

“Overdrawn!”

A few times early in our marriage (1960s) we got notices from the bank that our meager account had been overdrawn (we spent more than we deposited), and we were charged an overdraft fee. I was young and stupid and didn't think much about it, but my wife Vicki was young and smart, and made it her mission in life to make sure we never received another notice; she became very frugal, and many of my requests to purchase something were denied due to insufficient funds.

That frustrated me for a long time, but now, I am so grateful she was a penny pincher - I am financially secure because of it! I am also grateful God does not send us messages letting us know our account has been overdrawn! Think about that for a minute. I would imagine the majority of us go to the Lord multiple times each day with prayers and petitions for ourselves or others, which is a good thing - we are told to pray and seek God for ourselves and others, and as well, prayers for our families, the church, our schools, our government, etc.!

So thinking about it, we might make dozens of “withdrawals” on any given day, but are we making any deposits? Our “deposits” are prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving for the many ways God blesses us, or thanking Him for our salvation, His everlasting love for us, His amazing grace and mercy towards us, His faithfulness, His word, etc. Even when He doesn't immediately answer our sometimes desperate pleas for His help or intervention, He is ALWAYS worthy to be praised, and our thanksgiving and praise are fragrant offerings that please God, and I believe He sees them as deposits into our account!

When we see how many good people suffer devastating losses from natural disasters, or when we read of how persecuted Christians suffer unimaginable trauma, it should place a burden on us to pray for them, and at the same time, these things should prompt us to thank the Lord for sparing us from disasters, and for the freedoms we have here in America!

So here's my encouragement for this week - maybe you (or a family member or friend) are going through a really rough time right now, and you are worn out from praying and seeking relief. Could it be that your account with God is “overdrawn?” Here's my prescription for relief: take some time to get on your knees before your loving Abba Father, and thank Him for who He is, for all of His wonderful attributes, and for all the ways He has blessed you! “Count your blessings, name them one by one...” “...and the things of this earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.” AMEN!!