PRAISE

Christmas

A Thanks Giver

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A Thanks Giver

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxDKchUybN0

> *For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills before you shall break forth into singing.*
>
> ISAIAH 55:12

The silence of a peaceful Sunday morning was suddenly broken by the loud, persistent ring of my cell phone. A knot of worry tightened in my chest as I scrambled to check the caller ID, wondering who could possibly be reaching out so early.

As I hurriedly pressed the phone to my ear, the panic vanished, replaced by the warm, miles-away voice of my youngest son, Cody, in California.

"I'm so sorry, Mom," he chuckled. "I just butt-dialed you!"

I laughed and laughed. Our phone conversations were few and far between. "Well," he explained, "I had written you a letter and was looking up your address when my phone dialed you."

As we talked and talked, my heart filled with joy. It didn't matter whether the call was intentional or not. I was thankful for the unexpected butt dial and, even more, for a son who would take the time to write his mother a letter!

In the spirit of Christmas, I'm finding myself more joyful in the little things.

Isaiah 55:12 reminds us, "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills before you shall break forth into singing."

Crowder and friends capture that same feeling in their song, Thanks Giver, reminding us:

"Just took the pumpkins off the porch, the wreath is on my door. There's something sacred 'bout the time of year when you were born."

My prayer this season is to remind myself to be a "thanks giver" all year long!

Cody didn't actually mean to reach out to me, but his unexpected call reminded me how much I love hearing his voice. It also made me think about how God must feel when we call out to Him.

Unlike a butt dial, God's call to us at Christmas was no accident. He intentionally reached across the distance to connect with us through the greatest gift of all—His Son, Jesus.

And I don't think God minds a little "butt dialing" either! He simply wants us to reach out, spend time with Him, and thank Him for the countless little blessings we so often overlook in our busyness.

A Grateful Reflection

May we never be too busy to answer God's call or too distracted to recognize His blessings. And may our hearts become grateful enough to give thanks, not just at Christmas, but every day of the year.

Karen Good

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