THE POSTURE OF "OBEDIENCE & GRATITUDE" PART 3



THIS MONTH'S THEME IS ABOUT CHANGING OUR SELFISH THOUGHTS AND DESIRES INTO A HUMBLE COMMITMENT TO GOD. THIS WEEK'S FOCUS IS ON LEARNING HOW TO GIVE THANKS IN THE MIDST OUR HARDEST TRIALS.

WHEN IT'S TOO HARD TO BEAR

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

James 1:2-4





Trials serve a purpose in shaping us into the likeness of Christ.
 Gratitude acknowledges God's <u>sovereignty</u> and His ability to use hardships for our spiritual growth. He is a supreme, all powerful God.

WHO CAN RELATE?

Both Job and Habakkuk faced extreme loss yet chose gratitude. Their faith was rooted in trust that God was still worthy of praise despite their circumstances.

JOB 1:21 - "THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HAS TAKEN AWAY; BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD."

- Job lost everything including his family but didn't curse God. He asked God questions about his suffering. (Study Job 3-31)
- Habbakuk witnessed societal injustice and Babylon's threat. He asked God why He allows evil to prosper and uses a wicked nation to discipline His people.
 (Habakkuk 1:2-4)

TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON PAST TRIALS AND IDENTIFY HOW GOD BROUGHT GOOD FROM THOSE SITUATIONS.

Start your prayer with thanksgiving, meditate on God's promises, and ask the Holy Spirit to give you new perspective. Remember trials are temporary! Be encouraged.



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