

July 27, 2016

Dear Open Door Family,

Have you ever felt like a turtle sitting on a fence post? All of us find ourselves in situations when we realize we are in deep trouble without help. I found myself in that situation; I felt like I was stuck floundering, with no help in sight as we were trying to finish all the things that needed to be done for our daughter's wedding. But it ALL got done. How? A whole bunch of friends and family gathered round and helped in countless ways. And as they lifted me off that fence post the overwhelming thought that filled my mind was THANK YOU.



Maybe you have felt that same way in your walk with the Lord. A time when it was all dark - when there was NO HOPE - when it felt like the end was near - when you just wanted to give up. But in crying out to God He gave hope and help and lifted you to solid ground.

Psalm 40:2 (NLT) *He LIFTED me out of the pit of DESPAIR, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on SOLID ground and STEADIED me as I walked along.*

The response to that should be Praise, Worship - THANKSGIVING to God for ALL He has done...

Psalm 40:3 (NLT) *HE has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of PRAISE to our God. Many will see what HE has done and be amazed...*

It is amazing how our perspective changes AFTER help has come. The turtle that is lifted off of the post can scurry away safely. For me there was no need to be anxious - there were many people who helped set things up and take them down afterwards. I was humbled and THANKFUL.

Paul's reminder to us is that everything we do in life can be done in a way that brings Honor to the Name of Jesus. And as we do whatever we are doing it should be done with a heart full of THANKSGIVING to God.

Colossians 3:17 (HCS) *And WHATEVER YOU DO, in word or in deed, do everything in the NAME of the Lord Jesus, GIVING THANKS to God the Father through Him.*

We may feel like a turtle on a post - in desperate need of help. But we are never alone and God will give us the help that we need if we will Trust in Him and continue to be Thankful.

PRAYER: Lord God - thank You for good Friends and Family who have been so encouraging and helpful. But thank You most for the way you work in every situation. Thank You for taking the hard things, the difficult tasks and using them to make me look to You for Your help and Strength. Thank you for helping me to see I am never sitting on a post all alone.

Pastor Mark Kieft