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Giving Thanks to God (2017)

Jay Christian Huynh

*"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving,
and tell of all thy wondrous works."
(Psalm 26:7)*

In my previous article "[Thankful to God for His Blessings in 2016 – 2017](#)" [1], I mentioned many blessings that God gave me during my late high school years and graduation. This article will focus more on the blessings God gave and continues to give me for college. Through God, I was able to receive funds for my college tuition, good grades in my classes, and an unexpected gift for high school graduation.

Right before graduation, I took the ACT (American College Testing), a test designed to assess a student's readiness for college. Depending on how high a score a student makes, there is a university scholarship award to go with it; the higher the score, the more scholarship money will be awarded. I took this test hoping that I could earn the "Regents Scholarship" offered by the university I was enrolling in, which rewarded students with funds based on their ACT scores. To receive the maximum scholarship of \$4,000, I needed an ACT score of at least 29. I prayed and studied before taking the test, asking God to bless me so that I can do my best to get the scholarship. Through the grace of God, I made the score I needed on the ACT and received the \$4,000 scholarship from the university. Thankfully, this was not the only scholarship God blessed me with.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13).

I was awarded an additional \$4,000 scholarship from the university, a \$2,000 scholarship from a private scholarship donor for being accepted into the Honors Program at my university, state and federal grants worth over \$12,000. The scholarships and grants were enough to cover all my expenses for attending college. Without the help from God, I would not be able to attend college since my family would not be able to afford the costs of tuition. I am especially thankful to God that I have a family I can rely on to support me in my studies. With God and a family to support me, I don't have to worry about working or taking out loans. However, not having to worry about those things doesn't mean that I get to slack off during school. I still need to work hard to make good grades in order to keep those scholarships.

Since I started my first semester of college, God continued to bless me on my schoolwork through motivating me to make good grades. With God helping me with my studies and school life, I will be able to continue to overcome challenging curriculum, homework, and studying. I can be confident that I will finish this semester with good grades because He helps me learn and understand the material.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Finally, this last blessing from God I want to mention is unrelated to my academic studies, but it was a pleasant surprise for the end of my high school career. One day, my mother and I had gone out shopping at a discount store, and I spotted a light gray suit jacket in the clothing aisle. Since I was lacking a nice professional suit jacket and thought it would look nice with some of the clothes I have, I wanted to buy it. The price of the item, originally \$49.99, was reduced to \$29.99, so I asked my mother if it was okay to buy it. She told me that I should wait for the store to further reduce the price before purchasing it and that she would ask God to keep the jacket for us (meaning that we hope, through divine intervention, no one would buy the jacket by the time we return to the store at a later date). Some of you might be thinking that the jacket's a steal at that price, but for our family, it's a bit out of our range, and we can usually expect this particular store to further discount their merchandise. Although there were only two of these suit jackets left, which made waiting a riskier action, I obeyed my mother anyway and placed it back where I found it. She usually has a nose for these types of deals, and having her faith doesn't hurt.

“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. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” (James 1:6-7).

A couple of weeks later, my mother went back to that store. When she found the suit jacket, she was joyful that it was still there. She was even more overjoyed and surprised when an employee had told her that it was then reduced to only \$1. My mother, while thanking the Lord profusely in her heart, bought it for me without telling me as a surprise graduation gift. By trusting and obeying my mother, I was able to get the jacket for only \$1. The likelihood that this suit would still be in the store at the cost of \$1 after a couple of weeks is too low for it to be considered a result of chance and coincidence, so this unexpected gift from God reminded me of the power He has in performing even the smallest of miracles for us. From this experience, I learned that God can give us the things that we desire if we have faith in Him and pray. I also learned that I should trust in the wisdom of my parents and obey them.

From the blessings that God gave me, I learned that even if it may take some time, some effort, and some prayer, He will eventually give us what we want and need. In return for His blessings, we only need to follow His Word and have faith in Him. With faith and prayer, God can make all things possible for us. The Lord will never neglect those who are faithful to Him. Thank you, God, for blessing me and my family. To the readers, I wish you a happy Thanksgiving Day! God bless you all.

Jay Christian Huynh
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[1] <http://www.grace-jay.net/thankful-to-god-for-his-blessings-in-2016-2017/>

