurance, humility, discernment, and dependence upon Him.

Romans 5:3–4 teaches that tribulation produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope.

Even a difficult day is not necessarily a wasted day. There may be *wisdom hidden* inside the experience.

Ask yourself:

- What did God teach me today?
- What did this situation reveal about my heart?
- Is there something I need to change?
- Is there something I need to release?
- Is God teaching me to wait, trust, forgive, or obey?

A grateful heart does not pretend that every experience is pleasant. It recognizes that God can redeem difficult experiences and use them for spiritual growth.

8. Are you Living Only for “The Next Thing”?

It is good to have goals, pray for change, and believe God for the future. However, we must not become so consumed with the next thing that we miss the gift of today.

We may think:

“When this prayer is answered, I will be thankful.”

“When this situation changes, I will have peace.”

“When this door opens, I will enjoy my life.”

But gratitude cannot be continually postponed. This is the day God has given us.

“This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.”
Psalm 118:24 NKJV

Notice that the verse does not say we will rejoice only when everything happens exactly as we desire. We rejoice because God made this day, He is present in it, and His mercy is still sustaining us.

9. Develop a Heart That Notices

Gratitude is not merely a feeling. It is a spiritual practice and an intentional response to God's goodness.

First Thessalonians 5:18 says: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

This does not mean that everything that happens is good. It means that in every circumstance, we can still find reasons to thank God. We can thank Him for His presence, faithfulness, salvation, mercy, strength, wisdom, and eternal promises.

At the end of each day, ask yourself:

- What blessing did I notice today?
- Where did I see God's provision?
- What prayer has God already answered?
- What peaceful moment did He give me?
- What did I learn?
- Who brought a smile to my face?
- What small breakthrough occurred?
- What can I thank Jesus for right now?

Holy Highlight

Do not allow what you are still waiting for to make you ungrateful for what God has already provided.

Gratitude opens our spiritual eyes. It helps us recognize that God's goodness is not limited to the dramatic moments. His goodness is woven throughout our ordinary days.

Conclusion

Bible Besties, slow down and notice.

Notice the breath in your lungs. Notice the people God has placed in your life. Notice the peaceful moments, unexpected smiles, new experiences, lessons learned, doors opened, dangers avoided, small breakthroughs, and prayers already answered.

Most importantly, notice Jesus.

Notice His mercy that is new every morning. Notice the grace that saved you. Notice His patience, His presence, His forgiveness, and His faithful love.

Before asking, “God, what are You going to do next?” pause and say:

“Lord, thank You for what You have already done. Help me recognize what You are doing today.”



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