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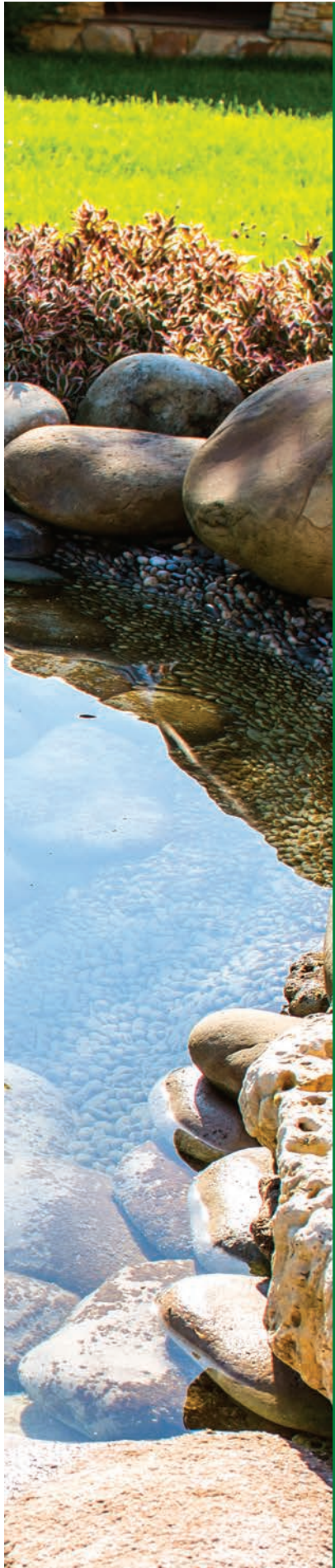
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Privilege

Dr. T. D. Worthington

There is a lot of talk today about privilege. I have heard of male privilege, straight privilege, and white privilege. If such things exist, I guess I have them. I assume it was because of privilege I starting doing part-time and summer work when I was about 12 years old to buy my own school clothes. I paid my own way through college; because of privilege I did not get any grants, loans, and my parents didn't pay my way. Over the years of my long life, due to privilege, I have always bought my own food, and provided for my own transportation, housing, and medical care.

I guess it was also my privilege that my ancestors dreaming of a better life for their children paid the fare and legally came to this country. The country received them, they renounced their former citizenship, learned the language, adapted to the American lifestyle, and set about to acclimate themselves to blend into the American fabric.

Through privilege, my dad with only an 8th grade education, yet through good morals and hard work provided for his family. I did have a stable home life, but that didn't automatically come because of some privilege. It came because of faith, hard work, and a spirit of self-sacrifice.

Yes, I am privileged. The truth is, I have been exceptionally privileged all my life, albeit not in the way most would see it. Actually, most folks screaming for privilege wouldn't want the kind of privileges I had. I am privileged that values like loyalty, faith, patriotism, and pulling your own weight through hard work were passed along to me. I know discrimination exists in our world, just as privilege exists. But usually, it is not a matter of white or black, male or female or any other division which we seek, but a matter of the values we pass along, and the legacy we leave, that brings about the "privilege." Quite

frankly, I see nothing wrong with that.

To say that my family, my ancestors, and my children should be defined by their privilege is an insult. Others don't know what their struggles have been, or what they may have gone through to be where they are. Assuming they've benefited from some elite power system or some other conspiratorial institution denies them credit for all they've done; things of which most may not even conceive. None of us know whose blood was shed defending our freedom. We don't know who sacrificed so that we could escape oppression. None of us know, all the people, of every race and tongue, that toiled to bring us where we are today.

I know I am not a self-made man. I am a composite of many people who have influenced my life. I have never done everything exclusively of myself. I am very much aware

that someone sacrificed themselves so that I could lead a better life. But that is a legacy I am proud of; it is also a legacy I must build upon. Yes, I have thoroughly evaluated and accessed my privilege, and I have nothing to be ashamed of.

Of course, in all honesty, some people have a level of privilege that I have never enjoyed. I don't envy them for it, but it must mean they have earned a level of privilege that I have never been introduced to. They have the privilege of wearing expensive sneakers when they've never had a job. They have the privilege of owning extravagant electronics while living on public assistance, and the privilege of having a free smartphone with a data plan much better than mine. Somehow, they can also afford fancy tires and rims for their cars. I must admit, I would like to know their secret.

This privileged group has also found a way to live in subsidized housing and consume subsidized food. They also seem to have the privilege to go out and march or protest for days on end without worrying about calling out of work or suffering the consequences that would usually accompany such behavior. As I said, that is a level of privilege I have never attained. So, no, I do not bask in my social privilege, but there is a form of privilege that I do enjoy. I am referring to the Christian privilege. Actually, there are quite a few benefits for men and women of every race and nationality who enjoy the Christian privilege.

First, you have the Holy Spirit living within you. When we

become Christians, God seals us with the Holy Spirit so we might know God intimately, become conformed to the image of Christ, and receive gifts in order to serve our Lord. Think about that for a moment; the Holy God lives within me. Most of the other things I will go over are simply because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. I would call that a privilege.

Next, you get wisdom and discernment. Have you ever felt so bombarded with messages and opinions that you struggle to know what to do? In this age of constant connection, we are bombarded everyday with enticements to follow one path or another. What do we do? As Christians, we have access to the storehouse of all wisdom: The presence of the Holy Spirit that fills us, the endless teachings and practices for living we find in the Bible, and direct access to the Creator of the Universe through prayer.

James 1:5 says, ***“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”*** As Christians, we have resources to find discernment and make good choices even in a world where everyone is shouting their opinion. Now, that's Christian privilege.

Third, you get peace in times of trouble. One of the things Christ taught is that we shouldn't worry. A person who has matured in their faith will understand how to give their worries over to Jesus. In ***Matthew 6:25-33***, Jesus told his disciples that there's no need to worry about what they'll eat, drink or wear because God already knows what His children need and is more than willing and able to provide for all their needs. The Lord doesn't just give us hope for a better future, He actively wants us to come to Him when we're feeling anxious and needing peace.

I Peter 5:7 says ***“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”*** As Christians, we can't avoid all stressful or bad situations, but we can find peace in the midst of them when we ask the Lord for help. I would call that a privilege.

Fourth, you are call to a standard for service above yourself. What sets Christians and the Church apart from the world is that we have all been given an important job. A job where we can find fulfillment, truly make a difference, and be handsomely rewarded in the process. Service is our greater purpose as Christians, and it's the driving force behind many of our decisions to help others in times of need. Fulfillment in life is

“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”

Philippians 4:12-13



guaranteed for the believer. Fulfillment is not defined by the achievement of a man, but the completion of his God given assignment. When you walk with God, you live with a comprehensive knowledge and a strong consciousness of your purpose. There can be no fulfillment when the individual is a stranger to his own purpose. But I know my purpose, and I would call that a privilege.

Fifth, you have the assurance that all situations can be used for a greater purpose. One of my favorite benefits of being a Christian is that I can view every situation, whether it appears to be good or bad, with a perspective of how God might use it for my benefit, or the benefit of someone around me. **Romans 8:28** says ***“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*** In all things God is able to use each situation for good. Whether that’s to bless us, grow us, or just use our situation to display the miracles or works of God, the Lord uses each situation for the greater good. As Christians, we can view our challenges, hurts, and hardships as opportunities for the works of God to be displayed

through us. Even in hard times, we can be miracle seekers, people who commit to finding the good in even the darkest of situations because God is constantly weaving things together for His glory. I would call that a privilege.

Sixth, you get the constant presence and opportunity to commune with a loving and caring God. People are constantly seeking help from counselors, mentors, and coaches in our modern world. And most of the time, they only get limited access to the person. Sometimes, all you get is just a pre-recorded message. However, as Christians, we have constant access to God. We can talk to Him from wherever we are, whenever we want. When Jesus died on the cross, He tore the literal veil in the temple that was previously separating God and man. Because of His sacrifice, we have direct access to the God of the universe and are never alone. I would call that a privilege.

Seventh, you know your life is preserved. Although Christians can get sick just like anyone else, a Spirit filled Christian is better able to cope with sickness. There is something about knowing that this world is not your permanent home and that you are not dwelling in your permanent body that allows you to put many things in perspective, including sickness and disease. Jesus promised His followers that as long as they lived in the world, they’d have tribulations. But He didn’t leave it there. He went on to say that because He had overcome the world, those who believe in Him have the ability to do the same. As a Christian living with God, we know that in the end there will be

no more suffering or evil. I will have a new body awaiting me in glory. Our hope in this promise causes us to lift our eyes above this vale of tears, toward Jesus who will one day wipe away every tear from our eyes.

Even regarding death, men who live for God do not need to fret about their security because God himself preserves them. These are men who live without fear. Nothing and nobody can tamper with the life of a man whose assignment on earth is not over. These are men who God has made his personal assignment. I would call that a privilege.

Number eight, you know you have forgiveness of past and future sins. This one hits to the very heart about what being a Christian means. One of the main benefits of being a Christian is knowing with certainty that Christ’s sacrifice on the cross means that all of your sins are forgiven; past, present, and future. When we confess our sins to Christ and receive Him as Saviour, we are made new. We receive mercies that are new every morning. We don’t have to bear the weight of the sins that we’ve accumulated throughout our lives. And when we mess up in the future (*which we will*), He will be right there with us, inviting us to lay our sin down at His feet, claim our forgiveness, and realign our paths with Him. What a joy to know that we are not defined by our mistakes or missteps and can be called worthy children of the King! I would call that a privilege.

Nine, you can be assured of eternity in heaven. This is certainly a major perk. At death, I will be united with Christ in the

very presence of God. I will be reunited with saved loved ones and united with the saints of old. Jesus promised His followers eternal life. Knowing that our future is secure while acknowledging this earth is not our home is one of the greatest benefits of being a Christian. Even in the midst of the unknown, we have a foundational pillar to lean on and place our faith. I would call that a privilege.

Finally, as you await heaven, you can belong to a caring community on earth. There are many social organizations that you can join to promote fellowship, caring, and good works. There are social clubs, and numerous volunteer organizations that can give you a sense of purpose. Yet, none are quite like the church. While the church is far from perfect, God has

purposely set up the church as a place for Christians to worship and fellowship with one another, protect each other, and serve each other; while maintaining an aggressive outreach into the community.

Yes, I have Christian privilege. I wish everyone did. It's free for the asking. Just imagine a world where people really cared about each other. Nobody tried to avenge themselves but instead tried to resolve disputes peaceably and calmly. There would be no hungry people because without wars and government corruption this world is amply able to feed itself. And, what if everyone had the mind of Christ and mastered the art of putting others above themselves. Wouldn't that be a great place to live? We could close all the jails and say goodbye to crime. This is a

blessing available to all men.

Boy, I sure wish everyone enjoyed privileges that I do. Sadly, many people will never have my level of privilege because it is something you have to be born with. Not physically born with, but spiritually born with; I am talking about being born again. These, and a host of other privileges, are granted to you when you are born into God's family, when you become a citizen of God's kingdom. Your life is indeed blessed, regardless of your race or tongue, when you freely accept your Christian privilege.



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.

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Mike Farley Retires

We wrote to you several months ago about our Brother, Mike Farley, and the struggle he was having with his health at the time. Although he is continuing to improve (*Praise the Lord!*), Mike has prayerfully decided it's time for him to step down from his full-time position with **GoMix Christian Radio** and retire. Mike has been a part of the **GoMix** family for the past 14 years and will be greatly missed by all. We know his listeners already miss his "Hump-day" shouts and

moments of encouragement he always brought with him to the microphone. Mike has a passion for music and radio and had this to say:

"It was recently written that I was in recovery from my Heart Attack & Triple Bypass Surgery and would be returning soon to the airwaves. At that time I had no idea of my full diagnosis, which would keep me from returning to work for another 4-6 months. With 49 years of working in radio and the last 14 here at GoMix, I have decided after much prayer to retire. I'll still be programming music as I do now and I'll also occasionally handle some other tasks for GoMix, but I will no longer be on the air. My last on-air shift was back on October 27, 2020. I thank each of you for your thoughts, love offerings,

and continued prayers." – **Mike Farley**

We'll miss seeing you around the station and hearing you on the air, Brother Mike, but we are so very grateful for the work you are still able to do. Our prayers are with you and Alyce for your continued healing and God's guidance through this transition.



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Share-A-Thon Update

We're still raising those funds! As most of you are aware, we had our first "**Spring Mini Share-A-Thon**" **March 8th – 10th** and a second **March 23rd – 25th**. We're getting so close to meeting our **\$250,000.00** goal, but we're not quite there yet. We still need just a little more help from our listeners. Our up-to-date totals can be found at any time online at www.gomixradio.org.

To help reach our goal and be 100% funded for our 8 full-power stations as well as online streaming, we will be having another 3-day **Mini Share-A-Thon Wednesday - Friday, April 7th – 9th**. If you haven't yet called-in or mailed-in your support, won't you please prayerfully consider a financial gift to support Christian radio at this time.

Although the "official" **Share-A-Thon** days are listed, you don't have to wait to call in your gift.

You can call us anytime at **1-877-747-8887**, or you may use our designated giving website and give your gift online at www.givegomix.org. There are a variety of giving clubs you could join and one-time gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. We'll never put you on the spot or say anything on the air that you do not want us to. Giving is so very easy! We encourage you to check out our full-website, www.gomixradio.org, to learn more about our ministry and just how far your gifts reach.

Thank you for those that have already supported via your time, supplies, finances, and prayers. We look forward to celebrating the end of **Share-A-Thon # 46!**



Heaven! Wow! The mere thought of Heaven brings a smile to my face and joy to my heart. I think of my Saviour and all the people that I love that are already there. I know that my loved ones are not hurting, and they do not see what is happening on this earth. All around us we see negativity and despondency. Many people are hurting and looking for answers. When we look at the news, we see lies and deceit. It is difficult to know what the truth really is. We know we are being lied to and controlled in ways we never imagined. It seems that there is no hope.

But we must remember, we have to look for hope in the right place. If we are Christians, Jesus Christ is our joy, hope, and our future. A recent Sunday School lesson at our church was entitled "*Temporary Tears, Eternal Joy.*" What does that mean? Simply put, no matter what this world throws at us, it is only temporary. We do not know

the future. Many Christians are persecuted in other countries far more than we can ever imagine. They get through it because they have their eyes on Christ who suffered all for them, and they know their suffering is temporary. Heaven awaits them.

We must also remember, no matter how bad things get in America, we can handle whatever comes our way. As Christians, our main task is to follow Christ and be an example of His love. We must win others to Him. If we are just as discouraged and depressed as this lost and dying world, the lost will not feel we have anything to offer them. They must see our Jesus and not only the peace He gives on this earth, but the Heaven that awaits them if they accept His gift of salvation.

We talked about Heaven in my devotion class at the academy this week. We even discussed the fact

that Heaven is the light at the end of the tunnel. We talked about how glorious it will be when we arrive and the mansion Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Since we have no way of understanding the magnitude of Heaven, we used our earthly imaginations to describe what our abiding place may be like when we get there. We also discussed what we thought Heaven would be like. Everyone mentioned what they thought would and would not be there. Of course, the things a seventeen-year-old imagines and the things a sixty-year-old imagines are completely different. I must admit, there were some similarities. The thought of never having to worry about calories sounded quite nice.

I did remind them that our idea of Heaven cannot compare to what it really is. I don't think that counting calories will even be on our minds. The magnificence of Jesus and being in His presence will

overshadow any other thoughts we may have.

We also discussed the rewards we will be able to place at the Saviour's feet. **I Corinthians 3:12-15** discusses these rewards or the lack thereof. These verses are addressing the saved person. We make choices in our lives. Once we are saved the Lord expects us to grow in His Word and in the fruits of the Spirit. We are to serve Him in sincerity and in truth.

Verse 12 states, now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble; So what is the difference in the different types of works. The following verses explain the difference. When we come before the Father, our works will be made manifest. In other words, we will find out if we really did the good works on earth for Him and His glory or for our own reasons.

Matthew 6:2 says that a man who does things for himself or for his own glory already has his reward. This means his works are burned with fire. What is the distinction between what is burned and what is not? I puzzled over this in my own life. What works are going to be considered worthy of reward and which are going to be burned?

I told my class, sometimes I do what I do because I am supposed to. It is just the right thing to do. I admitted that sometimes I just don't want to come to school either. I would rather be home. So, is that wood, hay, and stubble or is that precious in God's eyes. I did not get up and say "I am going to school because

God wants me to and I want to bring Him glory." I was not angry that I had to go, nor was I in a bad mood. But what is the distinction?

I really could not answer the question, so I went to the next source that I usually try. I asked my husband. He explained he felt that as a Christian, everything we do except for when we sin, we do for God's glory. So, when we brush our teeth or our hair, it is for God's glory. Now that changes if when we get ready in the morning, we admire our beauty, or we dress to please or entice someone. If we dress in such a way that dishonors



God, that is sin. Our motives determine what will be burned and what will remain as rewards.

I asked my students why they obeyed their parents or teachers. Some said because they had to, some said because they didn't want to get in trouble, others said they just do it without thinking about it, and one said she didn't want to hurt her mom. Then I explained that when they obeyed their parents and authorities in their lives, they are doing it for God. Their attitudes make a big difference.

I explained that their attitudes when they obey their parents and

authorities show their maturity in the same way a Christian's attitude when he obeys God shows his maturity. When we obey because we are afraid of getting in trouble, that is not true love. When we obey because we know it is the right thing to do, it shows growth, but when we obey because we love our Heavenly Father, it shows maturity. All the things we do out of love for our Father will be rewarded and be precious in His sight.

As young children, we obey our parents because we have to, and we don't want to get in trouble. Some children never grow out of this stage. Many children grow to a point they do some of both. They still never completely obey because they want to and out of love. Christians never completely obey either. But the child that is pleasing to a parent is the one that strives to do what is right. So it is with God. If we strive to do what is right and to be in His will, our rewards will be great.

When I arrive in Heaven, I sure want to be able to lay some crowns at my Saviour's feet. Why do we do what we do? We need to examine our motives and be sure what we do is because we want to do what is right and good in our Saviour's eyes. Let us be sure our good works will not be burned by fire. Heaven is a wonderful place full of love and joy. Let us do our best for the Master while we are here on Earth.



Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.

Counterattacks

Mrs. Amber Sherman

Do you ever find yourself struggling to get the victory in the private areas of your thoughts or feelings? A while back I found myself thinking negatively toward a couple of individuals. For the longest time, I believed the fault was theirs. It began to affect our relationships, as of course it would. I had gone to the Lord in prayer and Bible study many times, but continued to be burdened in these areas. One night during prayer God reminded me who the real enemy was. Is not Satan delighted when we are divided among ourselves? Did not Jesus warn us?

“And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.”

Mark 3:24

As I began to ponder over how I had erred, I began to see the fault was just as much mine in how I was

handling the troublesome issues. Furthermore, I began to see how I had been listening to the wicked one’s whispers instead of countering them with Scripture; not just reading and quoting Scripture, but living them out.

I began a counterattack against the devil, and instead of avoiding those whom I was having trouble with, I began to run to them. I began to try to encourage them and appreciate them for all they were doing, be it little or big things. I began to force myself to do exactly the opposite of what I wanted to do.

When I found myself being ungrateful for someone, I tried to get them a gift, send a card, or even try to do them a favor. When I found myself thinking negatively toward an individual, I would give them a call to see how they were doing.

When I was frustrated with someone, I reached out. When I wanted to avoid them, I walked over instead. When I wanted to be distant, I gave a hug. When I thought a bad thought, I began to pray for them and make myself list three to five good things about them or regarding them that I was thankful to God for. Do you see the counterattacks? Attacks can come from within and from without. Satan tempts us for sure, but our old sin nature is a force to be wrestled with. Paul tells of the need to “die daily” (**I Corinthians 15:31**). Some of us are natured to want to avoid conflict. Some of us seek it out. Both cause problems and do not deal with the true issue.

As Christians, we must keep our eyes upon Jesus and His Cross. When we let our eyes stray and become focused on self, we lose sight of the Kingdom. When we focus upon the faults of others, we yet again lose sight of our Lord’s Kingdom and the reason He came to this earth. We also forget the fact that He will be returning soon. There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to flee, but no one will hear about it if we bicker among ourselves or within the foothold of our own thoughts.

There was a time in the past year when I finally gave total surrender to God. It was with clinging, weeping, and even some anger; the moments before utter surrender were not pretty. I find myself struggling every now and then and have to remember that it was to God whom I surrendered, and not to any other person in my life. I am finding others unwilling to surrender to God because they think it means surrendering to another individual. Grant you, there will be many whom we have to yield to, but as God is our ultimate judge, we view no other with a higher authority or say in our lives. Additionally, God will take care of us. God will also deal with that other individual. If we resist complete and utter surrender to God, the sins will never be resolved. God cannot work powerfully through a life unyielded to Him. The very ones we are having trouble with may not come to God until we come to God. We may be the very tools God wants to use to show them the way.

When we face “demons from the past” we must confront them head on. Secrets only maintain their hold over us when they are kept secret. Run

to the challenge and deal with it, not away from it. Confess our sin and our need for God’s help. It may be necessary to involve a spirit-filled believer for a little while. Never, never forget the power of fasting combined with prayer. We can loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke (**Isaiah 58:6**)! There are battles I just cannot win until I begin to fast over them.

“Demons from the future” can be battled and won the same way. Worry is one of the demons from the future. Plans which go beyond God’s sovereignty can be “demons” as well. Satan knows our weaknesses. He is not omniscient, as our great God is, but he is observant. He has been watching us all our lives. He knows our weak spots, our “buttons to push,” and our fears. These must all be given to God.

Do you find yourself facing battles that need winning? Battles are not necessarily indicative that there is sin in you, but rather a testimony to the fact that you have two natures: the old, lost one and the new, saved one. You have two “dogs” living in you, fighting viciously, and the one whom you feed the most will be the one who wins.

Launch those counterattacks against that perverse and wicked devil, as well as that fallen, sinful, old nature. If we never counterattack, we will always be an easy target for self and for Satan. Start fighting back, and take some ground for the Kingdom of our Lord in our lives!

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

James 4:7



Mrs. Amber Sherman is the mother of four and serves as a part-time teacher at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro, N.C.

And Finally...



Husband Appreciation...

I am thankful for a husband that adores me and his children and shows us his love every single day. He works hard, cooks, fixes things around the house, and demonstrates that love for God should come above all other things. He understands my need to dream and always shows his support and encouragement. He makes me laugh, sometimes in the middle of crying, and I love him for that!

M. F.

I am thankful for my husband's big, beautiful heart, the love and relationships he has with his family and friends, forgiving nature, and his cooking. I could go on for eternity with things that make me thankful for him!

L. B.

My husband pays attention to the smallest details. He's always striving to make my life better and help me, no matter how great or trivial my concern may be. I love him so much.

L. R.

I am thankful to my husband for helping me become a better person. He has liberated me as a woman and has helped me nourish my senses and pursue my dreams. We argue occasionally, but at the end of the day, I make the choice of being with him and only with him. He is the only man I would ever wish for.

S. S.

I am thankful for my husband and all the little things he does to show his love for me. He saves me the last piece of dessert, takes out the trash, carries the heavy grocery bags, opens doors for me, and walks on the street-side of the sidewalk. Those might be such minuscule, even silly things – but they're consistent, and the actions speak volumes to me. Thank you for treating me like your queen, and being the man I always dreamed of.

M. L.

“Honoring Law Enforcement”

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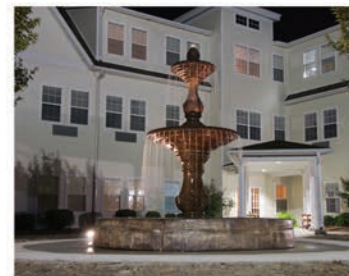


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