

October 15, 2022

Hello Lord,

I awake today a grateful man, and I want to live that way all day long. You've heard me say time and time again; "Everything in my life is a gift. Everything, NO exception!"

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created." (James 1:17–18).

I'm sure at sometime today that belief will be challenged by life in this broken world or by the heart that beats in this broken man. But as someone who has every reason to overflow with thanksgiving, here's a few of Your gifts for which I give you praise this morning.

First and foremost, I praise you for being the changeless Father. I know I can completely trust You to be present and faithful, loving and consistent. We know this through Jesus, who is the same "yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). Unlike us, You're never moody, nor do you second guess anything.

I'm also thankful that You've twice chosen to give me birth. I claim responsibility for neither, either the first time I breathed in oxygen or the second time You breathed the life of Your Spirit into my dead spirit. I only exist by Your pleasure and I only know Jesus by Your grace. Thanks.

Father, I'm also thankful for all kinds of gifts you bestow in my life. Yes, the perfect ones and otherwise. Most recently, I'd include these: date night with Julie. A word of encouragement that came at just the right time yesterday. The music of Motown. The fresh stirrings of Your Spirit in my heart last evening. The assurance that You never get irritated with me and don't have any regrets about saving me. Hearing my grandson call me to tell me a joke he made up. Hahaha.

Father, these are just a few of the many, many gifts that come down from You all the time. So, just for today, I offer myself to give You praise, honor, and glory. And a very Amen I pray. Amen.

The Etruscan