

# THANKSGIVING EVERY DAY



**TOOL 2**

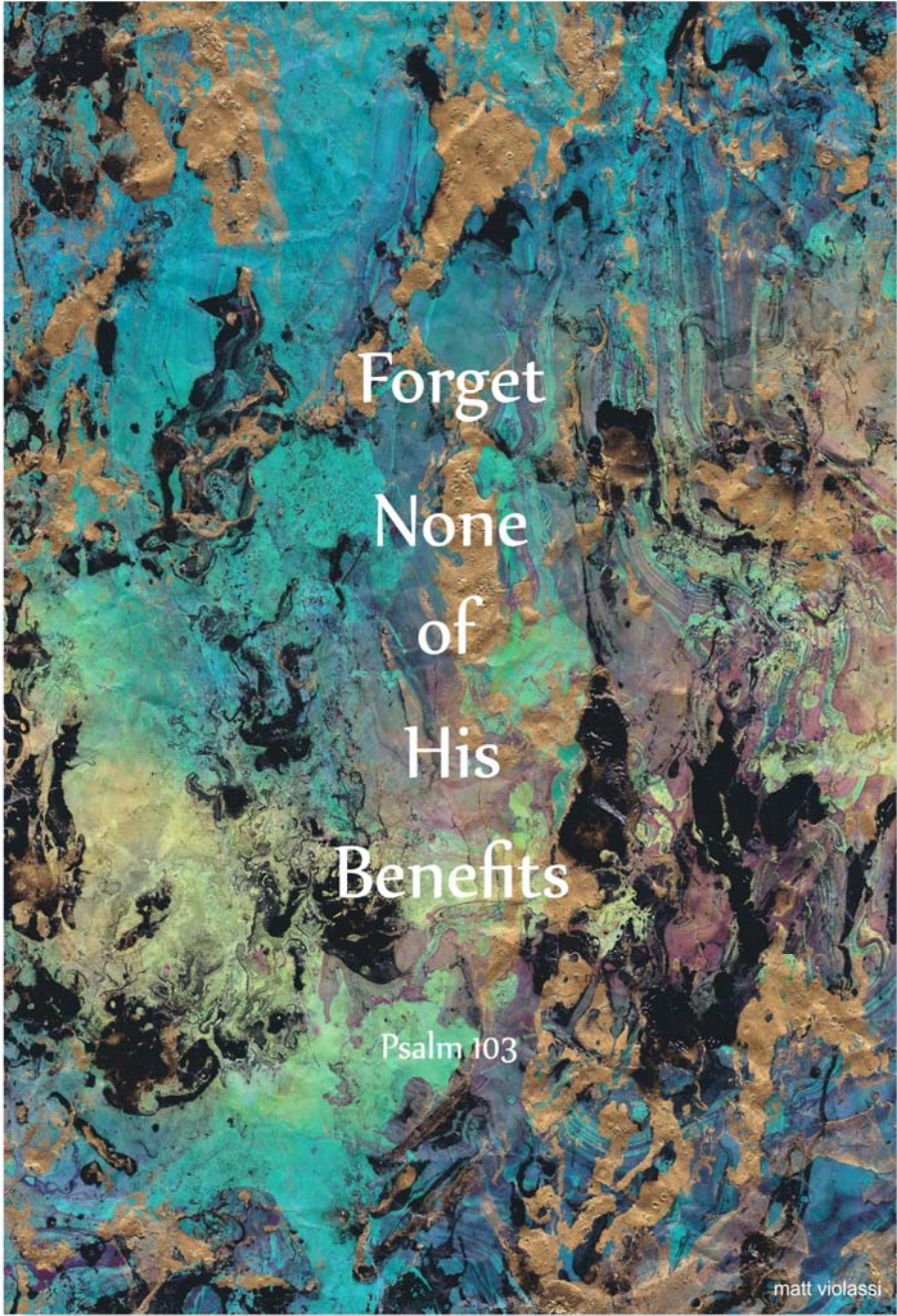
matt violassi



Always  
give  
thanks  
for  
all  
things

Ephes. 5:20

Matt  
Wolcott



Forget  
None  
of  
His  
Benefits

Psalm 103

matt violassi



Enter His Gates  
with  
THANKSGIVING

and His Courts  
with  
PRAISE

Psalm 100

*Mark  
Volassi*

## TOOL 2 - BECOMING A THANKFUL PERSON

### "Always giving thanks for all things" - Eph. 5:20

#### Benefits of This Tool:

- We will become more aware of the blessings God has given us.
- We will become a more thankful person. God highly regards thankfulness. God says that when we come to Him, we are to come with thanksgiving and praise. **"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise."** (Ps. 100:4)
- We can thrill God more often. Just as a parent is thrilled when their children come to them on their own initiation and give them heartfelt thanksgiving for various good things, we can thrill God when we come to Him and give Him heartfelt thanks for the many things He has given us. What does *He think* is the most important thing to thank Him for? ***Our salvation!*** Jesus corrected His disciples from being overly thrilled about the fleeting joys of Kingdom ministry, **"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."** (Luke 10:20)
- We can distance ourselves further from the sin of grumbling and complaining and unwanted disciplines from God. (1 Cor.10)
- We can more often enter and live in the joy and the "wow" state of the "spirit of thanksgiving."

#### Directions for Use of this Tool:

1. Go through the list one item at a time.
2. Agree with your mind if the item is truly a blessing to you. Savor it. Enjoy it again. Be exhilarated with it again and again.
3. If the item is truly a blessing that you enjoy, then give a heartfelt "thanks" to God for the item. "Own" the conviction in your heart, so that you are not just being mechanical about your thanksgiving.
4. Go to the next item and repeat.

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### I. PRICELESS ETERNAL THINGS

These things can never be taken away from us. We can always be thanking God for these.

#### • **What a great Person He is - all His Divine**

**Attributes:** All-knowing, All-powerful, Perfect in everything and in every way, Omnipresent, Majestic, Eternal, possessing All Authority and Dominion and Glory . . . Perfectly: Gracious, Compassionate, Slow to Anger . . . Full of Loving-kindness and Truth . . . Full of Love, Peace, Joy, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control, Mercy, Humility . . .

#### • **Rejoice that our names are written in Heaven**

#### • **No Hell! Get to go to Heaven!**

#### • **We are a son or daughter of the Maker of the Universe!!**

#### • **We can come to God anytime, come into His actual presence, come before His throne anytime and talk to Him** (Hebrews 4:16)

#### • **Overall Happy, Peaceful, and Joyful Heart!**

#### • **The God of the Universe lives inside of us!**

#### • **God's Provision, Protection, and Guidance**

#### • **God's Wisdom** (esp. if and when we ask for it)

#### • **Ongoing forgiveness of sins, and freeing us from sin!**

#### • **We continually get changed into His image and character!**

#### • **God Likes Us! God Loves Us!**

#### • **Our God is a *good God*, who does no evil, wrong, or make mistakes.**

#### • **King Jesus will be our Friend when no one else will!**

#### • **God grants requests and answers prayer. We can get help from God!**

#### • **Partake in His Eternal Ministry** - Work with God and partake in the joy of His Work.

#### • **Depth of Biblical Revelation!** "Many prophets and kings longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." (Luke 10:24 NET)

#### • **Thanks to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for being tortured and dying for me, instead of me.**

#### • **The option of a heart free from troubles and fear** (John 14:27)

#### • **The option to be continually filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit** (Acts 13:52, John 15:11, John 16:24)

#### • **All those people God sent into our life to help us**

#### • **You came and got each of us.** . . . when we were lost and in darkness . . . and all the pain that entailed . . .

#### • **All the pain You endure as you oversee the millions of Your children . . .**

#### • **All the pain You endure as You work to save all the millions who are lost and in darkness. . .**

#### • **Because God now lives inside of us, we now have the power over all sin, power to control ourselves, power to completely obey all of Jesus's commands (and thus obey "The Law"), and power to fully please God - through Him!**

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## II. OTHER PRICELESS THINGS:

These can be taken away at any time.

- **Good Health?** Physical? Emotional? Mental? Spiritual?
- **Get up daily and be able to Walk and Talk ?**
- **Good friend(s)?** Do you have any good friends?
- **Good spouse?** Priceless!
- **Is our spouse also a good friend?** Priceless!
- **Is our spouse still our boyfriend/girlfriend?!!**
- **Children?** Abraham had to wait until his late 90's for his first child from the Lord.
- **Good Children? Are your kids pretty good kids?**  
"I have not greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4
- **Enjoy your Job/Work?** A priceless gift from God (Eccl.5:19)
- **Freedom to worship without being jailed, tortured, etc.?**
- **Good church leadership?** Wise, God-filled leadership with integrity? Priceless.

## III. PERSONAL JOYS GOD LETS US DO/HAVE

We all have things that we like to do for fun. What are your top joys in life? Does God let you enjoy them in abundance? If not, **ask Him** to let you have your fill! **Examples:**

- **Fun Spouse or friends.**
- **Watch good movies.**
- **Enjoy beautiful scenery.**
- **Drive vehicle that doesn't break down all the time.**
- **Have air conditioning.**
- **Have my fill of favorite foods or desserts.**
- **Do my favorite hobby as often as I like.**
- **Safe Neighborhood?** infrequent break-ins/ robberies?

## IV. DELIVERANCES - 4 TRIALS of LIFE

There are probably 4 main or types of trials in life. As we become more mature Christians, we better learn to overcome our trials. We begin to accumulate a history of God's deliverances *from* our trials. If we review this list of deliverances frequently, we are better equipped to not fall apart in our next trial, because we better remember how He delivered us from all the previous ones!

1. **Health?** How has God delivered you or your loved ones in this arena? Write these instances down and be able to recite them easily.
2. **Finances?** Besides just steadily providing for us, how has He bailed us out in particularly large financial crises? List and review.
3. **Relationships?** How has He intervened in our loneliness, strained relationships, broken relationships, lost relationships, etc.?
4. **Demonic Oppressions/Depressions?**

## V. LUXURIES

We can easily compare how most of us in the Western world enjoy more luxuries than the richest kings of history. As we thank God for these things, we can really enter the "wow" state of a spirit of thanksgiving. This is a good place to dwell.

- **Electricity!** - Provides tons of conveniences and pleasures.
- **Air Conditioning** - It is a gnawing burden to live, work, and try to sleep in hot climates without air conditioning.
- **Abundant Food** - even most poor street people in our Western cities can easily get a meal from the multiple soup kitchens, food banks, food pantries, Salvation Army centers, churches, Federal food stamps, etc.
- **5-Star Restaurant Food Recipes** & how to make them - easily available on the internet/TV
- **Modern Heating Systems!** - The traditional chore of heating a home through the gathering and preparing of firewood can be a ton of work!
- **Light Bulbs!** Flick a switch for bright light!
- **Window Screens!** - Said to be the largest contribution to the sanity of man! Not invented until early 1800's!
- **Clean Water** - Many in the world do not enjoy this luxury and suffer not having it through increased sickness & diseases, and poorer health.
- **Indoor Plumbing** - Need a drink, turn the tap. Need a nice hot shower, turn the dial. So nice.
- **Sewer Systems** - Flush and it's gone!
- **Appliances** - Refrigerators, Freezers, Ice Makers/Ice Cubes (Emperors made runners run up mountains to fetch them their ice for a cold drink), Washing Machines, Dryers, Microwaves, Stoves, Garbage Disposals
- **DVD Players and Digital Music Players**  
Symphonies on Demand! Quality Motion Pictures on demand!
- **Cars, Boats, Motorcycles, Airplanes, and Trains** - And the fun of riding in them!
- **Television** - Travel the world from your living room!
- **Computers and the World Wide Web!**
- **Glass** - Magnifying glass, Microscopes, Windows, Telescopes, etc.
- **Eye Glasses and Contacts!** To be able to see well! *Fantastic.*
- **Photography and Home Moviemaking**  
What a luxury. . .
- **Telephones and Smart Phones** - Talk to anyone on earth in real-time!
- **SMART PHONES - ONE DEVICE:** Phone, Clock/Watch, Calculator, GPS, Music, Movies, Quality Camera, Video Recording, Mail, Texting, Book Library, Flashlight, Live News from around the world, Photo Album, Encyclopedia Set, Live Weather/Radar Map, Calendar, Internet, etc. . . and tons more!  
. . . **INCREDIBLE.** . .
- **Video Gaming!** A ton of fun!
- **The Gasoline Engine** - allows for Lawn Mowers, Chain Saws, inexpensive Boats, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, Generators, Cement Mixers and more!

- **The Electric Motor** - allows for Vacuum Cleaners, Electric Drills, Electric Saws, Kitchen Mixers, Can Openers, Sewing Machines and more!
- **The Bicycle!** (Remember your first bike?)
- **Book Binding and The Printing Press** (vs. scrolls. Also, everything had to be laboriously hand-copied)
- **Calculators**- the first commercial pocket calculators were *very expensive*.
- **Dentistry** (Alleviates a lot of misery!)
- **Medicines & Pharmaceuticals** - Many children died prematurely from the common cold that progressed to inner ear infections then to the brain - incurable until the invention of antibiotics. Other diseases and plagues dominated through field of medicine: leprosy, polio, typhus, typhoid, measles, etc.
- **Plastics** (Allows for creation of inexpensive toys and all types of things)
- **Ice Cream!**
- **The Match!** (Instant fire!)
- **Inexpensive Paper, Ink, and Pens**
- **Radios**
- **Rubber and Rubber Balls!**
- **Inexpensive Watches**
- **Batteries**
- **Guns!** (Lions and other big cats once ruled the night and struck fear into the hearts of men for ages.)
- **Elevators** (allowing for high-rise construction)
- **Welding**
- **Photocopying!** Instant replication of documents!
- **Nuclear Power**
- **Transistors and Solid State Electronics**
- **Vitamins**
- **Aerosol Cans** (We are now able to propel many atomized materials)
- **Commodos and Toilet Paper**
- **The Hot Water Heater** - Hot Showers!
- **Amusement Parks and Rides!**
- **Concrete!** (Inexpensive man-made rock!)
- **Concrete and Asphalt Roads** (vs. mud roads)
- **Cardboard and Cardboard Boxes**
- **Vinyl Flooring and Vinyl Products**
- **Anesthetics!** (Imagine surgeries without these!)
- **Tape** (Clear wrapping tape, duct tape, packaging tape - all types!)
- **Aspirin** - a very inexpensive pain reliever
- **The Mirror!**
- **Sound Amplification** (Imagine innumerable meetings and gatherings without this luxury)
- **Microscope** (Opened up new galaxies to explore, and the germ world to be exposed, identified, and dominated)
- **Zipper** (vs. having to hand-button everything)
- **Shoe Technologies** (Inexpensive, quality footwear)
- **Foam Rubber** (We spend a lot of our time sitting)
- **Fiberglass and Fiberglass Insulation**
- **Wealth of Dental and Medical knowledge, skill, and expertise** (Alleviating tons of pain and misery) (quackery also minimized - many believe George Washington actually died from being medically "bled"!)
- **MRI and CAT Scan Technologies** (to help see through tissues and better diagnose ailments)
- **Inexpensive Wall-to-Wall Carpet and Carpet Technologies**
- **Cotton Usage from the Cotton Plant** (Allows for inexpensive clothing)
- **Weaving, Loom, and Textile Machine Technologies** (Inexpensive clothing)
- **Inexpensive 4-Color Home Printers!**
- **Plastic Garbage Gags and Twist Ties**
- **Online Educational Classes of All Types** (The knowledge of how to do almost anything more easily and quickly)
- **Inexpensive Safety Razors for Shaving**
- **The Fax Machine** (Almost instant document transmission around the world)
- **Plexiglas, Safety Glass, and Acrylic Glass**
- **The Rubber Band, The Scissors, The Stapler, the Paper Clip, and other practical tools.**
- **Wire Technologies!** (allows for the ability to produce wiring for everything from paper clips, dental braces, window screens, much-needed inexpensive fencing - to wire for the transmission of electricity, etc.)
- **Our Own Personal Set(s) of Holy Scriptures** (Centuries ago a luxury; few could own their own Scripture)
- **Innumerable Bible Study Guides, Study Aids, Commentaries, Translations, Classes, etc.**
- **Bronze Age to Iron Age to Steel Age to Stainless Steel and Aluminum and Metal Alloys** (Cars used to rust away quickly.)
- **Machine Design & Construction** (allows for inexpensive mass-production of almost every type of product - *so more people can enjoy them*)
- **Instant Messaging & Email** (No more waiting days or weeks for a telegram or a conventional letter in the mail - once coming by horseback and/or by sea! Communicate to almost anyone almost instantaneously!)
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## VI. My Book of Remembrance

This is a journal/book of the certain times and events you can remember when God particularly **really helped you - really blessed you** in a certain, powerful way, on a specific day. The event or thing might seem like a small insignificant event to others, but to you it was monumental. Record the event. Date the event. You will want to review it and praise Him again. I believe in heaven, thousands of these times will come to our minds, and we will want to praise Him forever. Why not start now?

### **example:**

4-24-2007 I was cutting a huge fat limb off a huge mature hardwood tree weighing perhaps a thousand pounds. I asked my wife to hold the long ladder while I was way-up in the tree with two hands on the chainsaw. I took all the safety precautions I could think of and knew of. As the giant limb came down, the limb danced on its tip, spun, and the whole limb swung down like a giant vertical bat right next to my wife's whole body. It would have probably killed her instantly. I *KNOW* God was involved in saving her life. . . I will always thank Him.

**\*NOTE:** Many times in my personal "services", I begin with this Tool 2, and I can be lost in thanksgiving for hours. . . handling each item. . . savoring each one again. . . then truly thanking God. Again, it is very inefficient to have to go on another mission trip to be thankful for hot showers and clean water to drink. I have a suspicion, that in eternity, when we truly see *all* He really did for us, what and how He provided for us, cared for us, protected us, grew us up, trained us, transformed us supernaturally, etc. . . We will crave to thank Him even more, forever. . . **I think He really likes it when train ourselves in this type of righteousness - on this side of eternity.**