



SOUTH CAROLINA SUPPLEMENT
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Greetings Sir Knights!

What a year, I cannot believe this is Thanksgiving time. While it's always a great time to reflect, as tough as this year is, I really think we need to be thankful for what we have and spend as much time with friends and family as we can. Time to express gratitude for our family and friends. There is a quote from Marcel Proust "Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom"

Even in the best of times expressing thankfulness is not often done. We should make a habit of expressing gratitude. Thankfulness rather than criticism should be our default position. When you see something good in your life, point it out. Thank God for it. We all complain about things, but we need to respond to our own complaining by finding things to be thankful for. We need to rewire our brain to be as proficient at recognizing the good in your life as we are identifying the bad.

Thessalonians 5-18 states; in *everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* Why? We may not see the full picture. We cannot look at every situation and clearly understand why it is happening. We can only know God is at work in these situations and working them out for our good. Regardless of what is happening,

we can thank God for his presence and for sustaining him through it.

We need to praise God when all is well. When life runs smoothly, we do not tend to see this as God's gift to us. We do not see how He protects and guides us along.

Can bad experiences produce good outcomes? We should take time to consider the benefits of difficult times in our lives. After a period away from the troubles, we need to look for the good that came out of the experiences. Look to see how those bad experiences helped you gather strength and momentum for future blessings. Also, learning to see past trials will enable us to be thankful during times of struggle.

As gratitude should impact our relationship with God so it should in our relationship with other people. When you appreciate somebody, you literally raise their value. It increases their self-worth. Too often the people we express gratitude with the least in our lives are those closest to us.

And lastly, Thanksgiving is a special time. It allows us to see past our experiences and embrace how God is moving. Not only are thankful people able to draw strength from gratitude, but they are also able to empower others with their perspective as well

May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Fraternally,
Mike Kirk
Grand Commander