

“Thank You”

I knew this older man who became sick. He had lived most of his life and been healthier than most people. He also considered that a blessing to have been able to stay away from needles as much as possible. He once admitted to me that he was also a coward when it came to needles, shots, and hospital things. But, he did get sick and all the self medication he did could not solve his problem. So he went to a doctor. Slowly but surely care was given and conditions improved. But he still had a slight problem and tests were administered and summaries were made of those tests and passed on to this person via his doctor. During this three month process other people who knew this person talked to him, encouraged him and gave advice. He listened, he appreciated the encouragement and he took some of the advice. Others would stop this person and inquire about his condition. They would let him know people were praying for him. Prayers were being offered by many people throughout many different states. Friends, families and even people in churches who did not know him were praying for him. People would pray for this person at the request of a church member. One morning before going to the doctor he told me that he had received a phone call. More advice and he decided to take that advice as well. Another test to confirm or disprove the original diagnosis would be given.

Throughout all of this one could easily say thank you for everything. And I was told it was said many times but things that I describe above were not done by friends for a thank you. They did it because they were friends. Now, for a fact, I do know that many other people expressed an interest in this persons well being and he would also thank them. But, there was a difference in the people. One group would always let him know they were praying for him and the other group.....well, encourage but not mention prayers. I suggest to you that there is a difference in people.....church people vs. non-church folks. We love both groups and we are always appreciative of what they do for us and sometimes we can only respond by saying thank you. We do and should acknowledge the things that people do for us especially when they go a little further and say we are praying for you.

So, what about these people who pray for you and others who are non-church folks who encourage but just don't acknowledge that they will pray for you. Maybe the latter group offers prayers on your behalf, maybe they don't. We may never know. That is why I have adopted a philosophy of “Thank You Lord” for putting people like that in my life. (Nov. reading, 2008, paragraph 3) Those are the ones we need to pray for... those who just do not know what to do for one beyond encouragement. So if you find yourself being a member of group 2.....please keep encouraging those that find themselves in need Please find a way to offer that prayer even if it starts out being as simple as Thank you Lord _____, and you fill in the blanks. Or maybe you just might say, Hello God. It's me and _____. No matter which approach you take.....for you I say “Thank You Lord.”

“Watch therefore, and pray always.” Luke 21:36

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