



# The Full Gospel Church

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## GIVING THANKS

**T**his past week we celebrated Thanksgiving where by we are to remember the first thanksgiving by the pilgrims. If you read “Of Plymouth Plantation,” by John Bradford, you will see that the Pilgrims were just happy to be alive by the time of the first harvest.

[http://members.aol.com/calebj/bradford\\_journal.html](http://members.aol.com/calebj/bradford_journal.html)

But here I cannot but stay and make a pause, and stand half amazed at this poor people's present condition; and so I think will the reader too, when he well considers the same. Being thus passed the vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before in their preparation (as may be remembered by that which went before), they had now no friends to welcome them, nor inns to entertain or refresh their weather-beaten bodies, no houses or much less towns to repair to, to seek for succor. It is recorded in scripture as a mercy to the apostle and his shipwrecked company, that the barbarians showed no small kindness in refreshing them, but these savage barbarians, when they met with them (as after will appear) were readier to fill their sides full of arrows than otherwise. And for the season it was winter, and they that know the winters of that country know them to be sharp and violent and subject to cruel and fierce storms, dangerous to travel to known places, much more to search an unknown coast. Besides, what could they see but a hideous and desolate wilderness, full of wild beasts and wild men? and what multitudes there might be of them they knew not. Neither could they, as it were, go up to the top of Pigsah, to view from this wilderness a more goodly country to feed their hopes; for which way soever they turned their eyes (save upward to the heavens) they could have little solace or content in respect of any outward objects. For summer being done, all things stand upon them with a

weather-beaten face; and the whole country, full of woods and thickets, represented a wild and savage hew. If they looked behind them, there was the mighty ocean which they had passed, and was now as a main bar and gulf to separate them from all the civil parts of the world. If it be said they had a ship to succor them, it is true; but what heard they daily from the master and company? But that with speed they should look out a place with their shallop, where they would be at some near distance; for the season was such as he would not stir from thence till a safe harbor was discovered by them where they would be, and he might go without danger; and that victuals consumed apace, but he must and would keep sufficient for themselves and their return. Yea, it was muttered by some, that if they got not a place in time, they would turn them and their goods ashore and leave them. Let it also be considered what weak hopes of supply and succor they left behind them, that might bear up their minds in this sad condition and trials they were under; and they could not but be very small. It is true, indeed, the affections and love of their brethren at Leyden was cordial and entire towards them, but they had little power to help them, or themselves; and how the case stood between them and the merchants at their coming away, hath already been declared. What could now sustain them but the spirit of God and his grace?<sup>1</sup>

The above paragraph from John Bradford's history of the Pilgrims shows a people who were desolate, hungry, and had no friends. This surely was a bleak condition. They arrived at Cape Cod at the end of summer and were facing a winter where many would die. They were chased out of England and lived for

<sup>1</sup> John Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation Chapter 9.

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a time in Holland. Now they were faced with a winter in New England without any hope except in the Lord.

The world would see nothing to be thankful about, but here we see the true spirit of Christ in the Pilgrims where they were putting all of their hope in the Lord to bring them through.

The Bible tells us that we are to give thanks in everything.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We are to give thanks even in our adversity and trials. Here we see a people who were run out of England, faced many hardships, and now have to set up shop in what they considered a wilderness. They were afraid and fearful. The crew of the Mayflower wanted to dump them on the coast and sail back to England. Can you imagine being a Pilgrim under these conditions?

Yet with all of this adversity, the pilgrims still placed all of their hope and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. James tells us that we are to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations.

### **James 1:1-27**

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5 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.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

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21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

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## The Full Gospel Church

3014 E Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
Church Office Phone: (215) 634-3637  
Published by: Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy (215) 535-4037

### **Services:**

Sunday School . . . . . 11:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 12:00 Noon  
Sunday Evening . . . . . 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening . . . . . 7:30 PM

### Contact Information:

- **E-Mail:** [leroy@lrcressy.com](mailto:leroy@lrcressy.com)
- **U.S. Mail:**  
Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy  
P.O. Box 1731  
Philadelphia, Pa 19105-1731
- **Web Site:** <http://lrcressy.com>