

21Z03 Nov Student Update

Hello my friends. I hope your semester is going well so far. We are going to take a break from our study of 1st Peter today.

The last Thursday in November here in the United States is a holiday called Thanksgiving. It is a time to thank God for all He has done for us. Everything we have has come from God. We owe everything we are and have to God. I think each of us need to take time to thank God for what we have been given. What He is giving us right now, and what God will give us in the future. Thank God for past, present and future blessings. Spend time intentionally focusing on the gifts from God. But this is important, you must do this without worrying or complaining about what we don't have right now. Concentrate on being Thankful to God. A Thankful heart is a joyful heart.

I decided to make a list of things I am personally thankful for. As I listed the many things, I was thankful for, like my family, friends, my home, my job, the beauty in nature around me, and so on. I was also thankful for the rough times. I was thankful for my bout with COVID, I was thankful for my bout with kidney stones, I was thankful for my knee surgery and on and on I went. I found my mind being more and more focused on God and how much I love my Lord Jesus and how much God loves me. These moments were profound in that I realized I don't actually deserve any of the things I've been giving. They are gifts from my loving Heavenly Father God. The spirit of Thankfulness warms your heart, makes you smile, fills you with joy, peace, hope and assurance. So, I recommend you each take time and list the many things you each have to be thankful for. It might just change your perspective on your past & present and help you to look forward to the future blessings from God.

One of the things I listed that I was thankful for is you. Each and every one of you. I am so thankful to God for the opportunity to share life with each of you. I hope you can feel the love I have for you and God has for you. These messages I post on Youtube and our website are prepared for you because God loves you. Remember I'm very proud of each of you.

I'll be praying for you and there are lots of pastors and friends of PUNLA praying for you. I know this is a little out of context, but I have always got great comfort from this scripture.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NASB) *For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

God has plans for you and for me. Not for disaster but for prosperity. God gives us hope and a future. We just need to honestly call upon Him with all our heart. God is listening to your prayers. Take time to listen to God. I highly recommend starting every

prayer with thanksgiving before asking God for anything. He already knows what you need, praise Him for what He's done.

God loves you. Don't forget that. You don't have to care what other people say or do to you. You only need to satisfy one, your Lord and Savior Jesus.

Let's Pray. Father God, Thank You for everything I've been given, every experience, every person, and my very life. I love you Lord

I pray for each student, that they can be thankful to you Lord for everything. Every experience, every trouble and trial. Help them to have thankful hearts so they can see the plans You have for them. Plans to prosper them. Plans to give each of them a future.

I pray that You guide them in the paths You want them to take. I know you have a specific plan for each of them. I am eager to see You work in their lives and in my life. I am prepared to be amazed, Lord Jesus.

I pray this in your name, Lord Jesus Amen

A couple orders of business before I leave you today.

First, Make sure you get your requirements in before the deadlines.

Also, Church attendance is required to remain in our program. Going to church gives you the opportunity to build community that can help you, give you advice when things are hard. Please invest your time, you will be very glad you did.

And again, please subscribe, watch or listen to these messages. I post new content several times per week for you. This is a way you can learn more about me and learn more about God. My hope is through these videos you will grow your relationship with us and God. My hope is you will become more comfortable speaking with me and the pastors helping you, so you can trust us to be there for you when troubles in this life occur.

As we enter December and the Christmas season. Keep in mind the reason for the season is Jesus. I will sharing several Christmas themed messages through out December and we will pick up again in 1st Peter in January.

Be thankful for everything, every event, every person in your life. God will help us to learn, growth and flourish if we just trust in His plan for our lives. I've learned so much this year myself. Through my health issues with COVID, kidneys etc. I have learned to be Thankful for the troubles. I'm a better person because of the blessings in disguise, the tears, the pain, the heartache grows my relationship with God and it grows me into a person God can use to help and love others.

Again, Students. I am so glad we have this time together. No matter what we face, I know our God is Bigger and Stronger than anything on this earth. So we don't have to fear anything in this world. I Love you all. God's Blessings for you.

Until next time. I pray for Joy, Hope, Peace and Assurance from God for each of you. God bless.

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