

GRATEFUL INTERCESSION

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I have had a habit for many years; that is, on Sundays, I don't do my Tai Chi exercise and I don't read my Bible. Instead, I use the time to pray intercedingly.

I have a long list of names whom I pray for. The first ones, of course, are my ten grandchildren. On Sunday, as I mentioned their names, one by one, before God, the Holy Spirit reminded me, "Why don't you thank God for them? Isn't it said in the Bible: in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God?"

So, I decided to do just that. I thanked God for giving me ten grandchildren. I thanked Him for giving them different temperaments and physiques. All of them know the Lord because they have been brought up in Christian families, so I thanked God for that. Then, in the process of thanking God for them, I discovered that I forgot to analyze them as I sometimes did before. For example, I might think that boy has a quick temper or that girl is too fat and lazy to exercise etc.

I also discovered that I was not worried anymore, because I thanked God for their futures. I trusted God that His promises will never fail so I thanked Him

in anticipation. These promises are scattered throughout the Bible, such as: 'showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.' (Deut 5:10) 'All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.' (Isa 61:9) 'The children of your servants will live in your presence, their descendants will be established before you.' (Psa 102:28)

That Sunday, I continued to thank God for everyone on my list. Those who were sick, those who had family problems and even those who were still wandering outside salvation. I thanked God in anticipation for all their bright futures. No wonder Paul said after the Scripture I mentioned before: 'And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

When I used thanksgiving in my intercessory prayer, I felt such unexpected peace and joy. I felt that my strength was renewed and I soared on wings like eagles. I looked both of my wings, they were called 'thanksgiving' and 'trust' and the head of the eagle had 'joy' inscribed on it. The eagle was high up in the blue sky, away from the miserable world. 