

PRAYER LETTER 52

This Prayer letter is proposed by the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), a reformed denomination in the Middle East serving in Syria and Lebanon and testifying to the Gospel and love of our lord Jesus Christ.

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“Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:20)

The NESSL churches celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday every 2nd Sunday of November, and it is no secret that this particular subject has become difficult to implement...

Every year we say, “Things will improve tomorrow,” and the New Year brings greater crises and hardships... Despite this overwhelming amount of pain, disease, worry, and need, in spite of the many difficult circumstances, how can we praise God?

The deeper answer is in Psalm 23, which we usually read at funerals, during calamities, and on difficult days...

In these verses, the psalmist thanks the Lord for the blessings he has, for pasture, water, and care... But he also gives thanks to the Lord in verse four for: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."

Gratitude in these verses, if we carefully examine it, is not for pain, but that while we are in the darkest valley; we are in sickness, hunger, poverty... We give thanks to you Lord, "for you are with me."

Thanks are always given because blessings are always given. Even in times of crisis, the greatest blessing is the Lord's presence with us

**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
(1Thessalonians 5: 18)**

O God of mercies,

As humble as we are before you, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are grateful for all your kindness toward us and your sympathy for all people.

We praise you for creating us, protecting us, and caring for us.

You rejoice with us when we celebrate, and weep with us when we mourn.

You are our friend who walks with us on the journey of life, so we cast all anxiety and despair upon you.

We are thankful for the assurance we have, that no matter how difficult things might be, we are not alone.

We also thank you, Lord, for all the faithful brothers and sisters from different churches and countries. With them, we feel that the Body of Christ truly brings us together.

In the name of Christ our Redeemer and Savior,
We raise our prayers. Amen

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