

What I thank the Lord for...

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. – I Thessalonians 5v18

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; - Ephesians 5v20

Well another year has come and gone and here we are again looking back over another 12 months. How has this one been for you? I have never known time race by as quickly as it is going at the moment, one minute we are seeing in the New Year and the next we are a few weeks ahead of another. Just mad!?

People all over the country, and all over the world, have spent this year living with and under different circumstances; some have had a successful year of business and others might have lost their jobs or even their homes. Some might have welcomed a new baby into the family whilst others might have lost a loved one or a friend this year. The possibilities are endless.

No matter what we have gone through over the last 12 months, as Christians, we know that the trials of this life are only but temporal; we have an eternal home in Heaven waiting for us ...what a comfort it is to know that the Lord is coming for us very soon! Let's keep looking up!

No matter what my own thoughts and feelings are on a daily basis, no matter what struggles you and I may face during the week, it is so encouraging to be assured of our eternal salvation and to know that the Lord is ever present with us. **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.** – Psalm 46v1. I am so thankful to the Lord for this and for being with me always. What a friend we have in Jesus.

Again this year, as with every year of my life, I have a lot to be thankful for; not only for seeing it through but also for all the things that have happened in between.

I thank the Lord for my health and strength and for the ability to get out of bed every day and carry on what I need to do. There are so many people, even as you are reading this now, who rely on the care of others to get out and about, to dress and feed themselves etc. I know I take this for granted so much, along with so many other things (like permanently having a roof over my head and food on the table, having hands and feet to be able to write and walk, having a copy of the word of God where some Christians in the world would be under persecution, having loving friends and family, being able to see, hear, smell, taste and touch etc.) What a blessed life I have, thank you Lord!

I also thank the Lord for the opportunities He has presented to me in life; those opportunities to witness to others with the Gospel and the opportunity to take a stand for Him. It is one of the best feelings to have when you share the truth of the Gospel with someone. I am also thankful for the past opportunities I have had in getting an education and being able to grow up throughout my childhood and teen years in a country like England (despite its many shortfalls) being able to participate in several activities, whether it be a sport or a creative experience.

Throughout the year 2014, at Time for Truth! we have again loved getting the word of God out to people in different ways and we have seen the new "Where are they now?" booklet been distributed in many countries already, which is a great encouragement to us. Thank you again to all of you who encourage us in the work that we do and that are an encouragement to us in your stand and ministry for the Lord. This year we also held our very first Time for Truth! conference and I am thankful to the

Lord for the time of fellowship we had together that day also and the friendships it built for other Bible-believing Christians who joined us.

The list of things I am thankful to the Lord for could undoubtedly go on and on, however this is just a small fraction of things in my life illustrated in a few hundred words. Lastly, and most definitely not the least, I am thankful to the Lord for saving me! Thank you Lord for your great sacrifice for me! If we weren't saved by grace and eternally secure I would most certainly be sitting here lost today.

**Thank you for saving me, what can I say?
You are my everything, I will sing your praise.
You shed your blood for me, what can I say?
You took my sin and shame,
A sinner called by name.**

**Great is the Lord,
Great is the Lord,
For we know your truth has set us free,
You've set your hope in me.**

Thank you Lord Jesus!