



Forward Thanking

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Eternally Speaking Now

A couple weeks ago, my six-year old son **jumped up** from play time and said, *'Mom, I'll be back. I have something to do.'*

I was **curious**, yet also wanted to give him space to create whatever it was on his incredibly imaginative mind...so I piddled around in the kitchen, with one eye on my work and the other eye, **intrigued**, on him.

He rummaged around in the crayon bin, tinkered a bit in Dad's office, then ran out the front door. I took a little peek out the window and saw him going to a neighbor's mailbox. When he came back in, he **resolutely** took off his shoes and announced with a **confident** gleam, *'There!'*

'What did you do, honey?' I asked. He shone as he declared that he wrote a 'thank you' note to the boy next door.

'Thank you for what?' I asked.

'For playing with me today,' he responded.

I stood there, amazed.

An hour prior, I had texted his friend's mom, inviting her child to come play, but she had not yet responded. *Zachariah knew she hadn't gotten back to me yet.* Still, this fresh-faced, precious little **eager** person standing in front of me had **written a thank you note for something that had not yet taken place. He simply believed it would.**

My heart was filled with a range of emotions:
One part of me was **anxious**-- what if the friend didn't end up coming over?
How would I handle his disappointment?

But the other part of me overflowed with a **godly jealousy** that **screamed even more loudly** than the other half of me, saying,
'I want that childlike faith!'

What if we operated on this type of faith? We ask the Lord for something. We wait for Him to respond. As we wait, not anxious, we 'write our thank you note' to Him in advance, before it has happened. We pray as 'forward thankers.'

**"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7**

These are oft quoted verses. They may be so familiar to you that you skipped over them just now. If you did, I understand, but still encourage you to go back and read them...aloud. :-)

Oh, how often we neglect or forget, in everything by prayer and supplication, to let our requests be made known to God... **without anxiety, and with thanksgiving**. It sounds like a tall order, but maybe it comes down to being like a child. Just **jump up, eagerly, resolutely and confidently**, and 'mail that thank you letter' to God.

By the way, an hour after Zachariah 'sent' his letter, his friend's mom texted back. Their answer was 'yes,' and...they had not yet seen his thank you note.

Challenge: Want to be a **forward thinker**? Wherever we are on the 'thanking God' scale, it's never too late to either start, restart, or continue **thanking God by faith**. Especially *before* He has responded.

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