PRAISE

Thanksgiving

Thankful for the Fleas!

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Thankful for the Fleas!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfvofKFkQ50

> *You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.*
>
> GENESIS 50:20

During World War II, Corrie ten Boom and her sister, Betsie, were arrested by the Nazis for hiding Jewish people in their home in Holland.

They were sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp, where their barracks were terribly overcrowded and infested with fleas.

In her book The Hiding Place, Corrie recounts how she and Betsie had secretly smuggled a Bible into the camp. One day, while reading 1 Thessalonians 5:18, which instructs believers to give thanks in all circumstances, Betsie insisted they thank God for everything—including the fleas!

Corrie was convinced her sister had lost her mind. How could anyone possibly be thankful for fleas?

Genesis 50:20 reminds us: “You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.”

Weeks later, the sisters discovered why the fleas mattered. The guards avoided entering their barracks because they didn't want to be bitten. As a result, Corrie and Betsie could hold secret Bible studies and prayer meetings without interference.

In the midst of unimaginable suffering, women found comfort, hope, and faith in Christ. What seemed like nothing more than a miserable nuisance became an unexpected source of protection.

Sometimes, it may seem impossible to give thanks for the things that trouble us. Yet hidden blessings can be disguised as irritations, and what we see as an obstacle may become an instrument in God's hands.

How often do we complain about the daily trials in our own lives, unaware God may be using those very circumstances to protect us, redirect us, or accomplish something we cannot yet see?

I love the perspective offered in today's song, The Battle Is Yours, by Paul Wilbur, Shae Wilbur, and Kurtis Parks:

“From the valley, there will come breakthrough. Hope will rise with our praises. Out of trials you bring redemption, For you give beauty for ashes.”

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, help us trust You even when life doesn't make sense. Open our eyes to the blessings we may be overlooking and give us grateful hearts, even in the midst of life's irritations and trials.

Remind us You are always at work, even when we cannot see Your purpose. May our praises rise from the valleys, our hope remain rooted in You, and our faith grow stronger through every circumstance.

Teach us to thank You not only for the blessings we understand, but also for the ones we don't. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Karen Good

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