

Pastor's Blog APRIL 21, 2020 "LET'S SAY GRACE"

God is great, God is good, And we thank God for our food;

By God's hand we all are fed; Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

There is a dog in me that whines and leaps at my feeding dish. I say this with no disrespect for dogs. A dog, by nature is a yearning machine. When its master walks in at feeding time, its nose, and ears, every muscle, every hair and every claw can read the signs: morning sunshine, birds, footsteps, kitchen cupboard, whistle, "Here boy," can opener, yeah...snap, kill, gorge! And as the body take in circumstantial signs, the eyes fixes desperately and without mercy on the prize: beef chunks in gravy! When a dog falls to without so much as a murmured pleas or thanks, he does a perfectly doggy thing.

I have that same dog in me, impatient to devour. I am not ashamed of it. It marks me as the creature I am. But what I do at meals no dog would ever do. I whisper "Down Boy" to my hunger: then I pray.

What's going on here?

Today, in hundreds of variations, we fold our paws. We call what we do "saying grace". No dog has ever done it. But let this be said as well: no dog would ever continue to perform an action with such confusion of purpose as most of us have when we say grace.

From "**God Talk**": *The Triteness & Truth of Christian Cliché's*. Randall J. Vander Mey

I often have to remind myself "I am not a Beagle" and I can pause before diving into my meal and give thanks for food. No offense to my beloved former Beagles, "Buddy" or "Belle".

When you are about to enjoy your meal do you still pause and say "Grace"?

1. Is it because the kids need to see it modeled?
2. Do you do it out of habit?
3. Do you think about it?
4. Do you ever do it in public?
5. Do you repeat the same grace you learned growing up?
6. Do you pray on the fly and make it up as you go along?

¹ Thessalonians 5:18 *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Before You Sit Down For Your Next Meal Consider Theses Reasons To "Say Grace".

1. It is a healthy exercise in self-control.
2. It will remind you and your family all you have comes from God.
3. It will remind you and your family of your daily need for God.
4. It will remind you and your family that everybody does not have the privilege of three meals a day.
5. By doing so you cultivate the art of thanksgiving in your life.

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, May this food by thee be blest,

May our souls by thee be fed, Ever on the living Bread.

Amen