

We Thank God for You

We always thank God for all of you. We pray for you.

—1 Thessalonians 1:2 NIV

Consider reading
1 Thessalonians
1:2-3

The Rev. Martin Doering, Illinois

Josh was happy. Yesterday was his birthday and nine people said something nice about him on his Facebook page. Penny told everyone Josh made her laugh. Vicki wrote of the way Josh liked to help her. Frank said Josh took the time to play checkers with him. And Harold mentioned Josh was a good worker who always finished his tasks. Everyone who commented on his page had something nice to say. When Josh read what people wrote, it gave him a good feeling and made him smile. Josh said a prayer and thanked God for his friends.

- ***Do you have any good friends?***
- ***Do you ever pray to God and thank him for your friends?***

Josh wanted to do something nice for his friends; he wanted to make them smile, too. Josh decided to start thanking people in his life. First, Josh thanked the bus driver for being careful. Next, he thanked his Bible class leader for an interesting lesson. Soon, he thanked the friend whose day it was to provide the snacks for Bible class. Once he returned home, Josh thanked his roommate for being kind.

All day long, Josh told people how much they helped him. Most of the people smiled; some said, "You're welcome." Again, Josh was happy.

- ***Think about some of the people who help you each day. Have you thanked them for their help today?***
- ***Have you thanked God for putting them in your life?***

People can show they are thankful in many ways. We can say it, smile or nod. Some people write thank-you notes or draw pictures. In special cases, we might give a gift to someone to show them our appreciation. Our Bible verse talks about thankfulness.

(Reread the Bible verse.)

- ***If someone told you they pray for you and always give thanks for you, how would you feel?***
- ***Do you pray for someone and give thanks for them?***

In our prayers, we can give thanks to God for other people. One way God loves us is through the people around us. God loves others through us, too. When we pray for each other, we are showing the love of God.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank you for the people in our lives who show us your love. Help us remember to thank those who help us, and help us remember to pray for them. In your name we pray. Amen.